

4-1-2012

Minero Magazine, vol. XIV, Spring 2012

UTEP Student Publications

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/prospector>



Part of the [Journalism Studies Commons](#), and the [Mass Communication Commons](#)

Comments:

This file is rather large, with many images, so it may take a few minutes to download. Please be patient.

Recommended Citation

UTEP Student Publications, "Minero Magazine, vol. XIV, Spring 2012" (2012). *The Prospector*. Paper 74.
<http://digitalcommons.utep.edu/prospector/74>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Special Collections Department at DigitalCommons@UTEP. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Prospector by an authorized administrator of DigitalCommons@UTEP. For more information, please contact lweber@utep.edu.

AMOR EN TIEMPOS
DE GUERRA

REINA "DRAG", UNA FORMA
DE EXPRESIÓN PERSONAL

AN ARTIST'S
DRIVING FORCE

UTEP ICE HOCKEY

MINERO

VOLUME XIV / SPRING 2012

MAGAZINE

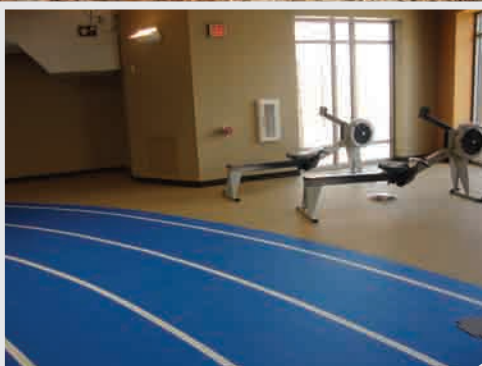


EL PASO

**SECRET CORRIDOR FOR
MODERN-DAY SLAVERY**

STUDENT RECREATION CENTER

SPRING 2012



Tri-Level Facility

- Indoor Soccer Arena
- Extensive Weight Equipment
- State-of-the-Art Cardio Theater
- Climbing Tower & Bouldering Walls
- Indoor Running Track (1/8 Mile in Length)
- Separate Free Weight Area
- 2 Regulation Size Basketball Courts
- Sand Volleyball Courts*
- 3 Fitness Studios with Boxing Area*
- Racquetball Facility*
- Competitive Pool & Recreational Pool*

* Available in Late Spring 2012

Services

- Sports Clubs
- Fitness Classes
- Climbing Gym
- Intramural Sports
- Outdoor Adventure Program
- Trips
- Cardio & Weights
- Outdoor Equipment Rental
- Open Rec (Basketball, Indoor Soccer, Volleyball)

Building Hours (Spring)

Monday - Thursday 5:30 am - 10:00 pm
Friday 5:30 am - 8:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday Noon - 5:00 pm

Inter-Session Hours

Monday - Friday 5:30 am - 7:00 pm
Saturday 8:00 am - 5:00 pm
Sunday Noon - 5:00 pm



Recreational Sports Department

3450 Sun Bowl Drive, El Paso, Texas 79902 • (915) 747-5103
FAX: (915) 747-5121 • Email: recsports@utep.edu • Web: <http://www.utep.edu/rsd>



12 EL PASO:
SECRET CORRIDOR FOR
MODERN-DAY SLAVERY
By Jasmine Aguilera

Photograph by Luis Larrieu

MINERO
MAGAZINE

Volume XIV Spring 2012
mineromagazine.com

MANAGING EDITOR
/COPY EDITOR

Diana A. Arrieta

ART DIRECTOR
Berenice Mendez

WRITERS
Alejandro Alba
Beatriz Castaneda
Erika L. Mendez
Jacob Wendell

PHOTOGRAPHY
Luis Larrieu
Esteban Márquez

DESIGNERS
Edgar Bonilla
Berenice Mendez
Ariadne Willis

AD REPRESENTATIVES
Fernando Sánchez
Eric Bretado
Marissa Montilla

ADVERTISING DIRECTOR
Verónica González

ACCOUNTING SPECIALIST
Isabel Castillo

ADMINISTRATIVE
SECRETARY
Marcela R. Luna

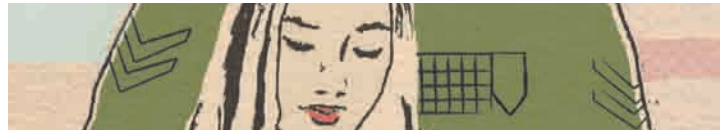
EDITORIAL ADVISOR
Lourdes Cárdenas

DIRECTOR
Kathleen Flores

FEATURES

6 AMOR EN TIEMPOS DE
GUERRA

Por Beatriz A. Castañeda



REINA "DRAG", UNA FORMA
DE EXPRESIÓN PERSONAL

By Erika L. Mendez

16 AN ARTIST'S DRIVING
FORCE

By Alejandro Alba



UTEP ICE HOCKEY

By Jacob Wendell

MINERO MAGAZINE Welcomes your comments. Please send us an email at letters@mineromagazine.com

Minero Magazine is published by UTEP students through the Department of Student Publications. It is published once every fall and spring semester. Periodicals postage is paid at El Paso, Texas. Minero Magazine is not responsible for any claims made by advertisers. Additional policy information may be obtained by calling Student Publications at (915)-747-5161. Views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of the university.

COVER: design by Berenice Mendez; photograph by Luis Larrieu

MINERO MAGAZINE
Department of Student Publications
The University of Texas at El Paso
105 Union East
500 W. University Ave.
El Paso, Texas 79968-0622
letters@mineromagazine.com
mineromagazine.com / utepprospector.com/minero

VISIT US ONLINE
mineromagazine.com

Check additional multimedia content and drop us a line about what you think of the stories.



Scan

ON CAMPUS LIVING AT ITS BEST!



**LEARN WHERE YOU LIVE.
LOVE WHERE YOU LIVE.
LIVE ON CAMPUS.**

RENT INCLUDES:

- All utilities included
 - Fully furnished
- High speed Internet
 - Cable TV
- Programs & services developed to help students succeed

STOP BY FOR A TOUR!

Miner Village
2401 N. Oregon
915.747.5352



RESIDENCE LIFE
THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

Miner Heights
300 W. Schuster
915.747.6112

housing@utep.edu | www.utep.edu/housing



Working for Minero Magazine for the first time has been a rewarding and pleasant learning experience. As a national award-winning student magazine, Minero strives to focus on a variety of culturally diverse issues that are important to UTEP students, faculty and staff, as well as to the border community.

Over the last two years, I have had the opportunity to write for different publications, learning and enhancing my journalism skills through the guidance and support of my advisors and co-workers. As I began to write this editorial, I realized that one of the aspects that I liked most about Minero was the opportunity to work with a bilingual publication that reflected the cultural richness of two countries and that provided students with the preparation to become publishing professionals in both English and Spanish-language media.

Alejandro Alba illustrates the challenges that some UTEP artists have had to overcome, casting a shining light on the motivation and inner source of inspiration that reside in their desire to create, acting as the driving force that has led them to pursue a career in art and follow their dreams.

Jacob Wendell takes a look at ice hockey, a sport that has become quietly successful in the Sun City. While many would not think of El Paso as home to a winter sport, UTEP students now have the opportunity to play it. Mario Ramirez, senior mechanical engineering major, and Jorge Villegas, freshman pre-engineering major, are president and vice president as well as players for the team. The story explains the steps that the team is taking to become a source of border sports entertainment.

