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Students rally against sexual assault

President Eighthmy sends email about new initiative

By Alejandro "AJ" Lopez
Co-News Editor

Students involved in the #ChangeRapeCulture group organized a rally under the Sombrilla on Feb. 13 at 12 p.m. The purpose of the rally is to raise awareness of the group's call to action and make their presence known.

"We're hosting the protest to let people know that #ChangeRapeCulture is more than a hashtag, and although UTSA is providing services to sexual assault survivors, there is so much more that needs to be done,

and we will not be silenced," Khalani Valentine, a senior public health major and member of the group, said.

Josefina Fernandez, a junior political science major and co-organizer of the group, said the rally meant to call for procedural changes to the Equal Opportunity Services and Title IX office. The group also wants a required training program for all students, faculty and staff to be integrated.

"In the end we want to create a safer environment for everyone that steps foot onto campus. People live, study, socialize and come to get degrees here, and we

need to make sure everyone is safe from rape and assault," Fernandez said.

On Feb. 11, President Eighthmy sent a university-wide email announcing a new initiative to cultivate a zero-tolerance environment for all forms for sexual assault and misconduct.

"This is not easy work, and culture change does not happen overnight. But I am highly encouraged by the unwavering commitment of UTSA's leadership; by the work that is already underway; and by the students, faculty and staff who have raised their voices in support of tackling these issues head-on," Eighthmy said in

the email.

According to Fernandez, the organization spoke with AVP Public's Safety and Chief of Police, Gerald Lewis; vice president for Intercollegiate Athletics and Athletics Director, Lisa Campos and interim dean of Students and Director of the Student Leadership Center and director of Student Life Initiatives, LT Robinson about the details of the rally.

"The university can make all the initiatives it likes, but our movement will still grow and be prevalent," Katerina Tsvetkova, a senior public health major and co-organizer of the #ChangeRapeCulture, said.

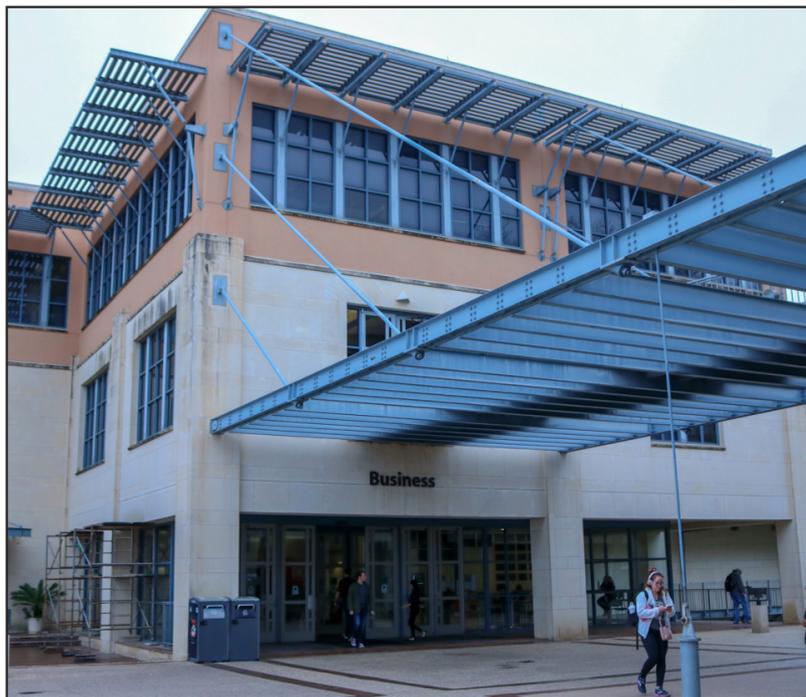
College of business professor spearheads a resolution

By Kimiya Factory
Staff Writer

John Weld, a professor in the College of Business (COB) at UTSA and a faculty senator, is spearheading a resolution requiring the university president and provost to consult the faculty senate before making major decisions, such as the COB moving to the Downtown Campus.

In an initiative brief titled "UTSA Downtown Campus: A 10 Year Vision," UTSA provided an overview of the university's vision of becoming a model for student success, growing as a research university and utilizing the full potential of

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See "College of business relocation depends on funding"*



A college of business professor wants a requirement of faculty senate approval.

Ellyson Ortega/The Paisano

The university implements a Strategic Hiring Initiative

By Kaylee Boggan
Staff Writer

Kimberly Espy, provost and vice president for academic affairs, announced on Jan. 29 that UTSA will have a new Strategic Hiring Initiative for 2020. This plan aims to make UTSA a center for student success and future research.

The university hopes to accomplish these goals through five programs: the Clustered and Connected Hiring Programs, the Advancing Academic Excellence through Accelerating Faculty Diversity Hiring Program (FDP), the Dual Career Academic Partners Hiring Program (DCP), the Advancing Academic Excellence through Accelerated Hiring of Nationally Recognized Faculty

Program (NRP) and the Voluntary Separation Incentive Program (VSIP).

The Clustered and Connected Hiring Program calls for more active faculty participation in proposing ways to hire workers for UTSA.

The FDP helps hire faculty who are diverse and demonstrate experience developing innovative curriculums. It will use Special Opportunity Hiring, where persons outside of the hiring process are able to be considered to add diversity to the atmosphere of UTSA.

The DCP will help partners of tenure-stream faculty in identifying and pursuing job opportunities at UTSA.

The NRP will use the Special Opportunity Hiring technique. The hires will be

evaluated on their ability to encourage collaboration with all the other networks.

The VSIP supports tenured professors or professors eligible for tenure as they transition to a new career field.

"The goal of this Initiative is to support and accelerate our progress toward the strategic hiring of promising, accomplished and diverse faculty in key areas - which is fundamental to UTSA's future as an urban serving, multicultural, discovery enterprise focused on student success and research excellence," Espy said.

Espy explained how this plan has worked on other college campuses and hopes it challenges the university to think creatively about

how it can attract diverse and transdisciplinary scholars.

"Top universities plan to recruit scholars who will advance their particular research and teaching missions," Espy said. "This plan builds on the success of UTSA's cluster hiring initiative, which over the past several years has resulted in the hiring of both high-profile and exceptionally promising faculty in key cross-disciplinary areas such as brain health, cybersecurity, analytics and data sciences."

The programs will be implemented soon and information sessions will be

*Continued on page 2
See "New programs aim for student success"*

PAISANOgrams

From: Brianna B.
To: Eldon Garcia
"I never thought love would look like two people with nothing in common, but I couldn't have asked for a stranger anomaly."

From: Maha
To: My Flomsky
"To My Flomsky, Main tenu samjhawan ki, Na tere bina lagda jee. Tu kee jaane pyaar mera. Main karaan intezar tera. Tu dil tuyyon jaan meri. - Rahat Fateh Ali Khan, Main Tenu"

From: Blanca Palomo
To: Christopher
"Happy Valentine's Day! I am so excited to spend our first Valentine's Day together. Your hugs and kisses are my favorite part of the day. I adore you the most. Love, Your Blancitup"

From: Isaiah Pryce
To: Priscilla
"To my love Priscilla, I am grateful to be with you because every moment we share is special. Happy Valentine's Day and Aku Cinta Kamu!"

