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VOL. X / SPRING 2010

minero

MAGAZINE

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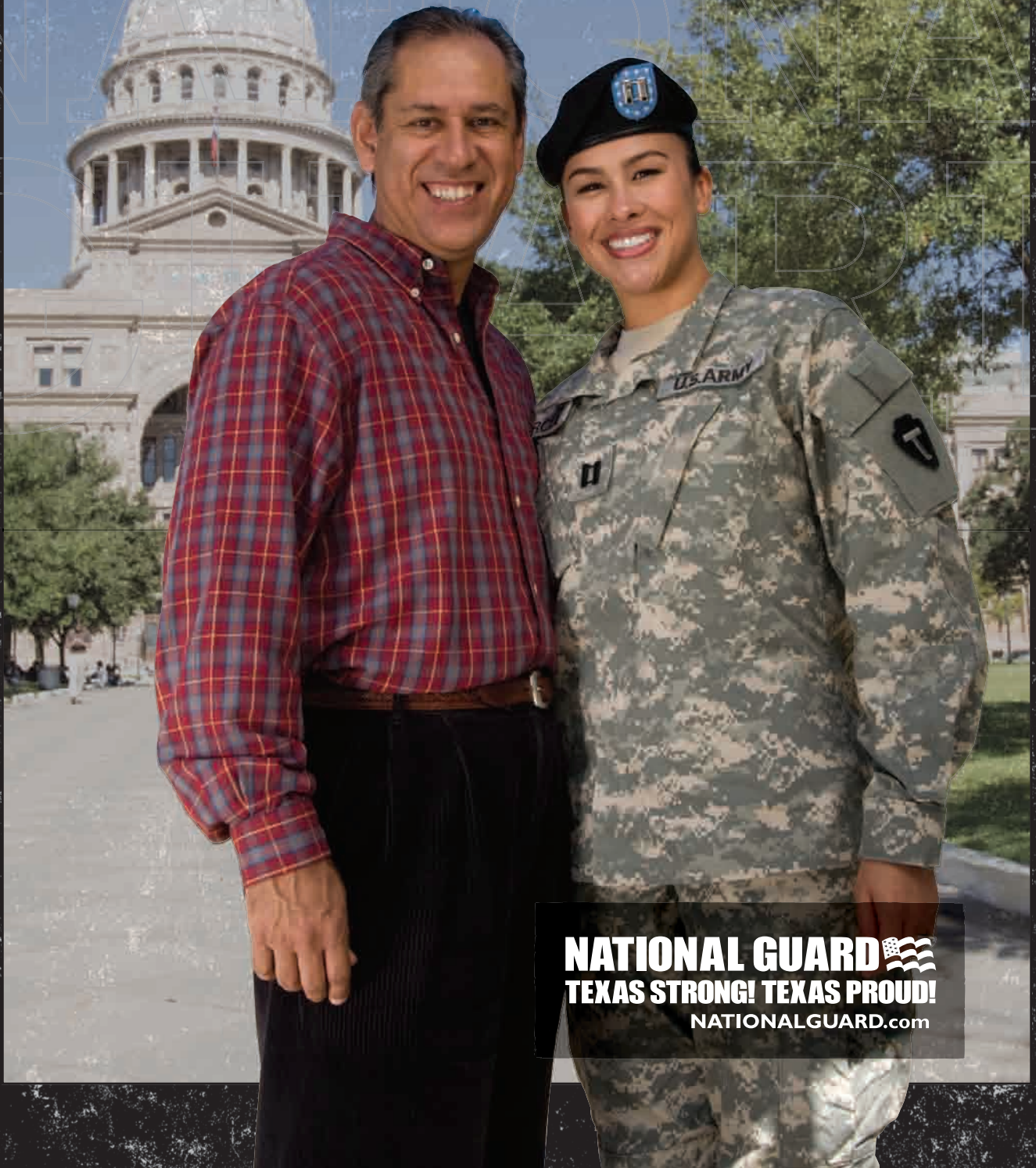
ROPES




STUDENT BALANCES BOXING AND BOOKS



**Everyone Calls Her “Ma’am”
I Still Call Her “Mija.”**



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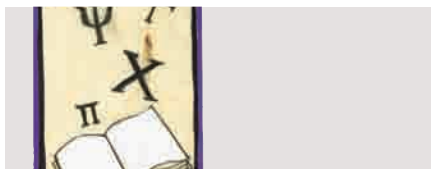
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MAGAZINE

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This issue that you are all so eagerly holding in your hands is more than just the 10th volume of Minero Magazine. It is a physical representation of an exponential amount of determination invested by the entire staff and some of the people who were featured.

As someone who aims to make a name for himself in the magazine industry, this is my first time writing for and editing a magazine. I cannot express how excited and proud I am to see that all of the headaches I suffered were completely worth it.

Minero may just seem like any other magazine to some readers, but I assure you that the underlying theme behind this masterpiece is something unique. One of my colleagues asked me if I could describe this issue in one word, and without hesitation, I said, "Determination."

As clichéd as that may sound, there really is no other word to describe this issue of Minero. Ale Guerrero, Sofia I. Chavez – Barroso and myself, along with all of the writers, designers, photographers and advisors, were determined to overcome any obstacle to create a quality piece of work.

This issue was a huge challenge for me, for I found myself pulling double duty as editor-in-chief of the magazine and entertainment editor for The Prospector, which publishes twice a week. Along with these two stressful jobs, I had to study, complete assignments and prepare for tests and keep up with my family and social life. I was determined to invest an adequate amount of time in each of these aspects of my life and give them all the proper time they needed.

Justin Luera, in his story about murals, describes how they are not something that are created overnight. The artists spend a lot of time, dedication and research in order to make the murals picture perfect. Those muralists had an objective in their mind,

and they were determined to do everything in their power to turn their dreams into reality.

César Valenzuela is a prime example of how anything is possible with the right amount of determination and dedication. He had to juggle his boxing career, school and medical problems and I'm sure it was not an easy road for him to travel. Now, he is on the verge of completing his pursuit for higher education and making a name for himself in the arena.

In our travel section, you will read about Justin Monarez's trip to the East Coast for an internship he went on in the fall semester. Many students have the opportunities to go on internships in another state, but some do not take that opportunity to do so. Although he was scared about leaving home and his family, Justin was filled with determination to experience a whole new world outside of this city that has taught him more than he could have learned in a classroom at UTEP.

Our writers and those interviewed displayed a grand amount of determination in the stories in this issue, but none of them have shown more courage than Joe Velarde. He was addicted to prescription drugs so much so that it consumed his entire life. Fortunately, he was able to break out of the addiction and is well on the road to recovery.

Hard work, perseverance, dedication and devotion were put into this magazine to provide our readers with stories that will impact their lives in some way. In this issue, there are seven articles that will lead readers into the lives of different individuals and tell their stories. I know that you will enjoy reading them as much as we did writing them. If any of these stories impacted you in some way, let us know by leaving a comment online at www.utepprospector.com in the Minero section.

Happy reading!



POR SOFIA I. CHAVEZ-BARROSO

Todo empezó con una visita al dentista.

Después de una cirugía en la que le extrajeron las muelas del juicio, Joe Velarde salió con una receta para un medicamento al que no tardó en hacerse adicto: la vicodina. “Me encontré a mí mismo tomándome y tomándome estas pastillas”, dice Joe, graduado de UTEP en comunicación y creación literaria. “Simplemente disfrutaba la sensación. Era como con ninguna otra droga”.

Joe llegó a gastar hasta 200 dólares a la semana para consumir un promedio de nueve pastillas por día y mantener una creciente adicción alimentada por problemas personales, estrés y sobrecarga de trabajo. Las pastillas eran su evasión. “No me podía despertar en la mañana sin tomarme las pastillas”, dice Joe. “No quería, tenía miedo de los síntomas de abstinencia”.

En el verano del 2008, Joe llegó a su peor momento. “Un muy buen amigo murió de sobredosis. Encontraron todo tipo de pastillas en su cuerpo”, recuerda Joe. “Estaba ultra deprimido, en ese punto me sentía muy solo, me di cuenta que estaba perdiendo contacto”.

De acuerdo a estadísticas más recientes del *National Institute of Drug Abuse* cerca de 48 millones de personas (mayores de 12 años) han usado drogas médicas o narcóticos por razones no vinculadas a problemas de salud. Esto representa aproximadamente el 20 por ciento de la población estadounidense.

En un sondeo hecho en 2008, el programa *Monitoring the Future* del Instituto para la Investigación Social de la Universidad de Michigan encontró que 9.7 por ciento de los

jóvenes en el último año de la preparatoria habían consumido vicodina sin receta médica, mientras que un 4.7 por ciento reportó usar oxicodona, lo que colocó ambas drogas de prescripción como las más utilizadas entre los adolescentes. En estudiantes universitarios se encontró que un 6.7 por ciento habían consumido vicodina y un 3.6 por ciento había usado oxicodona.

Diana Apodaca, vocera de la Agencia Federal Antidroga en El Paso (DEA), dice que el consumo ilegal de narcóticos es una tendencia creciente. Para combatir el problema, la DEA no sólo se ha encargado de educar al público sino también ha creado equipos especiales para combatir la distribución ilegal de narcóticos.

Hay varias maneras de conseguir narcóticos; las más comunes son tres: a través de amigos y familiares; por lo que es conocido como *doctor shopping* – cuando la persona va con doctores diferentes fingiendo un problema de salud para conseguir la receta – y finalmente, las farmacias que operan ilegalmente vía Internet.

Joe intentó conseguir pastillas vía Internet, pero le resultó imposible a pesar de que parecía algo fácil de hacer. También intentó hacer *doctor shopping* con dos médicos diferentes, pero sólo consiguió drogas no narcóticas. Encontró la solución entre la gente con la que convivía. “Era tan fácil como preguntar”, dice Joe. “De hecho creo que es la droga que he conseguido de manera más fácil. Después de un tiempo estaba en todos lados”.