As El Paso continues to attract military members, some UTEP students find that engaging in a relationship with someone in the military may be difficult. Beatriz Castañeda explores the way in which many of these relationships culminate in marriage.

Included in this issue is the story of Serena, a female impersonator who sings and dances like a beauty queen as part of the popular artistic culture known as drag. The story provides an overview of drag queen performers in El Paso as a form of entertainment.

Jasmine Aguilera gives light to an existing problem with which many people are not familiar. El Paso has become a common corridor for human trafficking, through which many victims pass before being transferred to other parts of the U.S. The story examines this social phenomenon that is El Paso's dark secret.

Each of these stories are the product of the Minero staff's hard work to produce a publication that is enjoyable to the reader. The stories featured in this magazine are illustrative of the everyday issues that are relevant to the lives of border residents as well as to the UTEP community. We hope that you value our work and enjoy our pieces.

Thank you,

Diana A. Arrieta

TWO TIME
★ ★
=BEST=
MENS & WOMENS
APPAREL
2010-11

HMMWORK
HMMU999

H W

TEXT "HMWRK" TO 69302 FOR UPCOMING EVENTS. 915.219.9041 2603 N. STANTON



Amor en tiempos de Guerra

Por Beatriz A. Castañeda

Hace tres años, Martha Carroll, una estudiante de cuarto año de enfermería, fue a un partido de fútbol americano en el Sun Bowl de UTEP. Ella estaba lejos de imaginar que ahí conocería a Robert, un joven militar que luego se convertiría en su esposo.

Cuando Martha y Robert se vieron por primera vez, ocurrió algo mágico. Ambos coinciden que fue atracción inmediata. “Nos encontramos cuando fuimos a los puestos de concesión (comida) para comprar algo”, dice Martha. “Cuando nos vimos, platicamos y ahí nos intercambiábamos números de teléfono”.

Después de tres semanas de conocerse y hablar constantemente, salieron por primera vez en una cita. “Después de cenar me llevo a ver la ciudad a Transmountain (la carretera que cruza la parte norte de las montañas Franklin)”, dice Martha.

Cuando se conocieron, Robert le contó a Martha que era soldado de la infantería del ejército, lo cual no fue un obstáculo para que Martha lo aceptara como su novio.

“A mí no me importó que él estuviera en el ejército, no fue algo que me molestó”, dice Martha.

En octubre del 2009, a Robert lo enviaron a Fort Hood en Killeen, Texas. Él regresó a El Paso justo para Navidad, y aunque sólo tenían un año de conocerse, él le propuso matrimonio a Martha. “Yo presentía que algo iba a pasar”, dice Martha. “Él me decía, ‘te tengo un regalo muy grande, va a ser la mejor Navidad’, por eso ya sentía que iba a pedir mi mano”.

En menos de seis meses terminaron los preparativos de la boda y en mayo del 2010 se casaron.

Algunos opinan que las relaciones románticas con militares son cortas. Sin embargo, muchas de estas relaciones terminan en matrimonio, ya que con frecuencia los militares son enviados a diferentes lugares (dentro y fuera del país) para propósitos de entrenamiento, logísticos o de batalla.

Según los últimos datos de la Oficina del Censo de Estados Unidos, el promedio de edad en el que se contrae matrimonio en este país es de 26 años para las mujeres y 28 para los hombres. En contraste, los datos más recientes del Ministerio de Defensa revelan que el 28 por ciento de los hombres de 21 años que están enlistados en el ejército ya tienen un cónyuge. Igualmente, se muestra que el 60 por ciento de los soldados de 25 años de edad están casados.

Para Sherri Terrell, directora del centro de consejería de UTEP, la forma en la que los soldados y jóvenes estudiantes llevan las relaciones amorosas no ha cambiado con el paso del tiempo. Desde la Primera y Segunda Guerra Mundial, las parejas del ejército se casaban más rápido, usualmente porque los hombres se iban al entrenamiento militar para luego viajar y pelear en el extranjero.

“Yo creo que las parejas jóvenes se casan más rápido porque ellos piensan que así es como se solidifica la conexión que tienen”, dice Terrell. “Los matrimonios se llevaron a cabo históricamente desde esos tiempos porque así las parejas demostraban el amor que había entre ellos”.

La familia de Martha estaba feliz por su casamiento hasta que Robert fue desplazado a Afganistán. El hecho de que

ella estuviera sola por meses mientras él cumplía su servicio militar fuera del país preocupaba especialmente a la mamá de Martha. Mientras Robert estuvo en Afganistán, Martha y él se comunicaban por Skype (un programa de video llamadas por Internet) y también hablaban por teléfono en las mañanas y en las noches. Aunque estaban en constante comunicación, Martha dice que la distancia hacía la relación cada día más difícil y terminaban peleando.

“A veces se enojaba porque yo salía y como él estaba allá (en Afganistán), él no podía salir”, dice Martha. “Después teníamos que arreglar las cosas entre nosotros para que no se pusiera celoso”.

Algunos ven
el despliegue
como una
razón para
casarse y
otros como
una prueba.

Ahora que Robert está en la base militar de Fort Bliss, Martha dice que la vida matrimonial es un poco complicada mientras ella va a la universidad. “Tengo que ir a la escuela, leer, estudiar y luego llegar a hacer comida y recoger la casa”, dice Martha. “También tengo que hacer tarea y darle tiempo a él. Ahora tengo que dividir mi tiempo para hacer todo lo que tengo que hacer”.

Aunque parece ser que muchos jóvenes terminan casándose por miedo a perder a sus parejas, otras personas como Leba Hirsch, gerente del Servicio de la Comunidad Militar de Fort Bliss, no cree que haya muchas parejas que se casen por razones de desplazamiento.

“He sido esposa de un militar por muchos años y no pienso que ellos (soldados) se casen a corta edad por el despliegue”, dice Hirsch. “Personalmente, yo conocí a mi esposo después de dos años y medio de que me graduará de la universidad”.

Algunos ven el despliegue como una razón para casarse y otros como una prueba. Un estudiante de justicia criminal Katherine García y Raúl Ramos decidieron no casarse aún cuando Raúl ya ha sido desplegado en diferentes ocasiones.

Katherine y Raúl se conocieron en la preparatoria. Ella nunca había querido estar con alguien que estuviera en el ejército. “Fuimos novios antes de que él fuera a su programa de entrenamiento”, dice Katherine. Él se enlistó en la infantería de marina después de que se conocieron hace dos años y medio.

Katherine dice que por el momento no quiere preocuparse por la vida matrimonial y prefiere enfocarse en sus estudios. “Si podemos sobrellevar la relación durante el despliegue, la probabilidad de que sigamos juntos a largo plazo será todavía mejor”, dice.

Raúl quería casarse con Katherine antes de que fuera desplegado. “Él quería casarse antes de que lo mandaran a otro lugar porque quería tener los beneficios que le dan a las parejas casadas, pero yo pienso que es importante acabar la escuela primero”, dice Katherine.

Al casarse, los soldados reciben beneficios de matrimonio. Estos incluyen un aumento en el salario, subsidio de vivienda, asistencia de salud, apoyo de casamiento y seguro de vida, entre otros.