From: Kaitlin Teniente
To: Kevin
"Kevin. It's not you, it's your ELO. Also SC2 is a dead game. All my love, Kait"

From: Josh, Jack, Ricky, Ryan
To: Ellyson
"Our love for you is like Kelly Oubre, Top 5 all time!"

From: Jack
To: Amanda
"I love you sunshine!"

From: Diane
To: Rick + Sandy
"Happy Valentine's Day to my favorite guys!"

From: Heathren
To: Kyle + Adrian
"Y'all are the greatest and have my whole heart! Happy Valentine's Day!"

From: La Christi
To: Nathan + Nick
"Y'all are my best friends and I love y'all. Happy Valentine's Day!"

From: Meagan Vargas
To: Desirae Garcia
"Desi, I love you!"

From: Barbara Fretto
To: Nicholas Fretto
"Happy anniversary, my love. Blessed to be your wife."

From: Gabriella Villanueva
To: Miguel Ochoa
"Happy Valentines Sunflower, don't forget I want to make every single moment for you gr8"

From: Audrey Vela
To: Ryan Garza
"Happy Valentine's! Love you! <3"

From: Lorin Lee
To: Valerie Ukpede
"You the realest! :) Have a great day."

From: Marcos Hurlay
To: Leslie Rosas
"Have a great day & a happy Valentine's."

From: Liv
To: Olivia Esemena
"Love you forever girl!!"

From: Airwrecka (Erika)
To: Andrea Allende and Caitelyn Sanchez
"I love you both with all my heart."

From: Jordan Locke
To: Jenna Locke
"You are the beauty in my life, and the best parts of me. You make me a better person. You are my best friend, and you have my whole heart and soul. I love you."

UTSA

The C-SPAN Bus, an interactive multimedia mobile classroom, is on a Texas tour and will be on the UTSA Downtown Campus on Feb.13. The bus will be on Frio Street from 10 a.m. until noon. UTSA students, faculty, staff and visitors will have access to non-partisan resources the bus provides.

Texas

Governor Greg Abbott has not named a new Texas Supreme Court Justice to replace Phil Johnson whose retirement was effective on Dec. 31, 2018. Since midterm elections, the governor's office had received about two dozen applicants for the position. The vacancy could result in a 4-4 split for the court, but according to Chief Justice Nathan Hecht, the vacancy has not hurt the Texas Supreme Court yet.

U.S.

On Feb. 8, Hacienda Healthcare, operators of a health care center in Phoenix, Arizona, announced they would close down the center due to an incident last year in which an incapacitated woman was raped and later gave birth. However, Hacienda Healthcare retracted the announcement the following day. The health care center said that closing would put the health and safety of patients at risk, but that there will be more state oversight in their operation.

World

The United States and South Korea signed a deal regarding military expenses on Feb. 10. Seoul, South Korea has agreed to contribute \$925 million this year to the 28,000 American troops stationed in South Korea. Chang Won-sam, chief South Korean negotiator, and Timothy Betts, American negotiator, signed the temporary deal on behalf of the two countries.

Business

Actor's Equity, a union that represents performers and stage managers, came to a deal with the Broadway League, an organization for producers, on Feb. 8. Financiers have now agreed to acknowledge performers who contribute to more than just labor. The deal ended a five-week strike and will result in one percent of a Broadway show's profit being split among the actors and stage managers who helped develop the production.

Science

In hopes of mating, two rare Sumatran tigers were kept near each other for a ten-day courtship at London Zoo. However, when the tigers were put in the same enclosure, the male tiger, Asim, killed the female tiger, Melati. A European-wide conservation program for the endangered subspecies put the match together and had seen good signs between the tigers before they had been introduced.

UTSA increases renovations for bicycle users

By Tali Duarte
Contributing Writer

Contributions made by
Heather Montoya
Co-News Editor

UTSA has placed "bike-friendly campus" signage at each entrance and in designated parking lots on the Main Campus this semester.

"As a community of more than 36,000 students, faculty and staff, including 4,000 students who live on our growing Main Campus footprint, getting around by bike is becoming more common at UTSA," Lani May, UTSA director of sustainability, said. "The message 'bicycle friendly' reinforces that, and lets motorists know that UTSA welcomes bicycles on the road."

In addition to the bicycle trails and bicycle racks available to students on and around campus, UTSA is increasing the resources available for those who

ride bicycles on campus.

"UTSA is adding new resources to accommodate the growing number of bikes on campus, including new racks that will be installed this semester," May said. "Additionally, the city is adding ten new footpaths connecting the UTSA Main Campus to the Leon Greenway, facilitating hiking and biking accessibility along UTSA Blvd."

Students on campus agree with wanting more renovations for bicycle users. "There should be more safe paths for bicycles around campus for those who choose to ride their bikes to campus," Cameron Huch, environmental science major sophomore, said.

According to May, bicycle accidents occasionally occur on or near campus, and most of these accidents involve bicyclists who run into pedestrians or cars, or who

fall off their bicycle.

Even though bicycle accidents occur, campus police are able to assist with bicycle safety.

"The UTSA Police Department offers etching of bike serial numbers, gave out safety lights and U-locks and last year participated in a bicycle safety and maintenance workshop in collaboration with Campus Recreation," May said.

While UTSA has been making efforts to expand resources for bicycle riders on campus, the university hopes to continue promoting bicycle riding.

"Efforts to encourage biking at UTSA are ongoing," May said. "The Office of Facilities and Office of Sustainability are working on several conceptual plans to add bicycle and pedestrian lanes to campus and create pedestrian and bicycle corridors."

New programs aim for student success

Continued from Page 1

held on the topic as well.

"Beginning at the start of our next fiscal year, this initiative will allow college deans and department chairs to be more flexible and seek the funding to act quickly to hire key scholars, just as NFL teams hire highly sought-after players once they become free agents," Espy said.

According to Espy, this program will not cost much for students.

"A portion of the Strategic Investment Fund created under the university's new Incentivized Resource Management budget model will help academic colleges strategically recruit and hire the right scholars to help UTSA reach its destinations," Espy said. "The cost will vary from year-to-year based on hiring priorities and opportunities."

Espy believes that many can benefit from the program, but expects challenges.

"Today's grand challenges cut across disciplines, so having coordinated team hires enables us to foster innovation that better prepares our students," Espy said. "Also, new ideas come from having diverse perspectives — not only by discipline, but by background and experiences. Diverse faculty, like our diverse students, bring new thinking and drive innovation to advance student learning and provide

mentorship and successful role models. All of these contribute to academic excellence at UTSA."

The program is coming together and there will be info sessions at a later date at the Main and Downtown Campuses as well.

"[The session] will allow faculty, academic administrators and the staff who support faculty hiring — as well as the general campus community — to ask questions and obtain clarification about the initiative and its components," Espy said. "We will also encourage faculty to submit proposals for the Clustered and Connected Hiring Program, due March 8."

College of business relocation depends on funding

Continued from Page 1

the Downtown Campus.

Phase one of the downtown initiative is scheduled to take place from 2018 to 2023. The strategic initiatives in the COB involve a new building that aims to include all of the resources available at the Main Campus.

"A proposed new 250,000-square-foot, state-of-the-art building to house UTSA's College of Business in downtown San Antonio, offering high tech classrooms, research centers and enhanced experiential learning opportunities for students," The initiative brief noted. "This proposal, subject to tuition revenue bond funding availability and gift funding, will require significant planning to ensure that many academic programs remain available on the Main Campus, especially during transition."