Los opioides, analgésicos para el dolor, son los narcóticos más abusados. El Departamento de Salud de los Estados Unidos reportó casi 180 millones de recetas de medicinas que continen opioides. Primero esta la hidrocodina (vicodina),

Uso de narcóticos en estudiantes universitarios



Deje de escribir para cualquier tipo de periódico. Solía tener una gran pasión por el periodismo y la perdí.

utilizada para la tos y como analgésico para aliviar dolor moderado e intenso. Otro opioide que es consumido es la oxycodona, que también se utiliza para aliviar dolor.

“Los opioides son depresores. Tienen un efecto suave, pero te hacen viajar... te sientes como en letargo. Incrementa los niveles de dopamina en el cerebro y eso te aletarga”, dice Ricardo López, consejero de la clínica de pacientes externos del centro de rehabilitación Aliviane. “Como sea que la persona comienza su adicción, es progresiva, una adicción siempre es progresiva, no va a mejorar, solo va a empeorar”.

López explica que por lo general este tipo de adicción evoluciona de algo físico a algo mental. Comienza con algún dolor del cuerpo pero luego la mente interviene cuando el cuerpo crea una tolerancia. “Se va a desarrollar”, dice López. “Si tengo dolor en mi rodilla y empiezo a tomar vicodina, primero va a ser por el dolor, después de un tiempo voy a tomar más y más hasta convertirse en algo psicológico”.

Joe sabe lo que siente una persona cuando no ha consumido drogas. “La sensación cuando una persona se queda sin pastillas es espantosa”.

Los otros dos tipos de narcóticos que son comúnmente abusados son depresivos y estimulantes. Los depresivos normalmente son recetados para problemas de ansiedad, pánico, insomnio y estrés. Entre los más usados se encuentran el Xanax y Valium, que relajan y tranquilizan a la persona. Los estimulantes son recetados para tratar déficit de atención y narcolepsia. Abusar de estimulantes como Ritalin y Adderall provocan que la persona este más activa de lo normal.

Los medicamentos para la tos o gripe que pueden ser comprados sin receta médica también están siendo abusados por miles de adolescentes de secundaria y preparatoria. En su mayoría esos fármacos contienen dextrometorfano que puede causar alucinaciones. López comenta que los adolescentes están organizando lo que se llama *pharm parties*, en las cuales cada persona lleva un medicamento y todos son colocados en un tazón. Después cada uno se toma lo que agarre del tazón.

“Los estudiantes universitarios toman Ritalin para enfocarse en sus clases, mantenerse despiertos toda la noche para estudiar para los exámenes y querer aprender todo en un momento”, dice Pamela Flores, consejera practicante de Aliviane.

Monitoring the Future reportó que un 3.2 por ciento de estudiantes universitarios habían consumido Ritalin. También reportó que un 5.7 por ciento había usado anfetaminas, una droga encontrada en estimulantes como Adderall.

López dice que a los pacientes primero hay que ayudarlos a entender porque su adicción es algo que tienen que sobrellevar, “Tenemos que poner las consecuencias junto al problema del abuso y ellos tienen que conectar los puntos”.

Después de meses y meses de estar bajo el constante efecto de las pastillas, Joe decidió que no iría a un centro de rehabilitación, pero al mismo tiempo, aceptó que tenía que confrontar su problema para retomar el rumbo de su vida. “Estaba viviendo una mentira. Estaba engañando a mucha gente, incluyendo a mí mismo”, dice.

El proceso no ha sido nada fácil ya que es una constante lucha contra el deseo de querer tomar una pastilla.

“La pesadilla no era tanta cuando estaba drogado. La pesadilla es ahora”, dice Joe, quien

tiene que lidiar con los efectos de la abstinencia, como son cólicos, problemas intestinales, noches de insomnio, depresión, ansiedad y paranoia.

Aunque lleva varios meses de sobriedad, Joe desconoce cuánto tiempo más durarán los efectos, pero sabe que tiene que lidiar con ellos día a día. Sus padres, su novia y muchos conocidos que pasan por el mismo problema lo han ayudado a sobrellevar su adicción, pero Joe dice que hay otro factor sumamente importante. “Lo que me ha mantenido alejado de las pastillas es mi creatividad”, dice Joe.

Joe reconoce que su adicción a las drogas le causó algo mucho más importante que la pérdida de dinero. “Deje de escribir para cualquier tipo de periódico. Solía tener un gran pasión por el periodismo y la perdí”, dice Joe. “Aún la tengo y a veces pienso que perdí grandes oportunidades”.

Hoy, Joe dice estar agradecido por tener la oportunidad de seguir adelante con su vida, pero sabe que la sombra de su adicción lo seguirá siempre. “Desafortunadamente el antojo nunca desaparece”.

EN BREVE

It all started with a visit to the dentist for surgery to remove his wisdom teeth and ended with an addiction to Vicodin. Joe Velarde, a UTEP graduate, says he was spending \$200 a week to be able to pop an average of nine pills per day.

According to the most recent reports from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, approximately 48 million Americans (older than 12 years old) have used prescription drugs without a medical reason. This represents about 20 percent of the population.

Joe talks about how he kept popping pill after pill, being under its effects all the time. Not having a pill and the thought of withdrawal terrified him. He says that during the time he was addicted, he was living a lie. Not only did he waste money and opportunities, he also gave up on his biggest passion: journalism.

It's been several months since Joe has been clean, but he still deals with withdrawal from the drug every day. Support from his parents, girlfriend and friends has helped him overcome his addiction, but he acknowledges his creativity is a vital factor in keeping him away from the pills. Although Joe made the conscious decision to end his addiction, he says, “Unfortunately the craving never ends.”

BLOOD, SWEAT AND PAINT

By Justin Luera

The thumps and glides of rubber on pavement resonate from above. Below, the pillars in Lincoln Park shoot 15 to 20 feet into the air, supporting what is commonly known as the Spaghetti Bowl, a loop of multi-leveled ramps that connect US-54 with I-10 and feed into all points of the city. On one pillar, a depiction of a pulsing, lush acrylic heart is nestled between illustrations of the Franklin Mountains and Meso-American temples. From the heart, arteries pump neon-orange tendrils that mimic the roads surrounding the pillar. Just below that, popping against bright yellows and greens, reads: “El Corazón de El Paso.”



“El Corazón,” by local artist and El Paso Community College TV media producer Gabriel Gaytán, represents the long tradition of mural creation in El Paso. Like the neon-orange roads in the mural, paint is pumped into the streets and onto the walls all over the city, at the center of which beats a heart of creativity and socio-historical consciousness.

Unfortunately, the transitory nature of murals like Gaytán’s does not allow viewers to take the time to think deeply about what these murals mean, who painted them or how much work went into their creation—something that, according to Miguel Juárez, a UTEP doctoral candidate in borderlands history, offers more than just aesthetic pleasure. “Murals are a form of promoting Chicano culture,” Juárez says. “They offer a window to some of the issues and challenges regarding the Chicano community in El Paso.”

In 1997, Juárez, along with former UTEP professor Cynthia Farah Haines, published “Color on Desert Walls: The Murals of El Paso,” a book that documented and explored the history of the city’s murals. According to the book, the content of much of the murals in El Paso was influenced by the combination of political, historical and social tensions between Texas and Mexico, as well as the rise of the Chicano Movement, a period of cultural re-appropriation by Mexican-Americans in the late ‘60s and early ‘70s. “Murals became a means to promote the message of either identity or of various issues and to start developing the consciousness of *Chicanismo*,” Juárez says.



"It's not to just beautify a neighborhood, it's not just putting color and decoration—it's much more than that."

Gaytán, who grew up in the '60s, says that he was heavily influenced by the message of the Chicano Movement. In his work, Gaytán explores his cultural heritage through images and symbols while also attempting to educate and inspire viewers. "What I started to embrace was the (Mexico's) indigenous culture," he says. "It was the original culture, without being influenced by the other cultures. Murals for them were billboards because they're full of information—of symbolism—that's what art is all about, to give a message."

Carlos Callejo, a prolific muralist, artist and native El Pasoan, agrees. As with many of the murals created in El Paso during the '80s and '90s, Callejo's work reflects community issues, as well as larger social issues of the period. Although he is best known for his mural "Our History," located on the third floor of the El Paso County Courthouse, Callejo's first awarded commission was in 1987 and was entitled "Kids on the Moon." Callejo, along with students from the Upper Rio Grande Private Industry Council, created a mural depicting children playing on a lunar landscape, in craters and on space shuttles.

Callejo says that the only requirement he had for his students was to think big and not of their immediate *barrio* (neighborhood), but of national and universal issues. One student proposed to Callejo the paradox of how the rapid technological advancements of the time had the capability of feeding all the children in the world, yet 17 million children were dying of malnutrition each year. "It was a very positive theme. All you see are smiling children playing

on the surface of the moon," Callejo says. "But underneath it all, the message was having modern technology serve humanity as a whole, rather than just those in power."

But not all of El Paso's murals fall under the umbrella of Mexican-American identity, nor are they as easily deciphered as those by Callejo and Gaytán. Some take a more abstract angle while continuing to represent the community in which they exist.

Mago Orona, a longtime educator and the first woman muralist in El Paso, has taken a much different route than most muralists in the city. Her work is characterized by the painstaking mosaic process and abstract themes. Orona's "Time and Sand," located at El Paso Community College's Valle Verde campus, is a 34-by-30-foot mural made up of 500-pound shapes cast out of sand, plastic, acrylic, resin and embedded with glass. The shapes of the mural both extend outward and align with a two-story wall creating an overlapping 3D effect. According to Orona, the shapes are an attempt to give form to the various abstract human emotions.

Orona says that "Time and Sand" was inspired by her desire to create something from the desert. "I had in mind that hidden in the shapes of machines are echoes of Mayan symbolism," Orona says. "This is ancient; it comes from the past and through to the future. I wanted to create monumental shapes that would express this."