Los beneficios que obtienen los soldados por casarse ayudan a sus esposas mientras ellos están fuera. Mikki Fanlo tiene 24 años y es originaria de El Paso. En noviembre pasado, ella se mudó a San Antonio porque su esposo, Aaron Marr, quien es un soldado de la infantería del ejército, fue transferido a Fort Sam Houston. Hace poco, Mikki contrajo una infección en los riñones que la obligó a ir al hospital de emergencia.

“Me ayudó mucho (tener) los beneficios de salud porque me enfermé cuando mi esposo estaba en Corea; fue un alivio”, dice Mikki. “La aseguranza de mis padres no me cubría todo. Cuando fui al hospital, la ayuda de los beneficios de matrimonio y salud cubrieron los gastos”.

A pesar de que algunas parejas se casan jóvenes, las estadísticas muestran que las relaciones

de noviazgo y de matrimonio con soldados son exitosas y hay un bajo índice de divorcio. En el 2010, 7.8 por ciento de mujeres en el ejército tuvieron un divorcio comparado con 3 por ciento de hombres en el ejército, según indicadores del Pentágono.

Mikki dice que parejas se casan muy jóvenes por diferentes razones. Para ella, cada relación es diferente, pero generalmente dice que se casan porque se encuentran separados y el lazo que crea el matrimonio los mantiene juntos.

“Muchas parejas se casan por el amor que se tienen. Él (Aaron) y yo nos amamos y tuvimos que arreglar nuestros problemas mientras él estaba al otro lado del mundo. Él es mi mejor amigo y estoy muy feliz con él”, dice Mikki.

In Brief



As the military presence grows in the El Paso region, many students at UTEP who become involved in a relationship with members of the military may find that it requires much sacrifice and effort. Many times these relationships culminate in marriage.

Sherri Terrell, director of the University Counseling Center, says that young couples involved with a military member tend to marry because they seek to solidify the connection that exists between them. “Marriages have historically been taking place because couples can demonstrate the love that they have for one another.”

While some may think that people in the military get married for fear of losing their relationships as they get deployed, Leba Hirsch, manager of Fort Bliss’ Army Community Service, does not believe that this is the case. “I have been the wife of a military man for many years and I don’t think that soldiers marry at a young age as a result of deployment. Personally, I met my husband two and a half years after graduating from college.”

Some couples perceive deployment as a challenge that must be overcome in the

relationship before taking the big step. Criminal justice major Katherine Garcia met Raul Ramos during high school before he joined the Marine Corps. Both agreed that they want to focus on their individual goals before thinking of marriage. “I believe that if we can continue the relationship during the time that he is deployed, the probability that we will continue to be together in the long run will be much higher,” says Katherine.

When military personnel get married they may also receive several benefits that include an increase in their salaries, additional health care and health insurance benefits and a housing subsidy. Mikki Fanlo, sophomore nursing student, says she is thankful for these benefits. Mikki, who got sick while her husband, a Fort Bliss soldier, was in Korea, says she was able to use these benefits to pay the cost of emergency medical services.

Despite the fact that many of these couples marry at a young age, the relationships between military men and women can be successful. Just like Katherine or Mikki, these relationships often result in marriage, a strong union that keeps them together despite wars, distance and separation.

DELI STREET

buffet



Wings, Salad Bar,
Sandwiches, Bakery,
Pizza, and More!

Students save \$1.00 with
purchase of buffet and drink.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter!



3800 N. Mesa Suite B-7 ~ El Paso, TX 79902
(Corner of Sunbowl Dr & Mesa St,
inside University Hills Plaza)



**EL PASO DRIVING
ACADEMY**
northeast • east • lower valley

> **6-Hour Adult Classroom Course**
Online Defensive Driving Courses
Classes every Saturday
Clases en Español
dos domingos al mes

www.elpasodriving.com
Safety First

northeast

Kurland/Salzman Plaza
4724 Hondo Pass Rd.,
Suite G
El Paso, TX 79904
755-8800

east

Montwood Center
12102 Montwood Dr.,
Suite D
El Paso, TX 79936
855-4900

lower valley

Yarbrough Village
550 N. Yarbrough Dr.,
Suite 106
El Paso, TX 79915
594-8858

STATE-CERTIFIED LICENSE No. C1651, C2104 & No. C1651A



En el escenario parece una reina de belleza, cubierta de diamantes, cabello falso y pestañas postizas, pero la actriz en escena es una creación del imitador de mujeres, Nathan Knight Jones.

“Soy muy coqueta cuando actuó. La música que elijo es por lo regular música que me va a permitir interactuar con quien sea en la audiencia”, dice Nathan.

Conocido como Serena cuando esta en “drag”, Nathan ha sido un imitador de mujeres en El Paso en los últimos dos años. En un concurso en el que participaron otras nueve personas, Nathan ganó el premio Newcomer of the Year 2010 de The New Old Plantation o The Op, uno de los clubs gay más populares en la escena lesbico-gay-bisexual-trasvesti (LGBT) de la ciudad.

La imitación femenina, también conocida como “drag” es una cultura artística creciente en El

Paso. La gente transgénero dice que su género biológico no coincide con el sexo con el cual se identifican, pero las reinas “drag” son hombres que no desean ser mujeres, pero que disfrutan ataviarse con ropas típicamente asociadas al sexo opuesto.

“Drag en El Paso es entretenimiento. Esto nos da algo que esperar los fines de semana”, dice la reina drag Elvira, mientras luce un vestido blanco con estampado estilo leopardo y tacones de seis pulgadas.

Nathan sincroniza sus labios y bailes a un popurri de canciones en un club lleno de gente. Con una formación en danza, teatro y porrista, Nathan dice que siempre ha disfrutado actuar en público.

“Es como ser un cantante, un bailarín o un músico, tu actúas y das todo lo que eres a la audiencia. La única diferencia es que eres un hombre vestido como mujer”, dice.

Estas actuaciones están programadas semanalmente en los clubs gays The San Antonio Mining Company, The Op y el Tool Box. Antes de una actuación, Nathan practica varias horas al día hasta el momento en que es llamado al escenario.

“Cuando Serena actúa te puedes dar cuenta de cuanto practicó y que siempre se entrega toda”, dice su compañera Sasha, una actriz drag que usa tacones de más de 6.3 pulgadas, cabello largo negro y un vestido entallado y corto. “Realmente la respeto. Soy una actriz nueva y espero que pueda ganar el premio Newcomer of the Year en 2012”, dice Sasha.

Nathan dice que no desea convertirse en una mujer biológicamente, pero usa su alter ego para opacar la timidez de sí mismo. Nathan no siente una separación entre estas dos personas y dice que las dos están entrelazadas. “Serena es parte de mí. Serena es parte de Nathan. Solo que

como Serena me siento un poco más confiado”, dice Nathan.

Nathan dice que a diferencia de otras reinas drag, él entró a la escena drag un poco tarde en su vida. “Empecé haciendo drag y más tarde hice actuación. Tengo 29 años y empecé a una edad tardía comparado con otras niñas que tienen 18 años, pero tengo razones personales que lo explican. A los 29, me tomó tanto tiempo actuar y no preocupar a mi familia”, dice Nathan.

Nathan dice que al principio se resistía a decirle a sus padres y a los pastores de la iglesia Cristiana sobre las actuaciones nocturnas de Serena. Sin embargo, Nathan fue honesto cuando sus padres se acercaron a preguntarle. “No lo voy a negar. Hubo una mezcla de emociones. Pero en general ellos no dijeron nada acerca de esto. Ahí está. Mi familia es Cristiana, es un poco duro para ellos”.