In a statement released to The Paisano on behalf of the UTSA Communication Department, "Moving the College of Business to the Downtown Campus was presented by the Downtown Campus Task Force as part of the Presidential Initiative on the Downtown Campus. A timeline for the move is dependent on the receipt of funding to construct a new building," Christi Fish, executive director of university communications, said.

PAISANOgrams

From: Freddy Purez
To: Tiff Guzman
"Don't fail physics. P.S. love you too!"

From: Jose
To: Sabrina
"Love you with all my heart, my Daisy"

From: Nathaly Soto-Velez
To: Jonathan
"Jonathan, I love you to the moon and back, from the depths of the ocean. I'm yours always."

From: Brianna Alaniz
To: Mi amor
"Mi amor, I can't believe five months have passed. I am grateful to have met you, a wonderful man. I will always love you for you are my one and only."

From: Brianne Hernandez
To: Brianne Hernandez
"To me, from me. I'm the light of my own life and I can't wait to spend many, many, more years with myself <3"

From: Kenyatta
To: The News Team
"Ya'll are the best; keep doing great things, News."

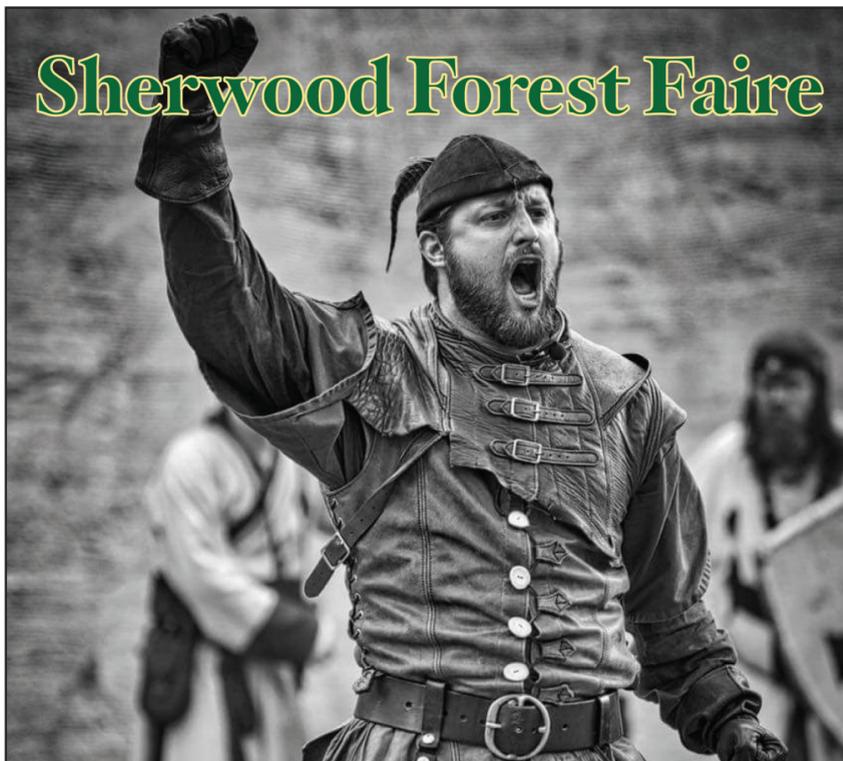
From: The Paisano Editors
To: Steven Kellman
"ThAnks. jOr ; thE' grtZ edHtZ cRitqueZ* U aR d{a} b3st."

From: Ryan Garza
To: Audrey Vela
"We're gonna tear up some Pluckers! I love you! :)"

From: Katrina
To: Brittney
"Thank you for being my shoulder to cry on, travel buddy, roommate and — most importantly — my best friend. I love you, B!"

"To all the Queens and Kings of the Paisano, thank you for a year of memories that will last a lifetime. Good looks. Love, Kirkland"

For a real love story, watch *Love and Rejection – Paisano Polls* on our YouTube channel, PaisanoOnline. Among comical tales of bad dates and awkward pickups, one couple expresses their love and gives the rest of us hope.



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OPINION

A house divided cannot stand

Editorial

Last semester President Eighmy mentioned numerous initiatives he planned to enact, one of which was to move the College of Business (COB) to UTSA's downtown campus.

This initiative has received mixed responses from students and faculty. Some people believe that moving the COB to the downtown campus can create a vibrant living and learning experience for UTSA students; however, moving the COB downtown will have a negative impact on UTSA's future.

The first reason moving the COB downtown is a bad idea is that downtown has inadequate student housing. It would force many students to commute between the main and downtown campuses to attend classes. Furthermore, if a student is a Business major and is

required to take classes downtown but lives at the main campus, then the commute will be more burdensome.

No matter what a student's major is, they would still have to take courses outside of their core curriculum, such as upper division elective courses, which would require them to take classes at the main campus.

One of the disadvantages cited in a survey administered last semester to COB faculty members was that moving the COB downtown can also decrease enrollment at UTSA.

Those faculty members probably believed there would be a decrease in enrollment because students who are business majors would prefer being on the main campus where there is a hub of student activities and main events.

The main reason UTSA should not move the COB downtown is that UTSA's campus life would be eroded.

It can be difficult for any young university to establish an identity. UTSA has struggled in the past with developing an identity as a top tier institution.

Dividing UTSA into two campuses — one which will focus on the COB in the downtown area, and the other in suburbia San Antonio — will weaken the entire institution.

A house divided cannot stand. UTSA administrators want students to believe that the campus will be separate but equal. This view is wishful thinking. UTSA should reconsider their initiative to move the COB to the downtown campus.

HAVE SOMETHING TO SAY?

WRITE A LETTER TO THE EDITOR!

Send your letters to
Manager@paisano-online.com

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 The Paisano Media Arts Center
 14526 Roadrunner Way

Valentine's Day special: Old flames renewed

Short story



By Rolando Ramos
 Contributing Writer

Ugh...this is it. I mean Karlie told me she'd call me today. RING RING! Here we go...I press send on my cell phone, my hand shaking.
 "H-h-hello?" I say. Real smooth, genius.
 "Hey, is this Eddie?" she replies, her energetic, bubbly voice.
 "Yeah...?"
 "HEY! It's Karlie! How are you doing?"
 "I'm fine. A-and you...?"
 "Good. So, it's been years since we saw each other last. What'chu been up to?"
 "I...got a new job. I'm a paid intern at KSAT-12."

"GET! OUT! That's awesome! You told me that you were trying to get out of the food business."
 "Yeah, plus it wasn't like the managers were giving me any chance to progress."
 "Haha! Yeah, that's when restaurant totalitarianism sets in." Still a joker...
 "What about you, what have you been up to? I never asked the other day."
 "Oh, I'm working as a manager for a designer clothing store. Takes up a lotta time, but I work with really great people."
 "I see..." I take a pause. What to say next?
 "Eddie, do you have a girlfriend at the moment?"
 "Did she really just...?! Wait! It could be nothing."
 "Um...no. Why do you ask?"
 "I was just wondering. You seemed really happy talking online."
 "Ah...well, no I don't.