Muralist, graphic designer and illustrator Mitsuo Overstreet is another artist who has taken the art



of murals down another path. Overstreet's mural "Regeneration" pays homage to the roots of El Paso, while managing to remain both innovative and fresh. The mural, completed in 2008, is located on Alberta Avenue between Texas Tech's Paul L. Foster School of Medicine and the University Medical Center. It is composed of nine carefully positioned wall installations, illustrated with abstract images of plant life and desert landscape and relieved by asymmetrical shapes in jewel-tone colors. Overstreet says he chose to make the mural abstract in hopes that it would speak to a larger breadth of people. He says that abstraction opens a door because it's not readily understood; something that he believes will generate new perspectives in thought and create new ideas for the students and doctors at the school and hospital.

But despite its unconventional imagery, the mural still manages to incorporate the history of the area. "Before there were hospitals in this area, people would go to medicine men, or *curanderos*," Overstreet says. "I wanted to kind of feed off of that, so I went out into the desert and picked and sketched plants used for medicinal purposes and abstracted them."

Although developing knowledge of some of the history and themes of the murals in El Paso may heighten one's appreciation for this particular brand of artwork, it doesn't completely convey their enormity. The amount of time, difficulty, hard work and preparation that goes into the creation of a mural is also integral to the mural experience. "It takes dedication and time," Gaytán says. Assisted by the Latino Pride Car Club, he



worked for five weekends, 10 to 12 hours per day, in order to finish “El Corazón” in time for its presentation.

Gaytán says that nearing the project’s completion, the looming deadline necessitated that he and the LPCC rig their own cars as a makeshift scissor lift and floodlight in order to work comfortably into the night. “You start doing something and you don’t want to stop, you’re in the flow of things,” Gaytán says. “The guys were saying, ‘when is this guy going to stop!’ But if I stop, the project stops, so I kept going until there was no light.”

Callejo has also experienced the enormity of murals. In 1991, Callejo was granted a \$150,000 commission to paint a mural for the then new El Paso County Courthouse. The mural, entitled “Our History,” is located under the atrium of

the courthouse and spans three walls in length. The mural portrays a mélange of characters and scenes that encompass the history of El Paso. Figures such as Porfirio Díaz and Abraham Lincoln mesh with Native Americans, soldiers and citizens in a panoramic backdrop that includes key scenes in El Paso’s history, as well as the development of the city from farmlands to present-day downtown. In order to accurately portray the immense past of El Paso, Callejo undertook extensive research, consulted with historians and pored through museums. The mural took nearly five years to finish, which included various processes of approval and contract modifications, Callejo says.

Orona’s “Time and Sand” is another mural that was particularly difficult; not only because of the hard work and long hours involved, but

also due to having to deal with the entity that commissioned her work. Orona says that shortly before the installation of “Time and Sand,” after three long years of casting and creating the shapes with her students, EPCC administrators called her and told her that they didn’t have “time” for her mural, but with the president of EPCC’s help, the mural was installed. Unfortunately, that wasn’t the end to Orona’s problems. Shortly after the mural’s installation, demands for its removal were made. “One man – I don’t know why he hated the mural or what was wrong with him – told the maintenance men, ‘take all this stuff down,’ and they stared at him,” Orona says. “The maintenance men folded their arms and said, ‘we saw her and we saw the students, for three years, work in the cold, in the dirt, in the sand and plaster; we are not going to take them down!’ So it survived.”

But with all the hard work, stress, creativity and research that goes into the production of a mural, it’s easy to ponder why these muralists continue with this long tradition. These artists say that murals, as with most art, serve a higher purpose. “It’s not to just beautify a neighborhood, it’s not just putting color and decoration—it’s much more than that,” Callejo says. “It educates people; it unites people on a common ground, on a common basis, on a common culture.”

According to Orona, the urge to create comes from a deeper place inside the muralists of El Paso. “We have this energy to speak in monumental shapes, in largeness—*¡Es Mexicano!* It’s in our blood.”

EN BREVE

Los murales pintados alrededor de El Paso representan la cultura mexicoamericana y el movimiento chicano. No sólo se trata de pintar paredes sino de investigar e informarse para poder presentar la idea.

Gabriel Gaytán, artista local y productor de televisión en El Paso Community College, pintó el mural titulado “El Corazón” sobre un pilar en Lincoln Park. La obra muestra un corazón entre las montañas Franklin y templos mesoamericanos. Terminar el mural le tomó cinco fines de semana trabajando de 10 a 12 horas cada día.

El muralista Carlos Callejo es conocido por su mural “Nuestra Historia” que ocupa tres paredes en el tercer piso de la corte del condado de El Paso. El mural muestra personajes y ciudadanos en escenarios vitales de la historia de El Paso. A Callejo le llevo cinco años terminar el mural.

Otros murales en El Paso no se enfocan tanto en la historia mexicoamericana sino en ideas más abstractas. Por ejemplo, Mago Orona, la primera mujer muralista en El Paso, creó “Tiempo y Arena”, inspirado en su deseo de crear algo sobre el desierto.

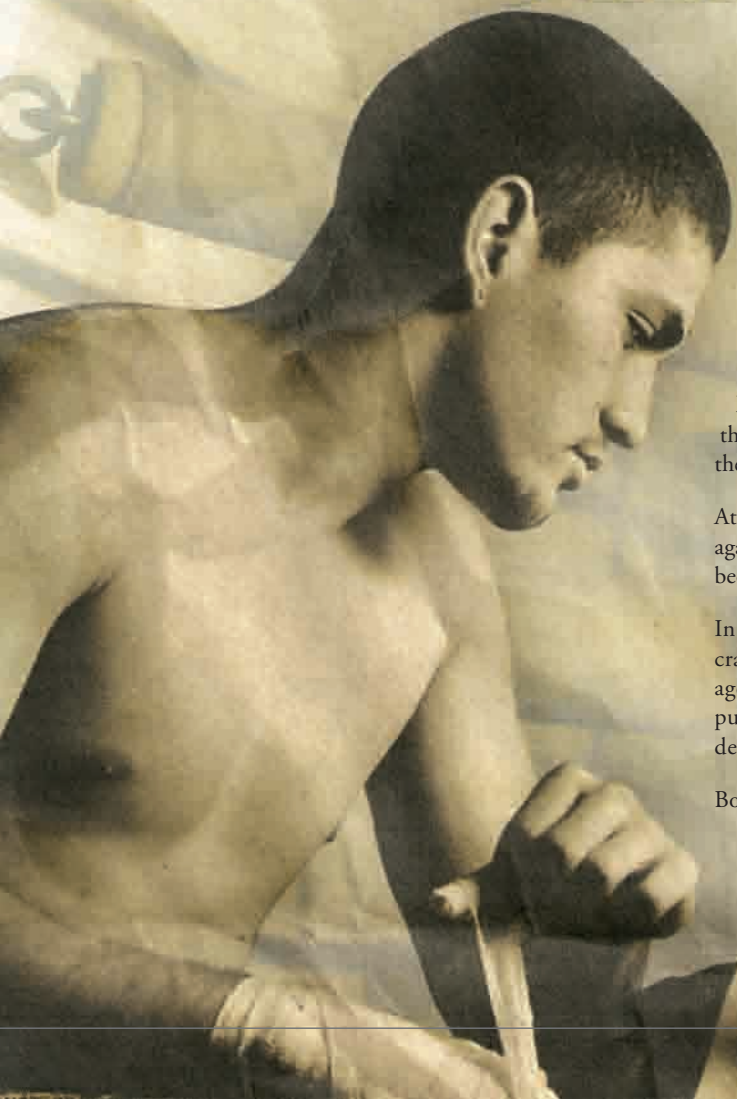
La muralista, ilustradora y diseñadora gráfica Mitsy Overstreet también creó un mural abstracto titulado “Regeneración”, localizado entre la Escuela de Medicina Paul L. Foster Medical School de Texas Tech y el University Medical Center.

A pesar del duro trabajo, estrés, creatividad e investigación que requiere hacer un mural hay una razón que mantiene la tradición, y es el hecho de que no sólo se trata de decorar la ciudad sino de educar y unir a la gente a través de la cultura, dice Callejo.

BOFFF THE ROPES

STUDENT BALANCES BOXING AND BOOKS

BY HERMAN ROJAS



Seeing a young man, at the tender age of 13, standing at his corner of the ring—bloody, battered and tired—is not exactly a sight that would make anyone want to continue getting pummeled by choice in the sport of boxing.

Everything leading up to this fight was a battle already overcome by César Valenzuela. As a child, he had to learn a second language, battle illness and overcome mental and physical challenges to become someone capable of stepping into a boxing ring. When he finally did, there were doubts, but after this fight, a warrior was born. “There I was, all nervous, and I saw this kid that had some prior fights,” César says. “I was bleeding all over the place, but I won the fight. I won the fight and everyone was ‘ah little dude, you rock man.’ I liked the attention.”

At The Main Event of Aug. 12, 1999 on El Paso’s Eastside, César came out victorious against Jesse Espinoza. It was the moment that marked the beginning of what has become a very promising career in the ring.

In an industry where fighters at a young age dedicate themselves fully to their craft, César is determined to become a success outside of the ring as well. By the age of 23, most fighters are usually well into their professional careers and not pursuing higher education. César is set to graduate from UTEP in May with a degree in computer science.

Born in 1986, across the Rio Grande in Ciudad Juárez, he moved to El Paso at the age of 12. Besides living in a new city and new country, César also had to overcome a childhood illness, which limited his opportunities to engage in many activities. “I was born with asthma, and every Christmas I would

be in the hospital because I would be excited with toys, go running and end up outside," he says. "It got to the point where my parents asked the doctors if there was anything they could do to prevent this, to keep me from getting sick all the time."

His doctor suggested that César become more physically fit to reduce his chance of becoming sick. That opportunity came along through the help of a relative, who introduced César to a world that changed his life. "We (his brothers) had a cousin who was a fighter," César says. "He said we could go with him to the gym if we wanted to. It was close to where we lived, so we checked it out and we liked it."

Those first few visits were very intimidating for César, who observed that many of the people training were serious about their craft. "When you go into a gym for the

first time and you see boxers, they can kick your butt, any of them," he says.

As he and his brothers learned the fundamentals, they had to deal with being pummeled by bigger and more experienced fighters in training sessions: "It took a lot of heart and a lot of patience, but more than anything, determination, to just not get our butts kicked and go home," César says. "We always came back for more. We got the hang of the skills and started doing better."