Pero él no pierde la esperanza de un día mirar a sus padres entre la multitud que asiste al espectáculo. “Eso mostraría que hay un esfuerzo de ellos por ser parte de todo lo que pasa en mi vida”, dice.

La comunidad LGBT en El Paso está siendo más vocal y está participando activamente en asuntos políticos tales como apoyar una ordenanza de la ciudad que permitiría a las parejas del mismo sexo que son empleados de la ciudad tener el derecho a beneficios de salud. “Antes, yo no me sentía cómoda caminando alrededor de la ciudad sosteniendo la mano de

mi novio”, dice Sasha. “Pero ha sido por gente como Serena que yo me siento más confiada acerca de quién soy cuando estoy en público”.

Nathan dice que él intenta ser fiel a sí mismo. “Después de una actuación, había lavado mi

cara y estaba mirándome en el espejo. En mi cabeza, lo único que pensaba era ‘una vez que el maquillaje sale, yo soy solo yo’. Se siente bien mirar la parte de Serena, pero también se siente bien ser quién soy”.



OF THE MANY CULTURAL phenomena present in El Paso, female impersonation, also known as “drag,” is becoming highly popular. Transgender people assert that their biological gender may not correspond to the sex with which they identify. While drag queens are males who do not wish to be female, they like to wear clothes that are generally associated with the opposite sex.

Known as Serena when in drag, Nathan Jones, 29, enters the stage dripping in diamonds and looking like a beauty queen. Nathan, who has been a female impersonator for the past couple of years in El Paso, says it is a form of entertainment and he was named the 2010 Newcomer of the Year, a title awarded by the New

Old Plantation, a well-known local gay club. While Nathan says he does not wish to become a female, he does not feel a separation between his two identities. He says he was originally reluctant to tell his parents, pastors of a Christian church, about his performances and admits that he began to engage in drag at an older age due to this concern. Today, he still hopes to see his parents in the audience one day. “Once the makeup comes off I’m still just me. It feels good to look the part of Serena, but it also feels good to just be me.”



EL PASO

SECRET CORRIDOR FOR MODERN-DAY SLAVERY

BY JASMINE AGUILERA

Design by Berenice Méndez / Photos by Luis Larrieu

AFTER 15 YEARS OF DOMESTIC SERVITUDE

and never seeing a dime from the \$50 a week she was promised, a woman was finally freed from enslavement. This did not happen in some foreign country where poverty is rampant, or in a war-torn area in a forgotten part of the world. This happened here in El Paso, a city that has become a highway for modern-day slavery or human trafficking.

Of all the immigration issues that this border town faces, human trafficking seems to be El Paso's dirty little secret. "We know that (trafficking) is big and existent," says Virginia McCrimmon, crime victim specialist with the El Paso County Sheriff's Office. "We don't know how big or how small."

Human trafficking victims cannot be easily identified; they include people of all ages, genders, nationalities and races. Women and children are often used for prostitution and sex tourism, while men are usually used for labor. Victims are often coerced into believing they are being smuggled into the U.S. The difference between smuggling and trafficking is that in the case of smuggling, the victim consents to be taken to a foreign country. In trafficking cases, victims are often deceived, and once they arrive to their final destination, they are forced to work and mostly for no pay.

Since 2005, McCrimmon worked as the Salvation Army's head of the Anti-Human Trafficking Program in El Paso, providing services to meet basic social and emotional needs of victims. In May 2011, she was hired to work with human trafficking victims at the El Paso County Sheriff's Office.

Throughout the years that she has been serving the El Paso community, McCrimmon has worked with approximately 15 men, women and children brought from China, Philippines, Nicaragua, El Salvador, Guatemala and Mexico. She says victims can be forced to work in practically any industry in the nation, including agriculture, sweatshop factories, construction, janitorial services and even restaurant services.

"As far as El Paso goes, there are no statistics that show how many victims pass through here," McCrimmon says. "When we started here at the Sheriff's Department we were asked to look for agencies or universities that have already done

studies, but no one has ever done a study on human trafficking so we really have no statistical data locally."

Law enforcement officials and experts agreed the city serves as a corridor for human traffickers, who bring their victims through this area before moving them to other cities throughout the country. Because victims do not usually stay in El Paso, officials find themselves in a difficult situation when trying to reduce the number of trafficking victims brought into the country.

"The problem with human trafficking in El Paso is that El Paso is not the final destination, they are just passing through. It's kind of an invisible issue," says Louie Gilot, executive director of Las Americas Immigrant Advocacy Center, a non-profit organization in El Paso that provides different services to low-income immigrants. "It happens, but it's very hard to identify. They move on to cities that are more rich, where there is more money and more work, just like regular immigrants who usually don't stay in El Paso. They go where the work is."

U.S. Department of State's Global Law Enforcement data reveal that in the year 2010, 33,113 victims of trafficking were identified globally. Of those, there were 6,016 prosecutions that took place, resulting in 3,619 convictions. "That doesn't mean that they all go to prosecution, as a matter of fact, we have never had a prosecution simply because of the circumstances. What we look for in a victim is that they are willing to work with law enforcement," McCrimmon says.

Even though no human trafficking case has ever been prosecuted in El Paso, it does not mean that traffickers have not been arrested, according to the Federal Bureau of Investigation. What happens is, that based on the circumstances, the trafficker usually ends up being charged with other offenses, usually with an immigration crime. However, El Paso may soon face its first trafficking prosecution.

In November, federal authorities in El Paso filed charges against Alarcon Allen Wiggins, 43, and nine others with "conspiracy to commit human trafficking and sex trafficking by force." The group pretended to own a record label, called 424 Records, in order to lure American women into their business. Once they had the women and their children, they forced them to work in their strip clubs as dancers and prostitutes in both El Paso and Baltimore, Maryland. The

IN NOVEMBER, FEDERAL AUTHORITIES IN EL PASO FILED CHARGES AGAINST ALARCON ALLEN WIGGINS, 43, AND NINE OTHERS WITH "CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT HUMAN TRAFFICKING AND SEX TRAFFICKING BY FORCE."

traffickers were caught when a woman managed to escape and told authorities.

According to McCrimmon, unlike the victims of the El Paso-Baltimore case, victims who are trafficked from other countries are often scared to cooperate with officials. "In third-world countries there's a lot of corruption in the government," she says. "So they feel that it is the same here, especially since this is what has been told to them by the traffickers."

An example of the amount of control traffickers have over their victims is exemplified in the case of a 15-year-old boy from Central America with whom McCrimmon worked. She says the boy was brought to the U.S. for labor purposes and was told he was in Houston when he was actually on the outskirts of El Paso. The trafficker told the boy that he could walk away whenever he wanted, but if he did, the Border Patrol would pick him up, torture and kill him. "Who's going to want to walk out and be killed? Because that is what he has seen in his home country, he believes this to be true," McCrimmon says.

MOIRA MURPHY, A VISITING PROFESSOR for Latin American and Border Studies at UTEP, is currently co-authoring a book about human trafficking. In her research she has found that victims brought through this border come from Mexico, but are not necessarily of Mexican origin. She says that Mexico acts as a transit area, so people go there from all areas of the world to find a way into the U.S.