Most times I'm 'Captain Save-a-ho', as my sister calls me."
 "Oh, that sucks. I'm sorry to hear that."
 "And I get the ones who say they're not ready for a relationship, but then they fall for the next person they see, and I'm like 'What am I, chopped liver?!'"
 "No, I understand that..."
 Another pause. "What about you? Got someone in your life?"
 "...I did..."
 "Did? What do you mean?"
 "He told me weeks ago that the spark had diminished, which I couldn't understand because we had gone on many wonderful world trips together."
 "Sounds like fun. I can only wish to take those kind of trips myself."
 She sighs. "They were fun. So that's why I'm so confused as to why he

felt the spark had diminished."
 "Do you guys always tell each other if y'all said something wrong?"
 "Yeah, at least I always do. With him, it was somewhat sporadically."
 "I guess he didn't want to start a fight or something?"
 "He shouldn't have been afraid to, though..." She pauses again, then chuckles.
 "Something funny?" I ask.
 "I just thought it was funny that I was telling you my relationship problems..."
 "I'll always listen...for anyone."
 "That's a great trait to have." I chuckle. "Eddie... do you still like me...?"
 What'd she say?! "Why are you asking me this?"
 "Just wondering. I mean, I knew that you liked me for the longest time in grade school. I

was just wondering if you still do."
 I took a deep breath, heart pounding out of my chest. Now or never... "I think you were the first person I ever truly loved."
 "Oh? what do you like about me?"
 Here we go... "I like your cheerfulness, always making people laugh. I like your smile. But mostly, that you befriended me, that you cared about me when it seemed like no one did."
 She chuckles again. "That's very sweet, Eddie."
 "Yeah..." Another pause. "Karlie, why did you really ask me that?"
 "I wanted to say I'm sorry."
 "Huh?"
 "I didn't even try to be your friend back then. I was afraid they'd go after me, too. I mean, I remember when you would send me those drawings and notes..." Oh, geez.

She had to bring that up. "...I honestly thought they were sweet, but my friends were making fun of them. It made me feel ashamed, and I feel so stupid now because I left you when you needed me the most. I'm so sorry, Eddie."
 "Karlie...?"
 "Yes?"
 "Do you like me?"
 DING DONG! Ugh, seriously?! "Hey, Karlie, could you give me a second?"
 "Ok. I'll hold."
 Of all the times...! I stomped to the door and opened it, my eyes growing wide at the blonde-haired, brown-eyed woman in front of me.
 "Karlie?!"
 "I don't know if I like you, Eduardo," she says softly. "But I want to find out..."

Something is rotten in the state of the union

Commentary



By Rudy Sanchez
Staff Writer

In his second State of the Union Address, President Donald Trump claimed his agenda was neither Republican nor Democratic; instead, it was “the agenda of the American people.”

Trump’s unifying tone eventually turned sour with fear-mongering tactics of partisan hackery; the kind of banal rhetoric one could find at a typical MAGA rally.

Historically, the State of the Union address has

been an opportunity for Presidents to lay out their plans to unify the country in times of great partisan strife. Rather than easing the political discord in our country with detailed strategy, Trump doubled-down on his conservative agenda, pandered to his base and failed to deliver a substantive plan of action.

Trump’s address was chock-full of sweet nothings dedicated to his supporters in light of the President’s approval ratings, which have been hovering around an (un)impressive 40 percent since January. Trump’s nostalgic references to America’s courage in WWII carried an undertone that called for the GOP’s continued blind faith in Trump’s agenda.

There was an unsettling moment when Trump said, “If there is going to be peace and legislation, there cannot be war and investigation.” Trump clearly (and poetically, I might add) referenced the myriad of cases brought forward by Robert Mueller’s special counsel investigations into Trump’s campaign, Russian influence in the 2016 election and various unscrupulous financial shenanigans, all having one common denominator—our president.

Trump’s threatening message paralleled another notorious President’s State of the Union address. “I believe the time has come to bring that investigation and the other investigations of this matter to an end,” Richard Nixon said six months before his resignation amid the Watergate scandal.

Trump told his audience, “embrace the boundless potential for cooperation, compromise and the common good.” These calls for bipartisanship were quickly contradicted. For example, he called his fake crisis at the southern border a “tremendous onslaught” and in Nixon-esque fashion, he referred to Mueller’s investigations as “ridiculous partisan investigations.” He also made an ill-comparison of socialism between the catastrophes in Venezuela and the agenda of the Democratic party. Where’s the bipartisanship? He should have begun his address, “My fellow Republicans and co-conspirators, you’re all gonna love this.”

On a lighter note, Trump’s controversial behavior has brought some good to American politics.

In his address, Trump congratulated the historic number of women in Congress who all dressed in the same white attire of the early-20th century suffragists. There was some really great irony in the ivory-colored crowd’s revelling; Trump’s notorious misogynistic reputation and anti-abortion agenda arguably played a role in the increase of successful female congressional campaigns and a new Democratic majority in Congress.

After Tuesday’s address, we now have a clear idea of Trump’s agenda for the American people. It is the fake crisis he calls the “lawless state of our southern border” that has two solutions: a \$5.7 billion wall or another government shutdown. It is the ignorance of warnings from our

own intelligence agencies about climate change and its current threat to national security. It is rebuking justice and transparency in light of possible corruption. I could keep going, but then this article would soon consume the entire Paisano publication for this week.

Instead I will leave you with this: I implore you, reader, do not let this administration go unchecked. We have a responsibility to call out corruption when we see it. As the 2020 elections approach, we have an opportunity to decide the new face of American politics. This new opportunity will benefit us (to quote the president’s wisdom) “if only we have the courage to seize it.”

Is Liam Neeson racist?

Commentary



By Alex Hanks
Staff Writer

World renowned actor Liam Neeson recently recalled disturbing events regarding the sexual assault of someone he knew. The suspect was an African-American male, and Neeson said that following the attack he waited around in hopes of killing “some black bastard” in revenge.

While Neeson’s actions are disgusting and disturbing, I think they present the opportunity to bring up a very real conversation on the spectrum of racism and implicit bias in a very divided society.

We can’t ignore the fact that Neeson is not the only individual in our communities with this paradigm. Unfortunately, even some of our teachers, coworkers, and friends share some of the same beliefs that Neeson expressed on the night he wanted to kill a random African-American male, regardless of whether they were the suspect or not.

When your skin color gives you the privilege to have the desire to “kill a black bastard,” open conversation about racism and prejudice

needs to be had. It’s long overdue.

Neeson openly acknowledged his actions and displayed a sense of shame and remorse in the process. While the incident transpired over 40 years ago, many individuals today still have the same mindset Neeson did on the night he was planning to murder an innocent African-American man.

What appalled me was the fact that following the attack, his first question was to ask his friend the race of her attacker. That seems to be a long standing trend in racist actions of individuals. Why does race matter, and why was Neeson’s recount of the situation so shocking?

This is primarily because he openly admitted to being racist and sought help. That’s incredibly rare. Yet he shouldn’t be praised for it, because it’s something everyone with prejudice should be doing.

Society tends to put emphasis on race whenever tragedy strikes. It’s the typical “us vs. them” mentality that has plagued the U.S since its founding. It makes me wonder how Neeson would have responded if she said her attacker was a white man instead.

It is amazing that Neeson

was ashamed. When you show remorse, there’s room to seek help and improve your methods of thinking.

We can’t label Neeson as a racist monster yet. While his actions are gross, he is in the process of changing his mindset and working towards being a better member of society. It would bridge the gap in our country if more individuals took that approach.

There’s absolutely nothing wrong with being white, but there is everything wrong with and not using your platform to promote a society in which we can all coexist regardless of color.