Just four months after beginning training, César had his first bout. "It is intimidating at first... but over time you see that he doesn't know how to do this or that and you begin to realize that you are pretty good."

His trainer of more than a decade, Reyes Mata Jr., saw the potential César possessed and believed that he could one day be a very good



"IN BOXING OR IN SCHOOL OR ANYWHERE, YOU GIVE IT YOUR BEST AND SUCCESS WILL SURELY BE THERE FOR YOU WAITING."

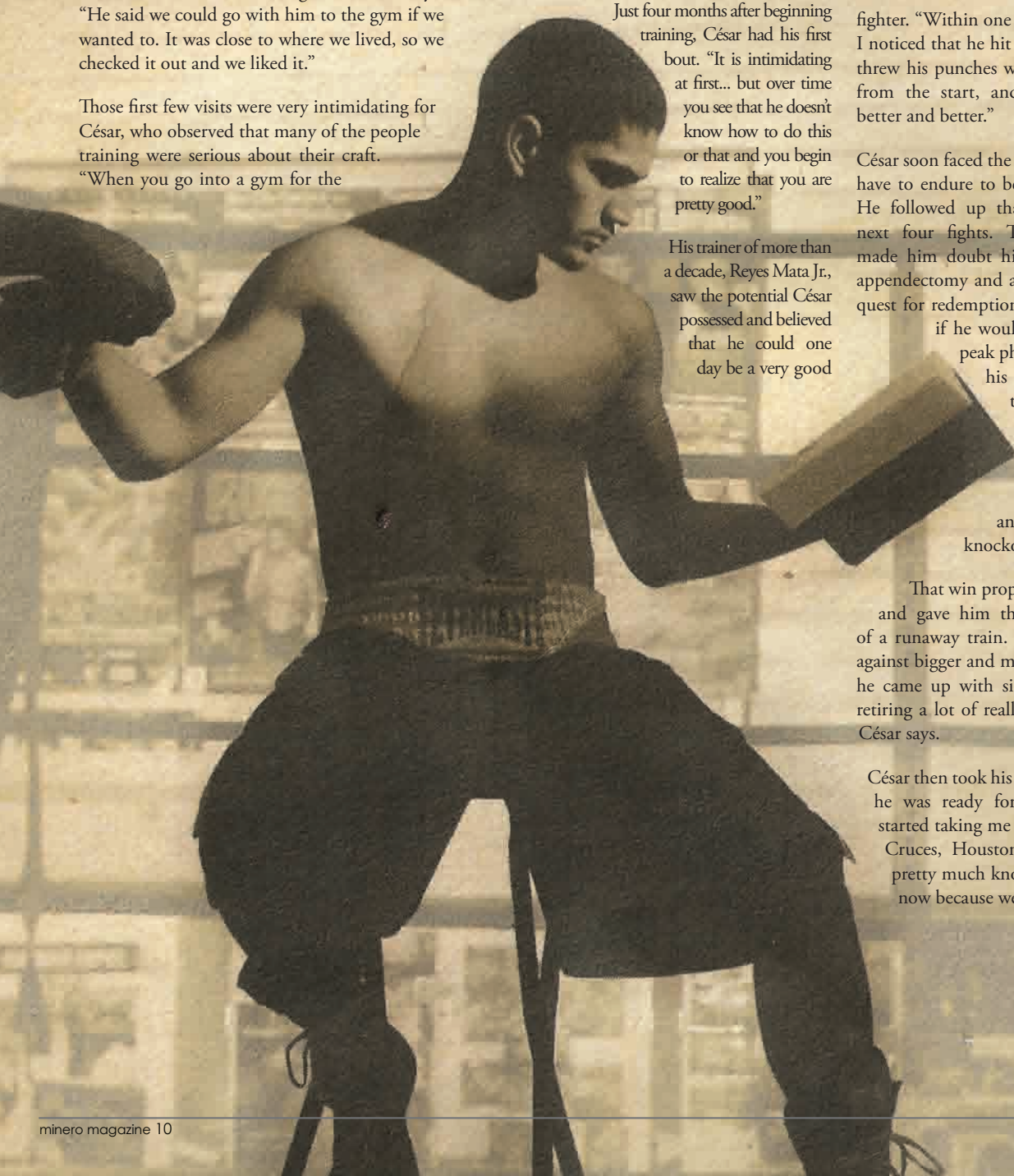


fighter. "Within one year, when I saw him fight, I noticed that he hit very hard," Mata says. "He threw his punches well, extended his arms well from the start, and from there, he became better and better."

César soon faced the harsh reality novice fighters have to endure to become better at their craft. He followed up that first win by losing his next four fights. Those unwelcomed results made him doubt his abilities. An unexpected appendectomy and a tonsillectomy also put his quest for redemption on hold. César wondered if he would be able to get back into peak physical condition and regain his fighting skills, but he put those aside and vigorously attacked his training in the gym. Much to his joy and relief, he returned to the ring and won his first match via a knockout.

That win propelled César's career forward and gave him the burgeoning momentum of a runaway train. More fights were lined up against bigger and more experienced boxers and he came up with similar results. "I ended up retiring a lot of really good boxers in El Paso," César says.

César then took his show on the road, believing he was ready for a new challenge. "They started taking me out of town to Odessa, Las Cruces, Houston and Dallas," he says. "I pretty much know all the roads in Texas by now because we would always drive."



When fighting in the 2004 National Golden Gloves tournament in Kansas City, Mo., César learned that instinct and the element of surprise were just as valuable as size and experience. When he fought in the 125-pound division against a 24-year-old fighter from Michigan, César won by alternating fighting stances to stifle the more seasoned fighter. "The bell rings and this guy is all tattooed, buff and in the Army," César says. "He is going at it, throwing bombs and they were hurting. I don't know if I panicked, but I started paying attention and I switched stances on him and he got confused. I landed a couple of shots and then I caught him with a hook and he just went to the ground. He got up, I gave him a combination and he fell again."

César utilized those tactics against the qualifier from California in the quarterfinals, which turned a close fight in his favor. César points to his semi-final bout at the tournament as the highlight of his career. "That fight really put me in the spotlight," he says. "It put me in the national rankings and it put me in the (Athletic) Hall of Fame in El Paso."

In addition to his semifinals appearance in the Golden Gloves tournament, he was also awarded the sportsmanship award for professional behavior in the ring. Along with the award, César received a scholarship for college. César utilized the scholarship to complete his basic classes before declaring a major. He ultimately decided to expand his studies in computer science. "His destiny was that he was going to college and to get his degree," Mata says. "Even I would contradict him because a lot of the national tournaments required travel and he couldn't go because of school. But, it is good that he has stuck it out because this is a very demanding sport and it takes a lot out of you."

Balancing boxing and school did have consequences for César. He missed out on a chance to try out for the 2008 U.S. Olympic boxing team because he had a final exam. "It is very important to balance out boxing and school. School has to be a priority," César says. "If there is a decision to make between fighting and taking an exam, I have to take the exam."

Sometimes you can't do both. That is when you have to make the decision of going for school."

Because of his commitment to school, César delayed turning pro. He continued to fight at the amateur level, which he says has enabled him to improve on his technique. César's trainer says that César's left body punch is more efficient and his right hand is a surprising and devastating force that has knockout power.

Last June, César fought his first professional bout in Odessa, Texas. He won his debut fight against Forrest Curry in a unanimous decision, winning three of the four rounds on two of the

judge's scorecards and sweeping the fight on the third card. As a professional, César has a perfect 3-0 record. With graduation coming up and boxing about to take a larger role in his life, he hopes to maintain the discipline and dedication that has already gotten him farther in life than he ever could have imagined.

"I just hope that I don't let anyone down. It's all about working hard and devoting yourself to putting it on and giving it your best by not stopping," César says. "In boxing or in school or anywhere, you give it your best and success will surely be there for you waiting."

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ EN BREVE ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

El 12 de agosto de 1999, a la edad de 13 años, César Valenzuela salió victorioso en una pelea que marcó el principio de su carrera en el boxeo.

César ha sufrido asma desde que nació en 1986 en Ciudad Juárez. A la edad de 12 años, su familia se mudó a El Paso, en donde su médico le sugirió que se involucrara en una actividad física. Uno de sus primos, que era boxeador, lo introdujo entonces al mundo pugilístico.

César dice que al principio fue intimidante, pero con el paso del tiempo aprendió la técnica y se dio cuenta que sí podía pelear. Tras ganar su primera pelea, perdió las cuatro siguientes y fue sometido a dos cirugías. Después de varios meses regresó nuevamente al cuadrilátero con un triunfo por nocaut.

Esa pelea le abrió las puertas para enfrentarse a boxeadores de más experiencia tanto en El Paso como en Odessa, Houston, Las Cruces y Dallas.

Para César el punto culminante de su carrera fue en el 2004 cuando llegó a la semifinal del National Golden Gloves Tournament, "Me puso en el ranking nacional y en el Paseo Atlético de la Fama en El Paso". En este mismo torneo también recibió el premio por su espíritu deportivo.

En junio pasado, César tuvo su primera pelea profesional en Odessa ganándole a Forrest Curry. Hasta el momento el joven boxeador tiene un record de 3-0 en sus peleas profesionales.

Quando se comprometió a estudiar ciencias de la computación en UTEP, César supo que tendría que sacrificar un poco su carrera como boxeador profesional. En el 2008, dejó pasar la oportunidad de competir para asistir a las olimpiadas debido a un examen. Pero dice que una vez que se gradúe en mayo, el boxeo se volverá una prioridad.



La Noche Vive en El Paso

Por Nicole Chávez

Hace menos de dos años, Victoria Domínguez solía hospedar en su casa a los amigos que cada fin de semana cruzaban la frontera desde El Paso para divertirse en los bares, discotecas y restaurantes de Ciudad Juárez.

Pero ahora, esos mismos amigos son los que le ofrecen hospedaje los fines de semana cuando cruza a El Paso para pasar un buen rato en alguno de los muchos bares o restaurantes que han abierto recientemente en esta ciudad.