Murphy explains that as immigration laws become stricter, the number of trafficking cases increases. "Immigrants are probably going to

keep coming, especially if their motive is economic,” she says. “If you accept that argument then the idea is that as immigration policies become stricter and stricter, you are pushing more people into illegal channels and you are raising the possibility that they will be trafficked.”

One myth is that victims are always uneducated and poor, but according to Murphy that is not always the case. In her studies she has learned that sometimes, victims are college-educated in their own country and they are seeking a better quality of life. It is then that they can fall victim to trafficking.

When trafficking victims are smuggled and as a result enter the U.S. illegally, they did not commit a crime and so cannot be prosecuted. That is when non-profits such as Las Americas or the Salvation Army step in to provide shelter, clothes, food and other needs the individual may have.

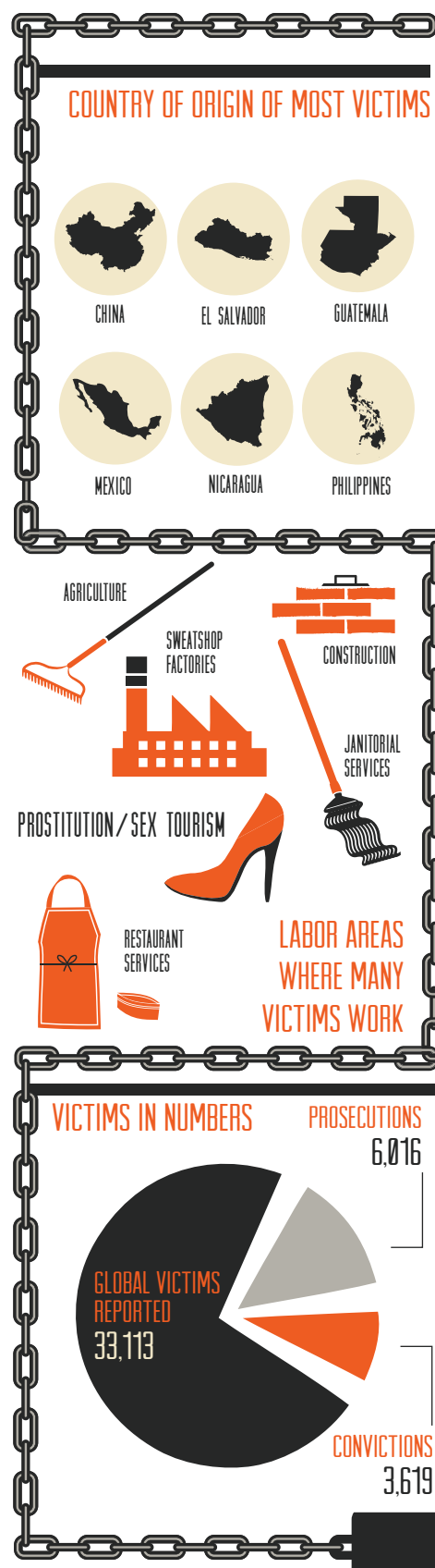
IN ORDER TO REDUCE HUMAN TRAFFICKING U.S. authorities are giving victims the opportunity to apply for a T-visa. Gilot says this type of visa is very rare, but it is helping to get victims to cooperate with law enforcement. “If the victim fears having to be sent back to the country where they met the people who ended up being the trafficker, they’re going to fear retaliation, they are going to fear for their families’ safety, so to be able to offer them a visa to stay in the safety of the U.S. is very important to build those cases,” Gilot says.

Las Americas has only been able to grant one T-visa to a trafficking victim. Applying for a T-visa is a long process that often requires a lot of time and guidance.

According to McCrimmon, individuals can only get a T-visa once they have talked to law enforcement. After this step, the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the Department of Homeland Security will issue them an I-94, allowing them to remain in the country for a year, which is called continued presence. Authorities also issue them a work authorization card. Once the individual has those two documents, McCrimmon will take them to the Social Security Administration to get a number that allows them to start working legally.

After these steps, the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington D.C. will write a letter of certification, which verifies that the individual was a victim of human trafficking and is eligible for Medicaid, temporary assistance to needy families and food stamps. Once these documents are provided, the victims are on their own to apply for the T-visa, which is good for four years.

Other attempts have been made to stem the flow of trafficking. According to McCrimmon and Gilot, local and state law enforcement agencies as well as Border Patrol officers have been receiving training that could help them spot potential victims. Part of the training is how to search for signs of force, fraud and coercion.





LAS AMERICAS HAS ONLY
BEEN ABLE TO GRANT ONE
T-VISA TO A TRAFFICKING
VICTIM. APPLYING FOR A T-VISA IS A LONG
PROCESS THAT OFTEN REQUIRES A LOT OF
TIME AND GUIDANCE.

Murphy believes things are starting to change for the better. “Just recently, over the past year to six months, trafficking is getting a lot of attention,” she says. “So it is something that is on people’s agenda, but it wasn’t a year and a half ago.”

Though optimistic, Murphy still believes there are problems within the system. One example is the fact that states do not have uniform laws when it comes to trafficking. Therefore, what is considered trafficking in one state may not be in another. “In my research, I did find something that I thought was hopeful,” she added. “The United States is actually doing a lot, at least when people are in the country, to try to stop trafficking. Some people blame trafficking on U.S. immigration laws and perhaps that is true, but the U.S. is taking this issue very seriously.”



One fact that is strangely persistent in these cases is that the victims are not usually found in raids or serious investigations. Instead, they are discovered when a stranger, who was knowledgeable about trafficking, has suspicions and tips off law enforcement.

“Public awareness is incredibly important, tips come from normal people who just saw strange things, and then law enforcement steps in and solves the case,” says Murphy. “One of the most important things people can do is just be vigilant and that could save thousands of lives, literally.”

EN BREVE

De todos los fenómenos sociales que existen en esta frontera, el tráfico de personas parecer ser uno de los secretos más oscuros de El Paso.

La ciudad funciona como uno de los corredores más populares para los traficantes de personas, quienes traen a sus víctimas por esta área antes de trasladarlas a diversas partes del país.

Autoridades, asociaciones no lucrativas y académicos coinciden en que el tráfico y trata de personas en esta frontera existe pero se desconoce su magnitud.

Desde el 2005, Virginia McCrimmon ha trabajado con víctimas de tráfico de personas.

Recientemente fue contratada por la Oficina del Sheriff del condado de El Paso. “En El Paso no hay estadísticas de cuantas víctimas pasan por aquí. Nosotros buscamos agencias o universidades que hubieran realizado estudios del tema, pero nadie ha hecho un estudio en tráfico humano”, dice McCrimmon.