The thought process Neeson had that night is the reason Trayvon Martin isn’t with us today. It’s why Philando Castile isn’t home with his daughter. Black Lives Matter (BLM) can’t be the only ones having open conversation about racism in a divided society.

I encourage everyone to strive for equality like BLM, because it’s time to move forward. I’m pissed at Liam Neeson to put it lightly. But I also think that Neeson’s admission was powerful, and has the potential to inspire prejudiced individuals to seek help and work to be better citizens in such a racially infected society.

Father time is coming for you

Commentary



By Ryan Houston
Staff Writer

As we grow, the essence of Father Time subtly follows our path until he deems we have reached our destination.

As we lose interest in our favorite childhood activities or wrinkles appear on our faces, we recognize Father Time slowly walking along our path. My grandfather, who I referred to as “PawPaw,” immediately comes to my mind when thinking about living life to its fullest.

I vividly remember watching horror films, Friday nights on AMC with my grandparents; often times resulting in the excuse, “PawPaw and Grandma, I’m too scared to sleep by myself because the monsters are going to get me, so can I sleep with y’all?”

The following Saturday morning a lovely breakfast aroma spread throughout the house causing me to wake up instantly.

As I dashed into the kitchen, my grandparents always reminded me to wash my face and hands.

Benny Ockle-tree, also known as “PawPaw,” was best described as a proud and strong man with a soft spot for his grandchildren. In mid-December, my grandfather passed away, just one week after I finished finals and had a successful appendix surgery. Sounds extremely stressful, right?

However, an appreciated phrase my grandmother often used was “resting,” and I understood beyond its definition.

My grandfather worked hard throughout his life, not only to reach his goals, but also help others along the way. He battled sickness and dealt with a lot of adversity, but never failed to smile while at his lowest. I cried at the funeral and the thought of not having him there intensified my fear. As the day went on, I chose to identify

a new perspective on life, understanding the inevitable while embracing the unknown.

I believe if individuals knew their last day was tomorrow, today would be spent with high energy and gratitude. My message to you is embrace the unknown opportunities in your lifetime. Do not fear death itself but not living enough within your lifetime. Remain fearless in pursuing your endeavors, and understand failure is the first step in succeeding. Express the deepest appreciation to individuals who have helped you obtain success.

Although death is unpredictable, the possibilities of living a great life are limitless. Furthermore, celebrate the lives of past loved ones and live to tell their amazing life stories. Act today. Be great today. Love today. Conquer today. Nothing is promised so do everything you’ve ever dreamt of because Father Time visits without a heads up.

THE PAISANO

Kenyatta Battle | Editor in Chief
Editor@paisano-online.com

Katrina Clements | Managing Editor
Manager@paisano-online.com

News

Heather Montoya | Co-News Editor
News@paisano-online.com

Alejandro “AJ” Lopez | Co-News Editor
News@paisano-online.com

Joseph Torres | Assistant News Editor

Arts & Life

Kirkland Luther | Arts & Life Editor
Arts@paisano-online.com

Photo

Ricky Galindo | Photography Editor
Photo@paisano-online.com

Ellyson Ortega | Assistant Photo Editor

Jack Myer | Assistant Photo Editor

Sports

Ryan Garza | Sports Editor
Sports@paisano-online.com

Lindsey Thomas | Assistant Sports Editor

Online

Kat Joseph | Multimedia Editor
Multimedia@paisano-online.com

Maha Qadri | Magazine Editor
Magazine@paisano-online.com

Jose Chapa | Web Editor
Web@paisano-online.com

Josh Levario | Senior Copy Editor

Staff

Kimiya Factory | Staff
Arnulfo Caballero | Staff
Rudy Sanchez | Staff
Kaylee Boggan | Staff
Iliana Sanchez | Staff
Carlos Prado | Staff
Alex Hanks | Staff
Nisa Rodriguez | Staff
Alfonzo Mendoza | Staff
Ryan Houston | Staff

Business

Will Stransky | Business Manager
Business@paisano-online.com

Jenelle Duff | Advertising Liaison
Paisano.ads1@gmail.com

Brysen Streeter | Advertising Sales Executive
Ads@paisano-online.com

Adrienne Kristianto | Social Media Coordinator

Jack Myer | Distribution Manager

Advisory Board

Diane Abdo | Advisor
Diane.Abdo@utsa.edu

Steven Kellman | Advisor
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ARTS & LIFE

Rising artist of San Antonio: Dominique Beltran

By Kimiya Factory
Staff Writer

Photo courtesy of Liliana Cornejo-Valenzuela



Beltran enjoys a moment on the other side of the lens.

Dominique Beltran, 23, is a native to Brownsville, Texas. After moving to San Antonio at the age of 10, the culture of the city inspired the work Beltran does by capturing everything from Latinx culture to edgy street fashion. Rise and Shine Photography, Beltran's photography business, are means through which she connects with clients for everything from photoshoot bookings to freelance work. Beltran finds irony in the multiple eye surgeries that she had as a child which became a contribution to the 'eye' that allows her to incorporate a realistic spin on human life. Being immersed in art as a child made it only natural for her creativity to bloom into the art of capturing human essence through a camera lens. Storytelling best describes the work of this young photographer whose signature can be identified as 'real-life.'

"I capture a mix, so it's hard to just label my work with one specific category. I do a mix of portrait, freelance and storytelling photography. A collection of diaries are what I like to think of the stories I tell," Beltran said.

Beltran's latest accomplishments include her photos having been selected for The San Antonio 4x5 Photo Fest, Movement Gallery Exhibit, Street Fatale Exhibit of 2018 and 2019, as well as Photo de Septiembre in the Arts section of The Current. A major accomplishment of Beltran's include hosting her own exhibit in January of 2019, titled "The City of God," presenting a collection of street photography and signature pieces. Maintain-

ing a balance between a professional and artistic work ethic is most important to Beltran, as she is inspired by her mother, Maria Dehonney and Frida Kahlo.

Beltran considers her art a 'mix' of portrait photography and freelance work, shooting for San Antonio locals active in social justice and fashion dialogue.

"It's hard describing myself to people, or telling my own story so I try to utilize that by capturing the faces of other people to describe myself; my personal experiences through other people," Beltran said.

The Mexican heritage engrained in San Antonio Culture is present in Beltran's work.

"I feel like it's hard to describe San Antonio, there's a feeling that you miss when you leave. The roots of the culture run deep here, and capturing the Latinx community here and the way that we've been able to sustain ourselves motivates me," Beltran said.

Beltran's eye is drawn to those who work hard, and contribute to their community and cultivate inspiration for generations to come.

"The elderly lady making tortillas on the street corner for 50 years or the migrant workers who moved here, all contribute something that makes the community unique in its own; each person has their own story to tell," Beltran said.

This past Saturday, Beltran was chosen for the third time in just a year to be a part of the 2019 Fatale



Photo courtesy of Dominique Beltran

"The Puppet Master / Trapped in My Mind"

Women's Photography Exhibit, which features San Antonio's up and coming female photographers. The event consisted of tunes and community, as observers appreciated the Fest's theme "Movement." Photos decorated the walls, capturing movement in various forms. As an advocate and member of the LGBTQ community, it was an honor for Beltran's photo to be featured. The photograph captured the smile of an individual holding the Pride Flag as it blew in the wind; colorful and radiant.