“Nos venimos desde el viernes y aunque es más caro salir acá (El Paso), es mejor porque tus papas no se quedan preocupados”, dice Victoria, una estudiante de ciencias políticas que reside en Cd. Juárez.

Victoria, como muchos jóvenes fronterizos, ha visto el cambio sustancial en la escena nocturna de El Paso, en donde la oferta de diversión se ha ampliado con la apertura de nuevos restaurantes y bares. La ola de violencia en Cd. Juárez, junto con las oportunidades de crecimiento económico que ofrece El Paso explican gran parte de ese cambio.

“No se puede especificar una sola razón de este flujo en la economía (paseña), pero sí hay que mencionar factores importantes como la nueva escuela de medicina, el desarrollo de Fort Bliss y la inversión de empresarios mexicanos”, dice Phillip Silva, director de la oficina local de U.S. Small Business Administration, la agencia federal para el desarrollo de la pequeña empresa.

De acuerdo a Silva, alrededor de 10 bares y clubes nocturnos, así como diversos negocios de inversionistas mexicanos originarios de Cd. Juárez abrieron en El Paso en el 2009.

“Nuestros consultores tienen aproximadamente seis citas por semana con personas de nacionalidad mexicana que están interesados en abrir algún tipo de negocio en Estados Unidos”, dice Adrián Madrigal, especialista en desarrollo de negocios de SBA. “Si se tienen las posibilidades y el status migratorio requerido no es difícil abrir un negocio en esta ciudad”.

La violencia en la vecina ciudad ha llevado a muchos empresarios a trasladar sus negocios a El Paso, especialmente en el rubro de restaurantes y bares.

“Nos ha ido muy bien en El Paso, ahora nos visitan clientes nuevos y nos sigue cada vez más gente que hace tiempo nos visitaba en Juárez,” dice Luis Terrazas, gerente del Bar 33 Cantina Merendero, que abrió en El Paso tras cerrar en Cd. Juárez. “La gente busca más que nada seguridad, quieren salir a divertirse tranquilos en un lugar seguro”.

Además del surgimiento de bares, El Paso ha tenido otro cambio favorable. Hace unos años, dice Jessica Jacques, estudiante de tercer año de negocios, la vida nocturna de la ciudad estaba centrada en un grupo de personas de entre 25 y 35 años. “Si salías en El Paso, era porque ya eras ‘seria’, porque solo los profesionistas salían a ‘tomar una copa,’” dice Jessica. “Ahora pues ya ves de todo”.

En la actualidad, los clubs nocturnos y bares reciben a jóvenes incluso menores de 21 años. Por ello, bares como el 1914 y Vanilla, ubicados en el distrito Union Plaza, han tenido más respuesta de los jóvenes universitarios que aún no cumplen la mayoría de edad.

“Salimos todos los jueves, que es el día que nos dejan entrar a varios bares de El Paso, y aunque el viernes la mayoría tenemos clases aprovechamos que nos dan chance”, dice Rafael Juárez, estudiante de segundo año de ingeniería mecánica. “Cuando entré a UTEP solo había un par de bares que hacían esto, ahora no digo que sean todos pero ya no solo es uno”.

Ahí mismo, en el distrito Union Plaza, está el bar Manhattan dirigido por miembros de la familia Lozano, originarios de El Paso y quienes buscaban establecer un negocio próspero. “Mi papá tenía la inquietud de abrir un negocio, se nos presentó la oportunidad y por eso se decidió por abrir un bar”, dice Octavio





Lozano. “A pesar de no tener mucha publicidad, como televisión, radio o anuncios en el periódico, la gente esta respondiendo bien, ellos buscan los lugares nuevos”.

En el centro de la ciudad también se encuentra el bar La Catrina, que ha sido uno de los lugares favoritos de los jóvenes fronterizos. Maricruz Ochoa, propietaria del bar, comentó que próximamente se abrirá otro establecimiento en el este de El Paso. “Creo que es buena idea abrir un lugar en el este, porque a veces andas en un bar y no te mueves a otro que te gusta solo porque esta del otro lado de la ciudad”, dice Andrea Sagredo, estudiante de último año de educación.

El Club 101, es uno de los bares que ha permanecido en El Paso durante años. A pesar de haber cambiado su ubicación, el Club 101 es preferido por los jóvenes paseños. “La gente de El Paso nos conoce y por eso tratamos de siempre buscar nuevas cosas para agradecerles”, dice Joe Dorgan, propietario del bar.

Con la apertura de nuevos bares y clubs nocturnos en la ciudad, la competencia se ha endurecido y los dueños

tienen que pensar en formas de atraer a un público de distintas edades y géneros. “Tenemos una noche con música electrónica, música en vivo y también hemos traído a artistas como los Yeah, Yeah, Yeahs”, dice Dorgan.

Gracias a que los jóvenes fronterizos concentran su vida nocturna en El Paso, a varios grupos musicales originarios de Cd. Juárez se les ha invitado a bares de la ciudad. Dinamo, Arroba y La Utopía son algunas de las bandas que los jóvenes pueden escuchar en los bares Manhattan, La Catrina y La Condesa.

“Se están abriendo mas las puertas para bandas de música en español”, dice Memo de Carlo, vocalista de La Utopía. “El hecho de haber trabajado en Juárez, hoy les llama la atención a los dueños de bares en El Paso”.

Así como a Victoria, la problemática en la frontera llevo a muchos jóvenes a divertirse en bares y centros nocturnos que nunca habían visitado. “La verdad es que ya ni siquiera pensamos en salir en Juárez. En El Paso aún hay bastantes lugares que están pendientes de conocer”, dice Victoria.

“Aunque es más caro salir acá (El Paso), es mejor porque tus papas no se quedan preocupados”.



Less than two years ago, Victoria Dominguez let her friends stay at her house after partying in Ciudad Juárez. Nowadays, those same friends let her stay at their home when she parties in El Paso.

The night scene in El Paso has changed significantly in the past couple of years as several new restaurants and bars have opened. The violence affecting Cd. Juárez and the economic opportunities available in El Paso may offer an explanation for this phenomenon.

Phillip Silva, local director of the U.S. Small Business Administration, says the biggest factors in this trend are the new medical school, the expansion of Fort Bliss and an influx of Mexican investors. He says that approximately 10 nightclubs opened in 2009.

El Bar 33 Cantina Merendero closed its doors in Cd. Juárez and re-opened in El Paso. The owners say they are doing great in their new home.

According to Adrian Madrigal, specialist in business development at the SBA, they typically have six appointments per week with Mexican investors wanting to open a business in El Paso.

La Catrina, located Downtown, is doing so well that they opened a new location on the East side. Old standbys such as Club 101 remain a popular spot for young people.

Although there is no clear reason for the sudden growth of nightlife opportunities in El Paso, the reality has provided El Pasoans with much more variety and new places to enjoy.

Caught in the Social Net



By Jesus C.
Martinez

Since the beginning of time, man has had the desire to communicate with one another. It evolved from a simple exchange of grunts and gestures to written letters and telephones. The most recent evolutionary step is the use of acronyms and mundane comments through social networking Web sites. This new form of communication is on the verge of being adopted by a large amount of the global population, but its contents and ease of access may spark deviant behavior.

In February 2004, Mark Zuckerberge and his fellow Harvard University students founded a social networking Web site that allowed Harvard students to keep in contact with each other. The site grew in popularity so quickly that it expanded to other colleges in the area, then to other universities around the nation, and finally it was embraced by high schools and virtually anyone who had access to a computer.

Five years later, Facebook reports around 200 billion page views per month with 350 million worldwide users logging on to the Web site, according to techradar.com. Students, adults, celebrities, newswires and organizations all use Facebook and other social networking Web sites for interaction. Friends, family and enemies keep up with one another through status updates that are read through computers, cell phones, MP3 players and video game consoles. These sites have become so popular that cell phones and other devices, like Microsoft's Xbox 360, integrate them with their products.

"It's a new way to communicate and changes the way we communicate with each other. It leaves people thinking about their status updates," says Stacy Sowards, associate professor of communication. "They take pictures for others and wonder how people are going to look at them."

Although its components may seem basic, Facebook's popularity has skyrocketed over the years. There seems to be a compulsive need for people to not only see what their

friends are up to and comment on their statuses and photos, but they also have the compulsion to constantly update their own site. "People who enjoy Facebook, including myself, are narcissistic and voyeuristic; you have to be," says Richard Pineda, assistant professor of communication. "If you engage at all in Facebook and it's appealing, the bottom line is you are a little narcissistic and talk about yourself." Pineda says he does not find this form of narcissism to be negative. "We want to put ourselves out there and see what people are up to and doing. The more intimate, the better."

The benefits that Facebook and other social networking Web sites offer are vast. They allow individuals to connect with old friends and make new ones based on common social beliefs and hobbies. "People like to express themselves, get comments and keep connected with friends. It's a fast way to check what's going on," says Jaclyn Samaniego, sophomore social work major. "I check it every day since it's on my phone. I'll be in class wandering off and check it to see what's going on with my friends."

Although they may seem convenient and beneficial, these sites also impact social interactions and communication behaviors. Teresa Hibbert, a lecturer in sociology and anthropology, describes this new form of communication as more impersonal. "(You're) talking to people you do not even know (and) sharing personal info with strangers, which we were told not to do as children," Hibbert says.

Manipulation of information and of one's life is a very easy thing to do with the Internet and may also be used as a form of social interaction perversion. Many use the computer screen

to create a new alias for themselves that heavily distorts reality. "I think the consequences will be further isolation and development of an unrealistic view of how one's life is when compared to others who can post lies or exaggerations and the reader would not know this," Hibbert says. "(It) leads to isolation and dependence on the Internet for social interaction, which is not real, much like watching reality shows instead of living our own life."

wooo hooo!!

oh my god! there's talent ;)

I'm hungry, lunch anyone?

party tonight!!! :)

I'm kind of blue

I'm not even human!!!

need to workout

I love Hard Rock...