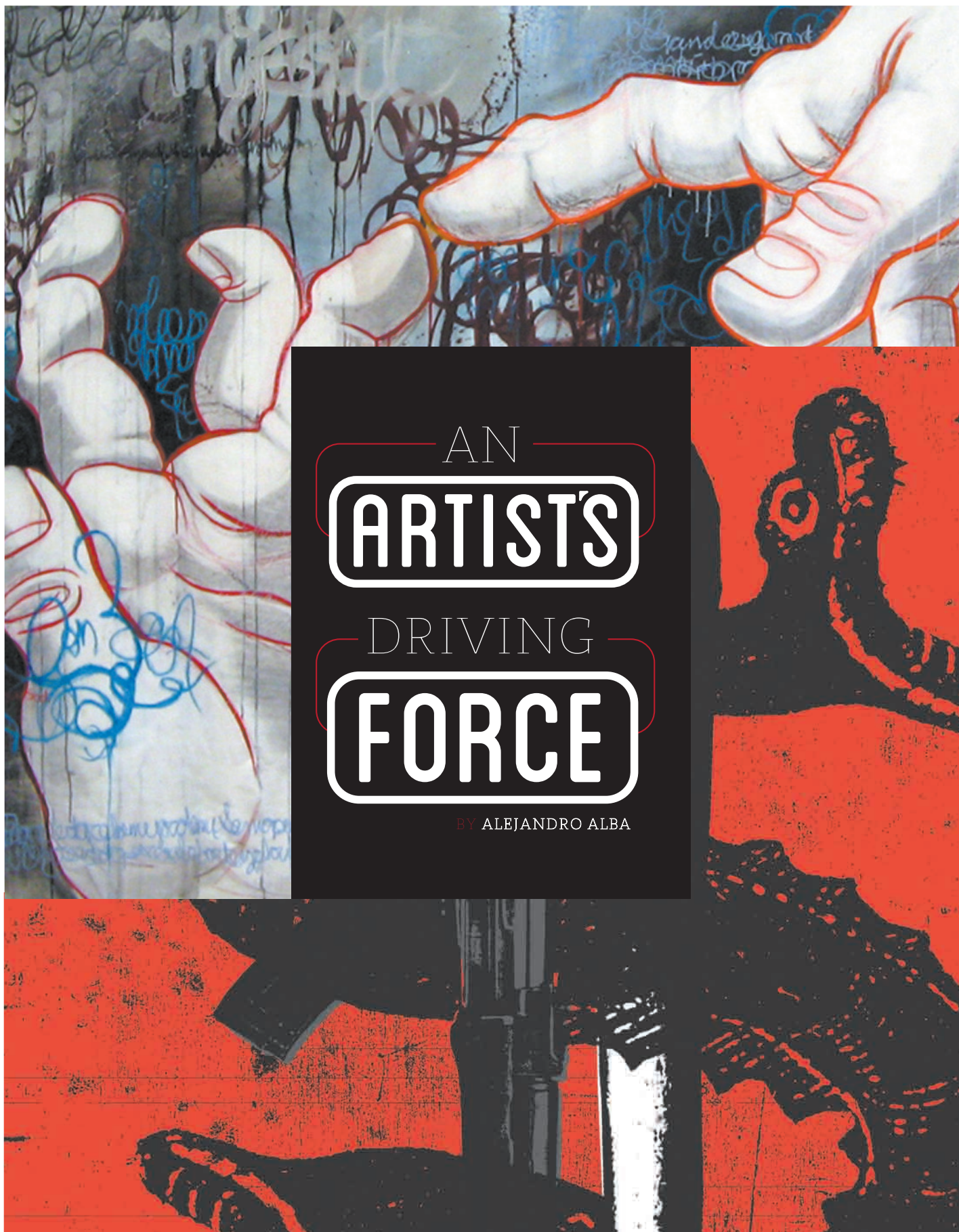
Las víctimas pueden ser de cualquier edad, sexo, nacionalidad y raza. Las mujeres y los niños son utilizados para la prostitución y el turismo sexual, mientras que a los hombres se les obliga a realizar diferentes tipos de trabajo forzado.

Debido a que las víctimas raramente se quedan en El Paso, para las autoridades es difícil detener a los traficantes. De acuerdo al Buró Federal de Investigación (FBI), ningún caso de

tráfico de humanos ha sido enjuiciado en El Paso, pero eso no significa que los traficantes no hayan sido arrestados.

En noviembre, autoridades federales de El Paso levantaron cargos contra Alarcon Allen Wiggins, de 43 años, y otras nueve personas residentes de Baltimore, Maryland, por conspiración y tráfico humano. Éste podría ser el primer caso de tráfico humano en El Paso que se trate en una corte.

Lo cierto es que, en la mayor parte de los casos, las víctimas son encontradas después de que algún extraño nota la situación, tiene sospechas y termina por notificar a la policía. De ahí la importancia de crear una conciencia pública sobre este problema.



AN
ARTIST'S
DRIVING
FORCE

BY ALEJANDRO ALBA

While the desire to create art may be the motivation and driving force that compels many to pursue a career in art, the problem for some is finding that inner source of inspiration. Some artists may deal with debilitating diseases, while others with lack of support, but whatever adversities they may face, these UTEP artists retain their passion and drive to create.

OVERCOMING A PHYSICAL BARRIER

Yvianna Hernandez-Mora, who graduated from UTEP as an honors student in 2010, has had to confront a physical challenge as an artist, one that has altered her creative inspiration.

Since she was a young girl, Yvianna has had a passion for drawing. While other kids chose different paths in life, during her high school years, Yvianna focused more on her art and strived to improve her skills.

Yvianna's main desire was to become a comic book artist, especially since she saw that there were not many women in this industry. However, upon entering UTEP, Yvianna found that she would not be able to pursue this dream right away since the university did not offer such a major. Yvianna decided to enter the field of fine arts and focus on abstract painting and impressionism.

"I always had the idea of working for Marvel, DC, or even working independently," Yvianna says. "But now that I have studied the fine arts, I have explored another world that I fell in love with. Abstract and impressionism just let me do so many things with my art—border violence reflections, for example."

However, Yvianna's major source of inspiration lies with her greatest challenge—being diagnosed with arthritis. As a result of her arthritis, Yvianna was forced to take a break from her art, but she has been trying to recover her strength over the past year.

"I can say that my arthritis is my worst enemy. Sometimes it makes me feel hopeless when I am lying in my bed without being able to move. Other times, it becomes my inspiration and lets me create art pieces that reflect what I think and go through," Yvianna says. "I always have my ups and downs, I have even considered thinking

of a plan B, but nothing comes to mind. I can't picture myself doing anything else."

Last October, in an attempt to prove to herself that she had recovered, Yvianna participated in the local art festival, Chalk the Block. The event, which featured 50 artists competing for best of show with their chalk art, allowed Yvianna to challenge her body and compete successfully in the event. She won a second-place award for her painting of a distorted hand from which many other hands sprang out.

Yvianna has incorporated distorted hands into her art as a way to represent her condition, such as her 9" by 10" remake of Michelangelo's "Creation of Adam." Instead of featuring a "perfect" hand, Adam's hand is distorted, resembling a hand afflicted with arthritis.

"I believe another source of my inspiration is the support I get from my family and friends," Yvianna says. "They are always trying to cheer me up and tell me the usual, 'it's all going to get better. You can keep going.' I appreciate all that, but sometimes I bring myself down."

Yvianna's latest goal is to go to graduate school either in California or New York, but due to her illness, she is afraid that she will not be able to cope with the stress and work. Currently, she is resting and thinking about what she should do next in her artistic career.

"I can't be defined or suppressed. I am just an artist who wants to keep growing and learning," Yvianna says. "I have my passion and I will keep practicing it to improve no matter what challenges I encounter."

A FRUSTRATED ARTIST

As Pilar Guerra graduated from high school and entered college, she faced a lot of adversity and lack of support for her dream. Feeling she needed a backup plan, she changed her major to education. Nonetheless, her desire to become an artist remains rooted deep within her soul.