"To be represented was a really big deal; the turnout was great and it was an amazing experience," Beltran said.

A coffee enthusiast, lover of furry friends and taco truck frequent, Beltran's goal of many is to do one thing through her work: inspire those to tell their own story.

Photo courtesy of Dominique Beltran



"Survivors Guilt / Dios Por Favor Ayudame"

Photo courtesy of Kimiya Factory



Beltran poses proudly next to "Pride."

Too Rair to die

UTSA Student Joey Asturias talks about his independent clothing company

By Alex Hanks
Staff Writer



Photos courtesy of Rair Threads

Rair Threads, a curation of minimalist streetwear clothing, is making waves in the Alamo City. I recently got the opportunity to sit down for an interview with Joey Asturias, CEO and founder of Rair Threads to discuss the brand, streetwear culture and the work that goes into running a clothing brand while also being a college student. Asturias is, a senior multidisciplinary studies major, took the tools he attained at UTSA and used them to build his own startup company. What started off as a small project, blew up into a popular San Antonio brand and is even making a push to surrounding cities and beyond.

Streetwear culture has definitely made a big push in recent memory here in San Antonio. Rair Threads is one of those brands that is adding refreshing new looks by taking a very minimalist approach to design whilst keeping in mind attention to detail. They are currently working on their season two collection. The fascinating aspect of their brand is the overall themes each season brings to the table. Season zero was a curation of sky-themed merch, ranging from lightning bolts to clouds, while Season one consisted of a space theme. The designs of the clothing, while subtle, definitely

pop out. The stitching and branding of each item is intricate and the quality of Rair Threads is comparable to the quality of big named streetwear brands.

Rair Threads is community driven and takes pride in the city of San Antonio. They are currently working on a tribute collection that features the throwback Spurs fiesta colorway, and it is something you should definitely be on the lookout for in the near future. From pop-up shops to South by Southwest (SXSW), Rair Threads is always scheming and looking for ways to build their brand while also paying homage to the 210.

Asturias is consistently cooking up new ways to push the boundaries of Rair Threads while also staying true to its roots and has many ambitions for the company. "Setting up a scholarship fund is definitely something I envision. Growing up in San Antonio, I would love to see myself giving back to my high school and the UTSA community as well," Asturias said.

Asturias shed light on the adversity you face and the persistence you need to turn your visions into a reality. One of the most admirable qualities about Asturias is that he didn't start his company for the monetary gains.

He gave a word of advice that I think could resonate with all roadrunners, regardless of what path we are taking, "There are so many resources out there that people don't take advantage of. As a college student, it's so important to have people that can mentor you. It's also vital to be surrounded by people who are going to help build you up."

Asturias is completely driven by his love for fashion and knowing that he is making his mark in such a tight-knit community. He is striving to bridge gaps and ensure unity in the Alamo City. Like paintings, music or other outlets of expression; fashion is something that brings people together.

Be on the lookout for Rair Threads. Whether it's at SXSW in Austin, or First Friday here in SA, Rair Threads is always on the move and you will definitely be seeing them more in the near future.

You can purchase and browse Rair Threads at:
Rairthreads.com
Instagram: @rairthreads_
Twitter: @rairthreads_

Read the full interview with Asturias at: paisano-online.com

Top:

Joey Asturias, Rair Threads CEO and Founder, sports the classic lightning bolt tee.

Bottom:

Nash Chitakure, Rair Threads Financial Advisor, ponders the brand's next best move.

Ten Places to Spend Valentine's Week

By Jordan Locke
Contributing Writer

In my household, we don't celebrate birth-days, but rather birth-weeks, because who wouldn't want a week of celebration dedicated to them? The same goes for all holidays, at least in my household, centered around another person. We celebrate all seven days of father's week, mother's week, etc. What better way to celebrate the unfortunate landlocking of Valentine's Day between Wednesday and Friday than by making a week out of it? So, for your perusing pleasure, here are 10 great ways to spend your Valentine's Day Week

Perry's Steakhouse & Grille

Located a convenient stone's throw away from the UTSA Main Campus, Perry's Steakhouse is a fine-dining experience that is sure to leave you and that special someone impressed. Normally, I would say this is a little pricey, however on Fridays during lunch, you can enjoy their famous pork chop with mashed potatoes and applesauce (for the white meat portions of your chop) for a little more than you would spend on a fully-loaded Whataburger!

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Li's Sichuan Restaurant

Sometimes you want authentic Chinese food, and sometimes you want Americanized Asian-fusion food. At Li's Sichuan Restaurant you don't have to choose. Located just off Stone Oak parkway, the food is guaranteed fresh and delicious. It's also a great place to practice your Mandarin.

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Paesano's

Very few things are more romantic than an Italian restaurant. It brings thoughts of sharing a spaghetti noodle with that special someone and meeting in the middle. This year, Paesano's celebrates its 50th anniversary of bringing excellent Italian cuisine to the city of San Antonio. This restaurant is a great place to come and have a nice glass (or bottle) of wine and enjoy the company of your favorite person.

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Alamo Drafthouse

Dinner and a movie? Yes, please. Dinner during a movie? Bigger yes. Alamo Drafthouse is the perfect marriage of food, drink and entertainment. With a craft beer menu and tasty delights from the kitchen that change every few months, Alamo Drafthouse is an essential part to any great evening that requires both peace and quiet, and loud explosions.

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Andretti Indoor Karting & Games, Top Golf, iFLY

Whether you despise the mundane or just want to experience new and interesting things with your best friend, the corner of 1604 and I-10 has a host of fun and new things to try. Win Valentine's Day by letting your significant other beat you at golfing, or kart racing. Alternatively, lord your win over them to assert dominance. Whether you fly, or fall with style, the evening will certainly be one to remember!

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Silo Elevated Cuisine

Sometimes you want to save your money and do something small and sweet. This is not one of those times. Silo cuisine is possibly one of the most delicious things that San Antonio has to offer. They offer an assorted menu of American-fare. With three locations that are more delicious than the last, you are certain to experience flavors and emotions you have never felt before. Let's just hope you have a sugar-momma/daddy or you over-borrowed on your student loans.

\$\$\$

Sapporo Sushi and Asian Fusion

Never had I been able to use the words delicious, sushi and inexpensive in the same sentence. Until now! Sapporo is an absolute treat, located just off I-10 and Hausman road. Sapporo features absolute units of sushi rolls that could fill the stomach of a grown man for about the same as any other place. Value? Absolutely! Delicious? Of course!

\$

The Block SA

For me and my SO, deciding on where we want to eat every night can be compared to several things. Pulling teeth comes to mind. What if I were to tell you of a place with as many as six to seven options within chancle-throwing distance of each other (my wife can get some distance). The Block is right off UTSA Boulevard and Roadrunner Way and provides a delicious compromise to people of all tastes. The bar serves beer, wine and has recently added liquor for those who dabble in spirits. As a minister, I know I do!

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Piatti

Have you ever thought to yourself, "sure, this Italian place is good, but I wish it was like, three times more fancy!" Have I got news for you! Open for lunch and dinner, Piatti is a wonderful Italian experience like no other. Flex on your date by ordering an interesting sounding wine off the menu and requesting a taste before accepting the glass or bottle. With locations by the Eilan hotel and the Quarry, Piatti's fresh and delicious food is just like Nonna used to make.