Not only may this dependency pervert social interaction, it may also create a huge distraction that will hinder a person's performance in school or at work. "How you check it in certain contexts can be deviant behavior. I'd imagine that it does suck up a lot of time in terms of employee time or space of computer hardware tied up to do it," Pineda says.

Jaclyn admits that she spends some time at work using Farmville, a Facebook game that gives users their own virtual farmland to plant and harvest crops, as well as add fixtures and animals. One of her coworkers was deeply engaged in Farmville, which intrigued Jaclyn. "One of my bosses at work likes Farmville and she does it a lot," Jaclyn says. "If I was working, I'd be on it for an hour or two messing around planting, and buying and sending people gifts."

Farmville is just one of the thousands of Facebook applications that attract users to the site. Applications vary in content including various games and quizzes that are easily accessible, albeit time consuming.

25 percent of those surveyed admitted to checking their social networking site while they were in class.

As if status updates and sending and receiving comments wasn't time consuming enough, these applications are also a huge factor in the amount of time spent on social networking Web sites. In a non-scientific survey done for the purpose of this article, 100 UTEP students were surveyed on their social networking Web site usage, and 52 percent report that they check their site one to three times daily, and 70 percent spend one to five hours per week on the sites. "It's more than just connecting (with friends), it's for games, sending invitations; everything combined in one," Jaclyn says.

Although it may seem convenient to have a catch-all site like Facebook, 25 percent of those surveyed admitted to checking their social networking site while they were in class.

"The part that gets tricky is when it becomes problematic, and when it shows dysfunctional behavior and affects your daily life," says Linda Anderson, UTEP alumnae. "This could make you late and affect your job or school, like when people don't study as much because they are on it."

While Linda was working on her master's degree in clinical psychology, she wrote her thesis on how MySpace serves as a source for potentially dysfunctional Internet behavior. She first got the idea while she was preparing for an exam. "I was studying for a psychometrics test at my house when some friends came over," says Linda. "I got disgusted when everyone stopped watching a movie and got on the computer to see what their MySpace was doing. I'd stopped studying to then check my MySpace." She claims that she lost an entire summer to MySpace by constantly modifying her page.

Linda surveyed about 300 students enrolled in lower-level psychology courses to determine if MySpace could be seen as a form of dysfunctional

behavior. One of her questions, "My work and/or school performance has not deteriorated since I started going online," generated a "no" response from 49 percent of the participants.

Social networking Web sites are on the rise with new users joining daily. This new form of communication is widely being accepted, but that does not take away from the fact that there are negative aspects, as Hibbert described, to this form of communication that are abused and distort social interaction. Although it may have its negative aspects, social networking is here to stay as witnessed by its tremendous growth and popularity.

"It's my primary source of communication with friends," Jacklyn says. "It is more convenient to use Facebook, but I could see how it could be obsessive."

En Breve

La forma más reciente de comunicación es a través de redes sociales. Este nuevo método está siendo adoptado por una gran porción de la población mundial, pero a pesar de sus beneficios también está cambiando los patrones sociales de comportamiento.

En febrero del 2004, Mark Zuckerberge y otros compañeros de la Universidad de Harvard crearon una red social para que los estudiantes de Harvard se mantuvieran conectados. Hoy en día, el sitio ha crecido a nivel mundial con 350 millones de usuarios y es conocido como Facebook.

Facebook le permite a las personas actualizar su status constantemente, compartir fotos y chatear con amigos. "Nos queremos exponer y ver lo que la gente hace. Entre más íntimo, mejor", dice Richard Pineda, profesor asociado de comunicación.

A pesar de que parece una forma conveniente de comunicarse, Teresa Hibbert, profesora de sociología y antropología, dice que en realidad es una forma de comunicación más impersonal. Uno da información a extraños, algo que desde niños nos dijeron estaba mal.

Para este artículo, 100 estudiantes de UTEP fueron encuestados sobre su uso de redes sociales. El 52 por ciento contestó que checan su Facebook entre una y tres veces por día. Un 25 por ciento admitió que revisa Facebook durante clase.

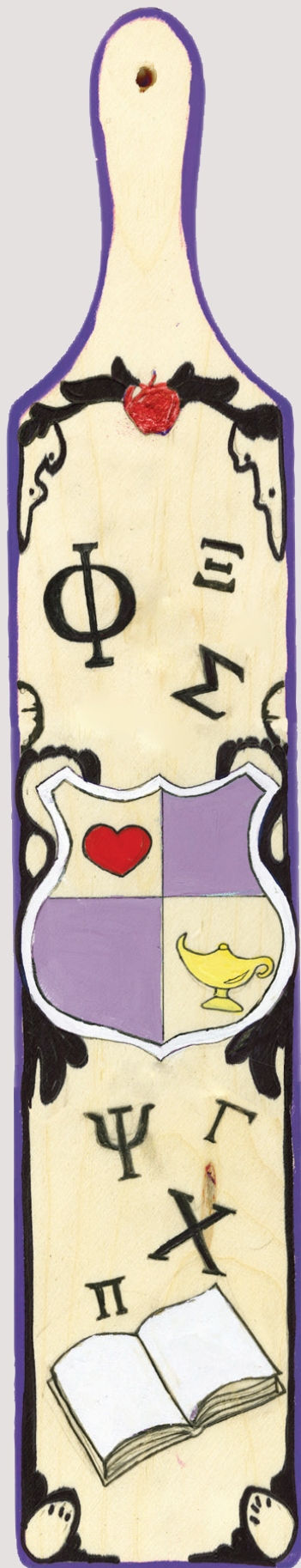
"Es una gran manera de mantenerse en contacto con amigos y una manera rápida de checar que está pasando, pero puedo ver cómo es que se puede convertir en algo obsesivo", dice Jaclyn Samaniego, estudiante de segundo año de trabajo social.

working working working

my first kiss tonight...hopefully :O

power to the people!!!!

check out the new songs



HERMANDADES DESTRUYEN ESTEREOTIPO

POR ANA GAMBOA

Alcohol y fiestas son las dos cosas más comunes que vienen a la mente cuando la palabra fraternidad es mencionada. Ya el cine norteamericano se ha encargado de dejarle muy en claro al público de que es lo que trata la vida del greek brother (hermano griego).

¿Quién podría olvidar el constante estado de ebriedad del hermano Delta, el comediante John Belushi en la ya clásica "National Lampoon's Animal House" (1978), o a el actor Will Ferrell corriendo desnudo por la calle en la película "Old School" (2003) después de una pesada fiesta organizada por su fraternidad?

La tradición americana de las fraternidades universitarias, que tiene más de 200 años de vigencia, siempre ha sido ligada a la controversia y a la idea de descontrol.

Frente a esa imagen, poco se sabe de las múltiples actividades extracurriculares y de voluntariado que llevan a cabo las fraternidades en prácticamente todas las universidades.

Lorenzo Villa, estudiante de estudios generales (general studies) y miembro de LCA, dice que los medios de comunicación han ayudado a forjar el pobre concepto de las fraternidades. "Eso nos da un mal nombre, siempre reflejan las cosas negativas y nunca las positivas", dice Lorenzo. "El año pasado, nosotros recolectamos más de 100,000 libras de comida para North American Food Drive y ocupamos el cuarto lugar a nivel nacional en recolección de alimentos".

Los estudiantes de la fraternidad griega dividen su tiempo entre el servicio comunitario, juntas semanales, eventos y programas obligatorios patrocinados por el Centro de Desarrollo de Estudiantes (Student Development Center), así como las horas y programas de estudio, el comité y los eventos sociales organizados por las hermandades.

"Algunas veces es agitado, pero aprendemos a organizar nuestro tiempo y mantener nuestro nivel académico como prioridad", dice Abigail Alonzo, estudiante de justicia criminal y miembro de Sigma

Lambda Gamma, una hermandad latina cuyo lema es cultura es orgullo, orgullo es éxito.

UTEP cuenta con cuatro consejos griegos de los cuales nueve son fraternidades y siete hermandades. Todas se involucran en servicio social para la comunidad y cuentan con una filantropía propia. "Yo tengo los sábados en las mañanas eventos de la comunidad al menos dos veces por mes", dice Austin Campbell, estudiante de matemáticas y actual presidente de la fraternidad Alpha Kappa Lambda.

Austin también dice que casi todas las fraternidades y hermandades participan con Boys and Girls Club cada año para distintos eventos como la casa embrujada para Halloween y la Ronald McDonald House.

"El trabajo de los estudiantes es extremadamente útil y sirve para poner el ejemplo a otros estudiantes. Como dijo el presidente Kennedy, 'No preguntes qué puede hacer el país por ti, sino qué puedes hacer tú por tu país'", dice Irma Chavez-Rodriguez, administradora de Ronald McDonald House.

La casa aloja a 10 familias que están pasando por alguna crisis y necesitan apoyo para lidiar con la situación. Los estudiantes de UTEP han ayudado al mantenimiento de la casa en áreas como la jardinería y el torneo de golf.

La fraternidad AKL también ha trabajado con la Asociación de Distrofia Muscular (Muscular Dystrophy Association), donde ayudó a recolectar 10,000 dólares y también para el Centro de Apoyo para Niños (Child Advocacy Center) con la cantidad de 6,000 dólares.

El albergue de mujeres, Dame la Mano, atiende a 1,500 mujeres al año, ayudando a mujeres embarazadas sin recursos. Desde hace 20 años, Rosa Arellano, fundadora y presidenta del albergue, se ha dedicado a proveer techo, comida y oportunidades de forma gratuita por medio de donaciones de iglesias locales y ayuda comunitaria.

Arellano asegura que desde hace 10 años, estudiantes de UTEP han apoyado al albergue. "La ayuda

que recibimos es excelente, nos han ayudado muchísimo para cada celebración, ya sea el día de las madres, pascua y en diciembre pasado nos ayudaron a recolectar regalos para Navidad”, dice Arellano.

A pesar de las múltiples responsabilidades que conlleva ser un estudiante griego, los beneficios a largo plazo son visibles. Según la página oficial de las fraternidades de UTEP, más del 85 por ciento de los líderes en 730 campus a nivel nacional son griegos y de las 50 compañías más importantes en Estados Unidos, 43 son dirigidas por miembros de fraternidades. Ochenta y cinco por ciento de los ejecutivos claves de Fortune 500 son griegos y el 76 por ciento de los senadores en Estados Unidos también.