Pilar's passion for art began during high school, and she decided to take up art as a career after her high school art teacher selected one of her charcoal drawings as an entry into a competition hosted by El Paso Community College. Pilar had drawn a portrait of her nephew, while her classmates had drawn inanimate objects such as cars, designer purses and buildings. Pilar says she prefers drawing things with life because they add beauty and a story to her art.

When she placed second in the competition, Pilar's dream of becoming an artist was reinforced. She continued to draw things with life, paralleling them to her own life. Although all of her paintings were of actual people and animals in her life, they were not completely realistic because she added a fantasy aspect to her work.

"I really do believe that I drew things with the intention of bringing a person's specific personality trait out," Pilar says.

Pilar continued to paint throughout her first year in college, but found herself conflicted when it was time to register for art courses. Her parents, along with her friends, did not support her wish to pursue an artistic path. With much difficulty, Pilar shelved her dream.

"I simply enjoyed painting, but I had no motivation at the time. I think that is what I really needed at the time, motivation not support," Pilar says. "A lot of people can do without support from others, as long as they are determined to do what they are motivated to do, they will achieve it. I was lacking that. I had no one to look up to, no clear goal."

After three-and-a-half years, Pilar has decided to pick up her creative tools once more. She is now motivated by a very clear goal – to become an art teacher.

As an educator, Pilar hopes to encourage students to pursue whatever they are passionate about and to find their motivation despite any lack of support.



AN INSIGHTFUL PROFESSOR

Antonio Castro H., a UTEP art professor, is in a position that enables him to guide other young artists. Originally from the U.S.-Mexico border, Castro began his artistic path when he was 15. His father began teaching him several fundamentals of art and by the time Castro entered college, he already knew most of what his professors were teaching him.

Although Castro dreamed of going to school in Mexico City, he enrolled at the University of Texas at El Paso, where he pursued a degree in graphic design. Later he enrolled at Tyler School of Art at Temple University in Philadelphia. During his years at Tyler, Castro encountered a lot of competition since the program was very rigorous and competitive. After graduating with a master's degree in visual communication, Castro lived in San Francisco and New York, where he worked for different design agencies. It was not until several years later that he got a call from his alma mater offering him a teaching position. "I always saw myself in the future teaching; it grants me freedom to work on my own stuff," says Castro. "As a student, I had always looked up to my teachers because they would always share their knowledge with me. Now it was my turn to interact with young artists."

During the time that Castro has taught graphic design at UTEP, he says that what is most rewarding for him is the opportunity he has had to provide advice to his students and other beginning artists as they pursue their careers.

“There are a lot of students that end up in the wrong place after not pursuing the

art career they wanted because somebody told them, 'You'll become a starving artist' but I say they need to follow their heart," says Castro. "If they get themselves in a situation where they are miserable, then they need to get out. If they want to be successful, and I don't mean monetary success, they need to follow their heart."

EN BREVE

La motivación de un artista proviene de diferentes fuentes de inspiración, pero el problema es encontrarla. Todos los artistas se enfrentan a adversidades, algunos deben lidiar con enfermedades y otros con la falta de apoyos, pero cualquiera que sean los obstáculos, estos artistas defienden su pasión y creatividad.

Yvianna Hernandez-Mora, graduada de UTEP, tuvo pasión por el arte. Hoy en día su mayor fuente de inspiración proviene de lo que se ha convertido en su mayor reto, su artritis. “Cuando estoy recostada en mi cama sin poder moverme, (la artritis) me hace sentirme sin esperanza”, dice Yvianna.

Quando Pilar Guerra, estudiante de cuarto año en UTEP, se graduó de la preparatoria y entró a la universidad enfrentó muchos obstáculos para seguir su sueño. Uno de ellos fue la falta de apoyo de sus seres queridos. Después de tres años y medio alejada del arte, Pilar regresó al primer dibujo en gis que hizo en la preparatoria. Ahora esta motivada y tiene una meta clara: convertirse en maestra de arte.

Por 11 años, Antonio Castro ha enseñado diseño gráfico en UTEP, para él lo más gratificante ha sido la oportunidad de dar consejo a estudiantes y a artistas jóvenes.

“Hay muchos estudiantes que terminan en el lugar equivocado después de abandonar el arte porque alguien les dijo que se iban a morir de hambre”, dice Castro. “Yo les digo que sigan siempre lo que su corazón les dice”.

Top: *Lotería* by Yvianna Hernández

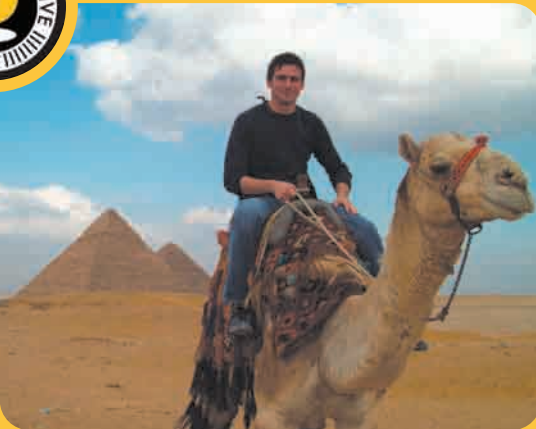
Bottom: *Biodiversity* by Antonio Castro H.





DESIGN YOUR FUTURE!

CREATE YOUR PROFILE AT MINETRACKER.UTEP.EDU AND START DEVELOPING AND MANAGING YOUR CO-CURRICULAR TRANSCRIPT TODAY !



MAKE SURE YOU KEEP TRACK OF ALL YOUR
EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES.

PREPARE TO GET THE JOB YOU WANT!

Office of Student Life • Union West Rm 102 • Phone (915) 747-5648

UTEP ICE HOCKEY

BY JACOB WENDELL

PINNED BETWEEN THE FRANKLIN MOUNTAINS and the Chihuahuan Desert is El Paso, Texas, a border city known for a few things: 200 days of yearly sunshine, scorching summer heat and long rainless droughts. Certainly, it does not sound like the ideal place for a winter sport to call home, or does it?

For many locals, the sports scene in El Paso lacks a strong team. While UTEP's football and basketball teams seem to be the top dogs, they don't always satisfy those who seek non-stop, fast-paced sports action. The city has tried arena football twice, but many can't even remember the teams' names. El Paso's minor league baseball team, The Diablos, is still around, but its slow pace doesn't attract thrill seekers. Among all of these, is ice hockey, a sport that is quietly successful within the community.