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Freetail's

For those of you that have made it this far, put down your pizza peels and pitchforks. Freetail's is a craft brewpub that also serves food, but don't let that fool you, their food will still drive you batty. With amazing pizza, sandwiches and salads, this pizza joint by 1604 and NW Military Highway will leave you wanting to hang around for more.

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Background courtesy of Creative Commons

Big Sis Advice: My Hair Journey

By: Kimiya Factory
Staff Writer



Photo courtesy of Dominique Beltran

I remember my scalp burning; that meant the relaxer was working. I never sweat it though. "Beauty is pain," I would tell myself as I imagined the admiring looks I'd get in the hallways. My hair would finally be straight and I would fit in at school. Curls and frizz were never in, and I could see it with every wrinkled nose and question phrased, "Why doesn't your hair stay straight?" I can't tell you how many times I wish I could've gone back in time and encouraged my eight year-old-self to cherish the silky curls I was born with. What is it that J. Cole says? "No need to fix what God already put his paintbrush on?"

Being the only black girl in a kindergarten class, I really stood out with my colorful hair bows and pigtails that swung in unison with me on the monkeybars. After one-too-many, "Why is your hair so poofy?" questions, I went home crying to my mom, begging her to stop the natural hair madness, and like any caring parent who just wanted her child to be happy, she did. My mother finally allowed me to get a relaxer.

For years, I would relax my hair while soaking up comments about how my hair was "So pretty and long for a black girl." I would perm it, flat iron it, keep my head above water in the pool during summers, run for cover in the pouring rain and avoid anything that mimicked an afro if that meant getting my white friends' (and their parents') societal approval. However, the one and only thing that was missing was my own approval.

I can't go back in time. So now I face the harsh reality, that I would continue to perm my hair and have an identity crisis about everyone else's perception of beauty. Now, I proudly let my afro bounce as I walk, and I am proud of the black woman my mother raised me to be. My hair thanks me for that conversation during my junior year of college with a dear friend who encouraged me to "just cut it off" — the big chop. Starting over and chopping off every eurocentric beauty expectation that I had growing up re-invented me. It forced me to confront my hair demons and learn to love me for me.

Now I want to make it clear that I'm not hating on any sistas who relax their hair. Blackness comes in so many beautiful styles and textures. I want to make it clear that my journey clarified other things for me. For that, as a black woman, I am eternally grateful. Respectfully, don't touch my hair.

For my sew-ins, lace-fronts, relaxers and afro's alike,

Xoxo,

Big Sis

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The Weekend

February 15 - Never Been Kissed 90's Prom / Free

10 p.m. - 2 a.m. at Oak Hills Tavern
Over \$200 worth of rad prizes for best dressed 90's gear or prom attire. The event will have food, sweets, drinks, an area to take "prom pose" photos and non stop music.

February 16 - Pop Con / Free

9 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Central Library
A celebration of pop culture at the Central Library. There will be authors, artists, anime, gaming, cosplay, crafts and more. Guests include Kelley Armstrong, Gregory Manchess, Michael Moorcock and anime voice actress Terri Doty.

February 16 - El Mardi Gras / Free or \$75 V.I.P.

1 - 7 p.m. at Paper Tiger
Enjoy great food, beverages, music, and art all in the name of charity at the 3rd Annual El Mardi Gras.

February 17 - Signs of Life / Free

11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Southwest School of Art - John L. Santikos Building
Employing up-cycled election posters, students de-constructed them to create "ransom-style notes."

To feature your event in "The Weekend" email the arts editor at

arts@paisano-online.com Photo courtesy of Creative Commons



SPORTS



Keaton Wallace dunks on Florida International University.

Jack Myer/The Paisano

Dynamic duo own FIU, FAU

UTSA men's basketball wins 10th straight home game

By Lindsey Thomas
Sports Assistant

UTSA men's basketball (15-10, 9-3) scored into triple digits, defeating Florida International University (FIU) (14-11, 5-7) 100-67 on Thursday, Feb. 7. Following tip-off, the 'Runners gained control of the ball and the lead and did not let go until the buzzer finished the game.

Keaton Wallace pushed ahead with 27 points against the Panthers. This was the 'Runners' ninth straight at home, which has not happened at UTSA in 27 years. Wallace shot 11 for 13 in the game and increased to his 20th 20-point game of the season. Nick Allen had his first double-double of the season, with

10 rebounds and 11 total points. Jhivvan Jackson made his way into the 'Runners history books by scoring 13 points, pushing him into the 1,000-point club - the 16th Roadrunner to do this.

The 'Runners shot a field goal average of 58 percent, a three-point average of 38.5 percent and 83.3 percent on free throws.

At the start, Byron Frohnen contributed six of the first 10 points. Within the first five minutes, the 'Runners were up 17-2. As the half progressed, the Roadrunners advanced to a 23-point lead until finishing out the half leading 50-30.

Jumping into the second half, the 'Runners scored eight points with three-pointers by Wallace and Giovanni De Nicolao and a layup by Wallace. Later in the quarter, the Roadrunners racked up a 33-point lead. For the Panthers, Brian

Beard and Devon Andrew scored 14 points, respectively.

On Feb. 9, the 'Runners faced off against Florida Atlantic University (FAU) and won 86-74 for their 10th straight win at home. This improved the Roadrunners to 12 wins in the past 15 games.

Overall, Jackson and Wallace each scored 24 points. Jackson topped off a 20-point game for the 17th time this season and 31st for his career. Wallace played a 20-point game as well for the 13th time this season. Giovanni De Nicolao shot a career high with 10 assists, 10 points and five rebounds.

As the 'Runners hit 53-44, the Owls scored nine unanswered points before the Roadrunners laid down a 16-0 streak, five points from De Nicolao and a fast break by Jackson.

With 8:07 on the clock, free throw

shots by FAU broke the point deficit, but could not close the scoring gap as the 'Runners progressed to a 72-54 advantage. The Owls later responded by cutting the gap to 13 points with a 5-0 spurt. Jackson and Wallace combined for 30 points for the first half for a 46-39 lead at the half.

In the second half, the 'Runners came out with a 14-7 lead in the first five minutes. Wallace shot in his record-breaking three-pointer with three more free throws following. The 'Runners and FAU went back and forth with scoring, but the Roadrunners kept the lead for the games entirety.

UTSA men's basketball will return on Thursday, Feb. 14 against Southern Miss University at 7 p.m. in Hattiesburg.

Softball off to a running start

By Jack Myer
Distribution Manager

After a disappointing finish last season, when the UTSA softball team lost eight of their last ten games, the 'Runners look to rebound this season and earn a spot in the Conference USA (C-USA) championship tournament beginning May 8 in Birmingham, Alabama. They got off to a good start, defeating Texas State University 3-2, in the opening game of the Bobcat Classic in San Marcos, Texas.

The Roadrunners skidded to a less than ideal end of the 2018 season last year, finishing 20-30 (8-16 in conference) and tying for last place. Going into next season, senior outfielder Bailee Baldwin will need to continue to lead the team like she did last season, finishing with a .362 batting average and 45 runs batted in (RBI). Additionally, junior outfielder Celeste Loughman and junior catcher Kylea Nix will need to support the offense, who finished last season slugging .419 and .254, respectively. The Roadrunner's defense will largely depend on three pitchers who are brand new to UTSA this year. Sophomore Clarissa Hernandez posted a 1.78 earned run average last year at Stephen F. Austin University (SFA); sophomore Mackenzie Carpenter was named to the Sun Belt Conference Academic Honor Roll last year

at the University of Louisiana-Lafayette; and freshmanarena Estell is coming to UTSA as a pitcher/outfielder from Hooks High School. These three, with returning sophomore pitcher Madison Nelson, will make up this year's pitching rotation.