Alex Lucero, estudiante de relaciones públicas y presidente de Delta Lambda Phi National Social Fraternity, asegura que su incursión como griego le ha beneficiado para ampliar sus conexiones y sus habilidades como líder. “Antes de la fraternidad sólo trabajaba y venía a la escuela, eso era todo”, dice Alex. “Desde que me uní me involucré con muchas organizaciones, te abre muchas puertas en lo académico. También con redes fuera de El Paso”.

A pesar de todo esto, en muchos estudiantes sigue prevaleciendo la idea de las fraternidades como sinónimo de irresponsabilidad. “Cuando oigo la palabra fraternidad, se me viene a la mente

fiestas, tomar alcohol y no mucho”, dice Aaron Contreras, estudiante de creación literaria. “No conozco a nadie de las fraternidades y nadie de mi familia ha estado en una fraternidad.”

Victoria Contreras, estudiante de Inglés y presidenta del *Panhellenic Council*, el consejo que se encarga de desarrollar actividades y relaciones entre las fraternidades, asegura que el desinterés y la falta de información se deben en mayor grado a que la mayoría de los estudiantes de UTEP regresan a sus casas y la vida de la ciudad universitaria desaparece después de las dos de la tarde. “Nadie parece tener la necesidad de una segunda familia y además el 75 por ciento de los estudiantes son la primera generación de universitarios en sus familias”, dice Victoria.

Austin dice que quisiera que la gente conociera y valorara más el trabajo de las fraternidades.

“Realmente me desanima mucho”, dice Austin sobre el mal concepto de las fraternidades. “Nosotros nos esforzamos mucho para pelear contra la imagen estereotipada de los griegos. El año pasado recaudamos más de \$20,000 para organizaciones de beneficencia, pero nadie se entera. Cuando fraternidades de otro lado hacen algo estúpido, todo mundo se entera. Espero que la gente entienda que los estereotipos no son siempre ciertos y nos den una oportunidad para probarlo”.

IN BRIEF

Fraternities are a 200-year-old tradition in universities around the country. They have always been linked to controversy and crazy behavior. Yet, little is known about the community service work that fraternities perform.

Lorenzo Villa, general studies major and member of Lambda Chi Alpha, says that the media is in part to blame for the image created of fraternities. He says that last year, LCA collected more than 100,000 pounds of food for the North American Food Drive.

Current president of Alpha Kappa Lambda, Austin Campbell, says his fraternity helped raise \$10,000 for the Muscular Dystrophy Association and another \$6,000 for the Child Advocacy Center.

At UTEP, the Greek family is comprised of nine fraternities and seven sororities. Each of them are involved in community service activities and have their own philanthropy.

Austin hopes that people will see that the existing stereotypes about fraternities and sororities will vanish and people will come to know what it really means to be Greek.



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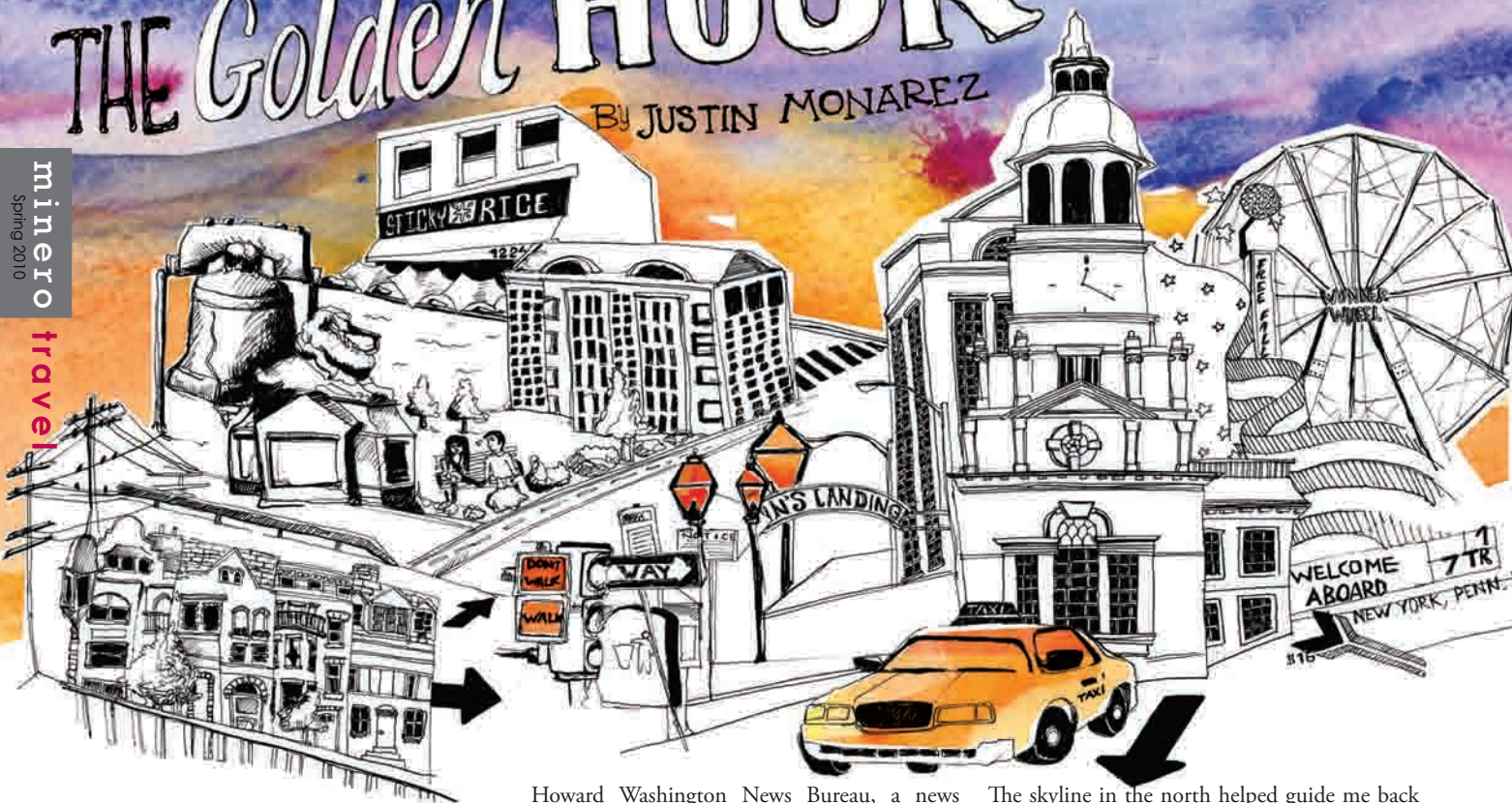
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THE Golden HOUR

BY JUSTIN MONAREZ

minero
Spring 2010
travel



In West Texas, the last hour of day before the sun sets is the most memorable. Like mixing and matching colors on a palette, an artist might blend a warm orange and gold to illustrate the sun's last moments. Then, he may spill lilac or pink over the darkening blue sky as if Mother Nature was blushing while reminiscing over a day's events.

I have spent two decades watching sunsets in El Paso. I would watch them from my window, full of sprawling, purple-tinged mountains, while surrounded by the ones I know and love.

In early September, somewhere mid-flight between Chicago and Washington, I looked out the airplane window and felt every single mile pass under me. With my heart lodged in my throat, I realized how far I was from home; it was the furthest I had ever been. A year had passed since I was chosen for the internship, but even a year could not prepare me for what I was going to experience. As I sat on that plane, I began to dread the thought of living in Washington, D.C.

In the span of more than three months, I learned to live in, and eventually love, the East Coast. Through my internship at the Scripps

Howard Washington News Bureau, a news wire service, I got to experience life outside the border bubble. I got to wake up to rumbling heat pumps and the early-morning rush's hurly-burly. I rode the Metro with hundreds of busy Washingtonians, who all have places to go and quotas to meet. I got caught in the currents of the city's tide. I met many people from across the country and even from El Paso in D.C. I witnessed the golden hour sunsets in New York, Baltimore, Philadelphia and parts of Delaware, New Jersey, Maryland and Virginia.

BALTIMORE

I got lost weaving in and out of the streets and alleyways of the historic Federal Hill neighborhood. It was mid-October and the leaves withered and fell as the temperatures dropped. Auburn leaves covered the cobblestone streets of the preserved district. There was a rustle and crunch to every step I took on the brick sidewalk.

The federal-styled houses were attached adjacent to each other and the residents didn't seem to mind the occasional visitor peeking into the light-filled windows. Some houses were already prepared for Halloween. Jack-o-lanterns and fake cobwebs adorned some of the small porches of these snug colonial homes.

The skyline in the north helped guide me back toward the hillside park the neighborhood is named after. Atop the hill, where Union cannons were once mounted during the Civil War to protect Baltimore's seaport, an American flag flapped in the light breeze. Contrary to its war-filled history and monuments, Federal Hill was peaceful and commuters scaled it to walk their dogs or to lie on the lush green hillside.

Across the seaport, the Inner Harbor was noisy and hectic. The restaurants, bars, shopping centers and museums were full of wandering tourists. From Federal Hill, I could make out the buzz from the central business district. Only the buoy's bell topped the drone of bustling tourism.

Every so often, a boat sailed into the harbor, leaving behind trails of waves that crashed against the docked boats. From a bench waterside, I watched recreational sailors settle into the pier for the night. The sun quickly dove for cover behind the cannon-bearing hill. Lingering light escaped from the hill's guard, reflecting off the lofty Baltimore skyline and onto the port's rippling water.

New York

Manhattan's soaring cityscape was clearer than it was the day before. When the enormous skyscrapers reached too far into the murky clouds to be visible.



But this day, the peaks of each building were in view. From ground level, navigating through the high-rise buildings was like running through a rabbit warren. The enveloping sight faded away as our train rattled across the Manhattan Bridge.