The Roadrunners' season began on Feb. 7 with the Bobcat Classic just up the road in San Marcos, TX against UTSA's I-35 rival, Texas State University. Nelson, the only veteran pitcher, got the start against the Bobcats, and allowed one run and four hits in six innings. A few errors hurt the 'Runners early, but Hernandez took over in relief and allowed only one more run, as well as escaping a bases-loaded jam in the seventh inning. Baldwin led the offense, going 4-4 with a run and an RBI, and Loughman contributed with a hit and a run. All of UTSA's offense happened in the third inning with Baldwin, sophomore Victoria Villareal and freshman Riley Grunberg each knocking in a run. These three runs ended up being enough for the defense to hold on and secure a 3-2 victory for the Roadrunners.

UTSA continued on to play Abilene Christian University (ACU) on Feb. 9. After some college start, Estell got her first outing, allowing four runs on seven hits in five innings. Hernandez came in again and closed the sixth inning with a strikeout and



Roadrunners meet on the mound.

Tristan Ipock/UTSA Athletics

no hits allowed. ACU scored twice in the second inning, but junior Paige Pacher's bases-loaded single in the bottom half of the second and Riley Grunberg's two-run home run in the bottom of the third gave UTSA the lead at 3-2. Estell gave up a two-run home run in the top of the fourth, making the score 4-3 and returning a one-run lead to ACU. Sophomore Elexus Trenkle scored Victoria Villareal in the bottom of the fifth with an ACU error on a dropped third strike, and the game was once again tied

at four. ACU loaded the bases in the top of the seventh for Hernandez, but she struck out two batters and again wormed her way out of it. UTSA was once again unable to plate the winning run in the bottom of the seventh, and ACU made them pay for it with two runs in the top of the eighth. The 'Runners chipped away at the lead by scoring once on a wild pitch, but they weren't able to complete the comeback and were defeated 6-5 in eight innings.

Immediately their loss to ACU,

the Roadrunners stayed on the field to play North Dakota State University. Veteran Madison Nelson got her second start of the season, giving up four runs on seven hits in 5.2 innings, and the UTSA offense was silenced until Hailey Garza's two-run home run in the seventh inning. The Roadrunner rally ended there, and the NDSU Bison triumphed by a score of 6-2. Come see your Roadrunner Softball team in action at home against Baylor on Feb. 13 at 6 p.m.

Conference USA baseball preview



Karen Patel pitches as La Tech dugout looks on.

Corina Garcia Young/The Paisano

By Jose Bouquett
Staff Writer

Southern Miss (44-18, 23-6)

The Golden Eagles came into another season hoping to win the Conference USA (C-USA) championship for a third year straight. First basemen Hunter Slater, outfielder Matt Walner and second basemen Matthew Guidry were mentioned in the preseason awards. The Golden Eagles are projected to be repeat conference champions. Southern Miss has to replace All-American pitcher Nick Sandlin's production on the mound if they want to contend for a three-peat.

Louisiana Tech (39-20, 21-9)

In his third year as coach, Lane Burroughs wants to break his record of 21 conference wins from last season. Tech returns eight starters in the field and all three starting pitchers from 2018. Repeating a record-breaking performance will not come easy, but they have the talent to knock off the reigning two-time champs.

Florida Atlantic (43-19-1, 19-8-1)

Florida Atlantic University (FAU) had one of their best postseason runs by making it to the C-USA tournament finals and winning their way into a NCAA regional final. Repeating their postseason success will be difficult as they need a young pitching staff to throw a lot of high lever-

age innings for the team and will determine whether the team builds on previous success or slides back into the middle of the conference.

Charlotte (34-24, 17-13)

Charlotte is a small program that exceeded their expectations in 2018. The 49ers want to build on the success of last season and replicate the success they had against baseball giant Arkansas. This season will determine if they can be a C-USA contender and will lean on pitcher Matt Brooks to give them opening weekend wins.

UTSA (32-24, 16-13)

The Roadrunners are losing multiple key pieces from their successful 2018 campaign. Senior leader Bryan Arias will bare the offensive load for UTSA and attempt to live up to his preseason award selection. Karan Patel and Bradley Griggs will headline the starting staff for the 'Runners and need big performances from these players to compete with the conference powers. If young players like sophomore Dylan Rock can improve on last year's season, then they will have an opportunity to compete for a regular season and tournament title.

FIU (26-28, 15-13)

Florida International University (FIU) has a hint of Michigan football on them with great recruiting classes but limited



UTSA first baseman waits as Karen Patel pitches the ball.

Ricky Galindo/The Paisano

on field success. FIU has not had the success they had hoped for in the past, but with increased technical work and improvements on the field, the Panthers may have a shot at the crown next season.

Rice (26-31-2, 12-15-2)

A fall from grace occurred for Rice University as they missed the postseason for the first time in 24 years. The Owls are attempting to rebuild their program to its former status with their best hitter Braden Comeaux, returning after a .319 batting average and 36 RBIs. Finishing higher than seventh would be a success for Rice, but if their expectations are for a NCAA tournament berth, then 2019 may be a rude surprise for the Owls.

UAB (21-33, 13-17)

The rebuilding process is fully underway for the University of Alabama at Birmingham (UAB). Pitching is key for the dragons, and they will need Tanner Graham and Ryan Wesson to fill their starter roles. If both have career year, then UAB will have an opportunity to finish in the top half of the conference.

Middle Tennessee (27-27-1, 12-17-1)

A disappointing regular season led to a Cinderella run in the conference tournament and finishing one game away from playing for a championship. Selected to finish in tenth in a preseason poll, MTSU has to rely on newcomers to push them

higher in the regular standings.

WKU (21-31, 11-18)

"Short" is the optimal word to describe the 2018 season for the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers. WKU was a few games short from the conference tournament, which has given the Hilltoppers a desire to improve. Ohio State transfer Reece Calvert will anchor their starting rotation, and they will need big performances from the former Buckeye in order to make the conference tournament.

Marshall (19-31, 7-22)

The two memories that come to most minds when discussing Marshall is a movie and football. The Thundering Herd are not well known for their baseball abilities, as shown in their 2018 season. If the cards are dealt right for Marshall, they could potentially climb from the bottom of the conference.

Old Dominion (15-37, 7-22)

Disappointment runs in the ODU blood. Sports success has eluded the Monarchs and more of the same is expected. Smart bettors will hammer the under on ODU as more defeats are in store.

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FRIDAY - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22-24, 2019

TRINITY UNIVERSITY CAMPUS

Be a part of VIA's **GoCodeSA Codeathon**, an event designed to bring together the best coders, designers, and tech minds in the area, and challenge them to turn bright ideas into smart transit innovation. **GoCodeSA Codeathon** is free for participants, to compete for cash prizes based on their work. Applicants must register as a group, each composed of at least two and at most five individuals. Tech-field judges will conduct reviews and select the top three entries.

More than \$10,000 in cash and prizes will be awarded.

Register at GOCODESA.com.