It took an hour of rumbling over the tumbledown neighborhoods of South Brooklyn before we reached our last stop. The Stillwell Avenue/Coney Island station hung over the streets like most subway stations do in Brooklyn. The station was several blocks from the beach, yet I could hear the waves crashing onto the shore. The Atlantic Ocean exhaled its salty breath, casting a chill over the beachfront community.

My high school friend Mario, who currently lives in Manhattan, and I hastily walked toward the gloomy boardwalk. We had finally made it, and I felt like we were characters from the movie “The Warriors” – gang members racing across New York to get back home to Coney Island. The condemned New York icon was the complete opposite of the ritzy, concrete scenery of Manhattan.

A rickety rollercoaster and a run-down Ferris wheel still stand. They haven’t been used in years, but I imagined visitors chattering, the rollercoaster clanking and food sizzling in the stands during Coney’s heyday.

With every step, I kicked up bottle caps, wrappers and broken pieces of plastic left in the sand. The grains of sand that stuck to my feet were washed off with the piercing cold November tide. A couple of old men dipped their fishing lines into the swelling waves, while others relaxed, listening to salsa music from a small transistor radio on top of the decrepit pier.

A small film crew took advantage of the scenery and the last hour of the day – the magic hour as filmmakers call it. They shot a love scene in the sand almost underneath the stilted pier. The sun gradually sank into the Atlantic, and its golden glow made the water shimmer like cellophane.

Philadelphia

The commotion from the entertainment on South Street can be heard from as far away as the old Italian neighborhood in South Philly. The local neighborhood market, through which Rocky jogged in the movie, is a transplanted little Mexico now. To my surprise, concert posters heralding *cumbia*, *bachata* and *norteña* musical acts littered the windows of *carnecerías* (meat markets), bakeries and restaurants in the area.

The scent of freshly baked corn tortillas and the slow tempo of a *bolero* (melodic love song) streamed out from a small, orange-tinted taco joint. Their tacos

were the only decent Mexican food I had found since coming east. Gustavo, a Philadelphian who graduated from UTEP, told me that Mexicans own many of the restaurants in the market now.

Eventually, the delicious scent of tortillas clashed with the aroma of coffee and booze from the hip South Street district. South Street was like a border town, a demarcation between two sides of Philadelphia.

Younger crowds swarmed the hole-in-the-wall bars, coffee shops, bookstores and art galleries in the cultured district. Colorful building-sized murals and mosaics are on display all over Philadelphia. They are integrated within neighborhoods and decorate stark apartment buildings, fences and the ends of rowhouses. One mosaic, in particular, drew me in. It incorporated bike tire spokes, soda cans, recyclable material and other junk most people would not think twice about. At dusk, sunbeams shot through the mosaic’s components, catching fire on broken mirror pieces and old amber bottles.

WASHINGTON DC.

From the 10th floor of the Scripps Howard office, at the corner of L Street and Vermont Avenue, the bumper-to-bumper traffic below pumped slowly through the veins of downtown. The same unfamiliar faces I saw during the morning commute are now rushing home from work in packed underground Metro trains.

Across the street, the offices looked like a chessboard as office lights slowly turned off, one

by one. Most windows are dark by 6, but at some of the lit windows, a journalist, lobbyist or staffer were slaving away. The Scripps Howard Washington Bureau, where I interned, was not a conventional newsroom. We wrote up stories and put them on the news wire between 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the open-plan office normally shut down by 6 like the rest of Washington.

This was the last day of my internship. I spent the first half of the day arranging my final story, which required me to go source fishing all week. I made many calls, only to hear back from a handful of congressmen who wanted to participate in my feature story. After lunch, I began emptying out my desk. It was an easy day compared to others. I don't have to follow

HIV demonstrators into city hall, where they demanded to see the

mayor. I don't have to visit the White House for an award ceremony. No hearings at the Capitol, Senate or House buildings, no vegan women showering on the corner of Pennsylvania Avenue, and no treks out to bar-strewn Adams Morgan to find out about legal drugs. By most standards, a boring day for a journalist in Washington, but for today, it'll do.

EL PASO SUNSETS WERE
ONCE *irreplaceable* TO ME,
BUT NOW I REALIZE THE
SUN HAS TO SET IN
EVERY CITY— JUST A BIT
Differently.

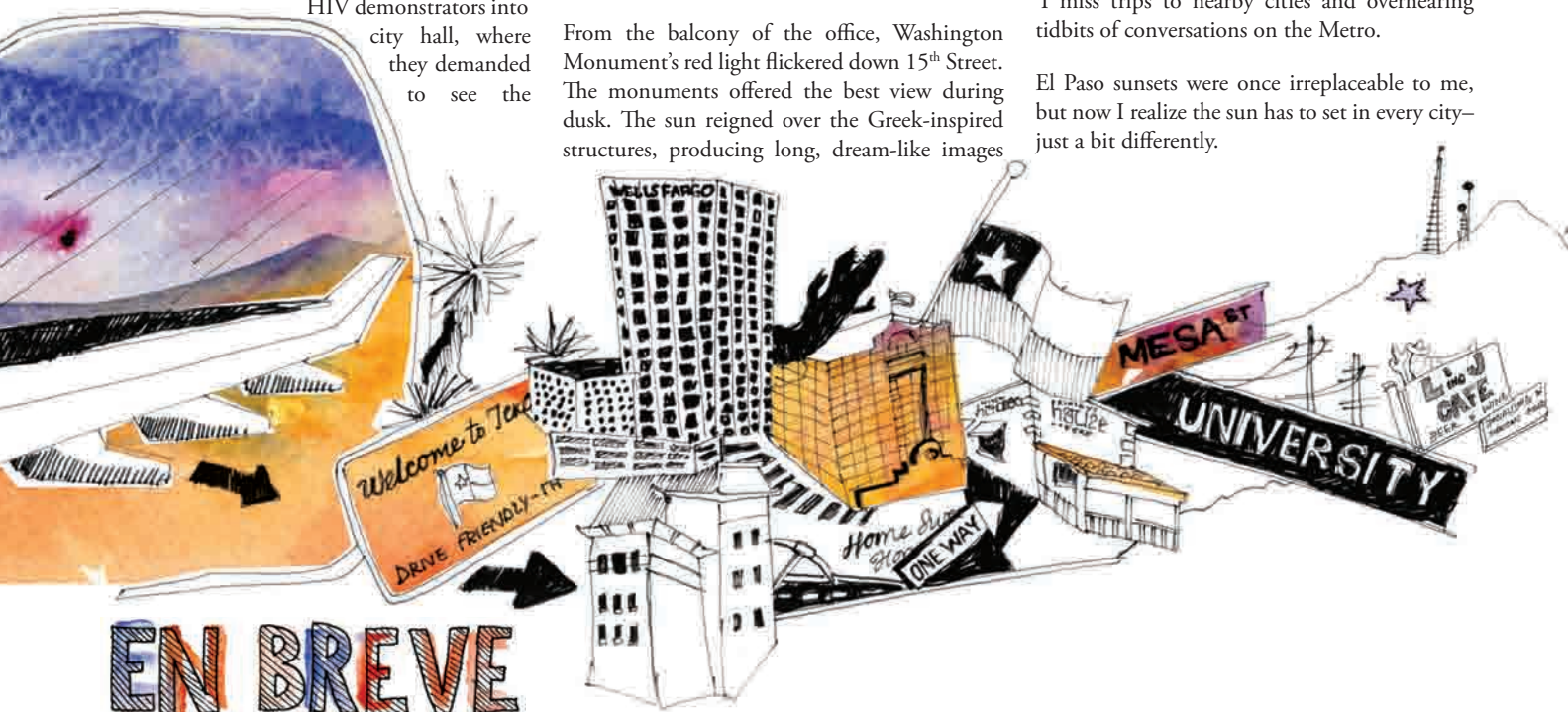
From the balcony of the office, Washington Monument's red light flickered down 15th Street. The monuments offered the best view during dusk. The sun reigned over the Greek-inspired structures, producing long, dream-like images

that glistened in the reflection pools. The sun crept through the long shadows cast by the buildings downtown, and found every way possible to strike old and modern architecture brilliantly until the very last minute of the golden hour.

Home

I already miss the buzz from museum-goers at the National Mall, the scenery-perfect parks, which flaunted their autumn foliage as summer faded, and the way houses were built in rows. I'm surprised that I miss walking the mall in two feet of snow, while watching the city recover from record-breaking snowfall, and living in close quarters to millions. Most of all, I miss trips to nearby cities and overhearing tidbits of conversations on the Metro.

El Paso sunsets were once irreplaceable to me, but now I realize the sun has to set in every city—just a bit differently.



En el oeste de Texas, el momento más memorable del día es la puesta del sol, una hora que Justin Monarez ha admirado por años. Justin se encontraba a la mitad de su vuelo rumbo a Washington D.C. cuando se dio cuenta de lo lejos que iba a estar de El Paso y sus puestas de sol.

Durante tres meses, Justin tuvo la oportunidad de conocer la Costa Este mientras hacía su práctica profesional en el Scripps Howard News Bureau. No solo conoció Washington, sino también visitó Baltimore, New York y Philadelphia.

Del otro lado del Manhattan Bridge, en Brooklyn, admiró la altura de los rascacielos de New York. Paseando por Coney Island, rodeado de la rueda de la fortuna y montañas rusas observó como un equipo de filmación grababa una escena durante la última hora del día, mientras el sol se ocultaba detrás del Océano Atlántico.

En Philadelphia, visitó el sur de la ciudad. Un área conocida como Little Italy ahora también se apega a la cultura mexicana. Fue ahí donde encontró unos tacos que fueron la única comida mexicana que

comió en la Costa Este. Finalmente, tuvo la oportunidad de correr en las mismas escaleras del Museo de Arte que corrió "Rocky".

Al cabo de tres meses, Justin aprendió a vivir al ritmo de Washington D.C. Recorrió el Capitolio y la Casa Blanca para escribir las historias que le asignaban.

Las puestas de sol en El Paso eran irremplazables para Justin, pero comprendió también que en cada ciudad el sol muestra su belleza, solo que de manera diferente.

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