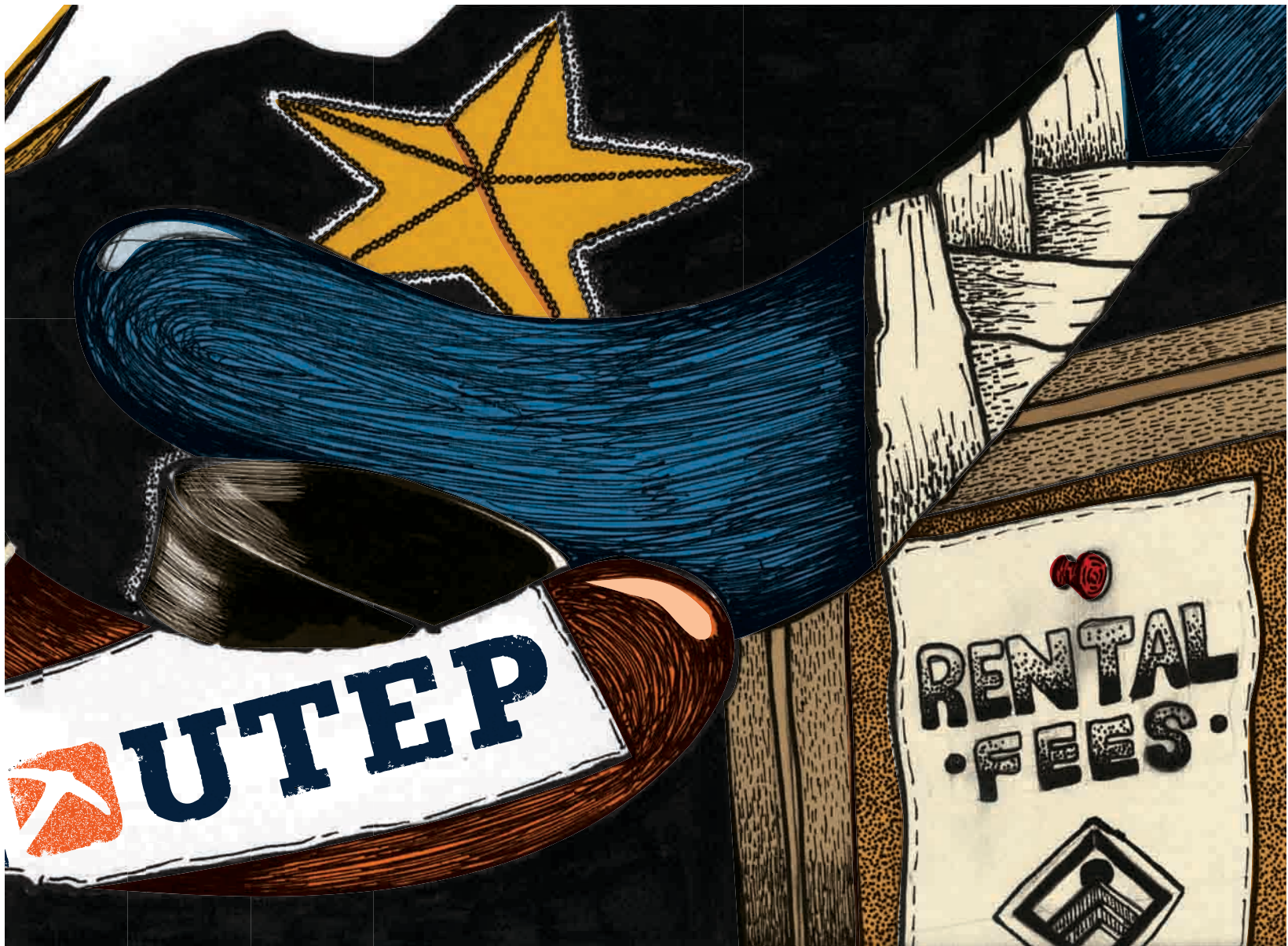
Today, UTEP students have the opportunity to not only enjoy this winter sport in El Paso, but also to play it as well. Mario Ramirez, senior mechanical engineering major, and Jorge Villegas, freshman pre-engineering major, are president and vice president as well as players for the UTEP Ice Hockey Organization. They not only want to capitalize on the sport's recent success in the Sun City, but they seek to provide local prospects with a chance to stay in their hometown and play for UTEP.

"Both of us have a great respect and passion for the sport. We have the Rhinos here in town, and also the El Paso Hockey Association has a junior program that sends local players out of town to play for a variety of colleges. So, we thought, why have them leave when they can play here," says Mario. "With UTEP trying to become a Tier-One school, we feel this can help the university as well."

THE TEAM'S BIGGEST CHALLENGE is getting sanctioned by UTEP's Recreational Sports Department. Before it can be recognized as an official recreational sports club, it must serve one year as a registered student organization and meet all university guidelines and procedures. Once sanctioned, they will receive some funding from the university, but in the long term they have to become financially independent.

Meanwhile, the team is looking to build a strong base of players and support. "Right now we have about 15 players including Mario and myself. We're looking to add about five more," says Jorge. "At the same time, we're trying to find some sponsors to help pay for jerseys and equipment."





The club is also applying to join the American Collegiate Hockey Association. The ACHA is a national organization that has three different men's hockey divisions and would allow the Miners' hockey squad to compete versus other college teams.

The team is currently practicing weekly at the Sierra Providence Events Center. Practices are lead by Jorge and Mario and the cost is \$10 per practice. This fee covers rink and equipment rental. Because the team has not been sanctioned, Mario, Jorge and the rest of the players are paying for fees out of their own pocket.

"We understand that basketball and football are the main athletics here at UTEP, but we aren't trying to compete with them, but rather alongside them, says Mario. "We just want to get a piece of the pie and help this team succeed." Those who are interested, but have never played can still join the UTEP Ice Hockey Organization.

"About half our current team, including myself, had never even played hockey, let alone ice skated, but after the month-and-a-half of practice we are really getting the hang of it," says Jorge. "We really encourage anyone to come out and train with us if they are remotely interested."

The UTEP ice hockey team is not the first attempt to bring the winter sport to town. In fact, El Paso has been home to several hockey leagues and teams over the past few years. From 1996-2002, the El Paso Buzzards called the El Paso County Coliseum home and they were a big hit throughout the city.

In 2001, former Buzzard Corey Herman founded the El Paso Hockey Association, which started a variety of youth and a junior league for El Pasoans to join. In 2006, Herman also started the El Paso Rhinos, a junior-A team, which has found nothing but success. Since their inception, the Rhinos have been one of the best junior ice hockey teams in the country. The team and

players have consistently topped the Western States Hockey League standings year after year. They entered last season as the WSHL Thorne Cup Champions and won the Mid-West Division for the third year in a row. Despite losing in the playoffs, they still finished in second place in the 2010 Western States Hockey League National Tournament.

That success has paid off and the Rhinos, who are currently 11-1, along with the city, will host the Throne Cup Tournament in March. This will not only shine a light on the sport, but also bring in scouts to recruit. This will give players a chance to move to a higher league or even earn a scholarship.

"Texas is football, Texas is baseball. You wouldn't think El Paso has hockey because all you see is sand, but we have a great core following that keeps up with all our teams," says Tom Herman, director of youth hockey for the El Paso Hockey Association, and assistant coach for the Rhinos.

Tom is one of the people behind the success of the team and he has provided players with many opportunities to earn college scholarships. He will also be coaching the first high school ice hockey team in the city at Coronado High School.

"We just want to create stepping stones for those interested in hockey, so that they can have a path which they can follow," Tom says.

"YOU WOULDN'T THINK EL PASO HAS HOCKEY BECAUSE ALL YOU SEE IS SAND..."

Omar Cruz, UTEP senior communication major and ice hockey team member, worked closely with the EPHA and the Rhinos. He firmly believes that a UTEP hockey team will be a huge success.

"The work Tom and the EPHA have done with the Rhinos was so great, I felt we had to capitalize on it and jump on the band wagon so we at UTEP could experience similar success," says Omar.

The UTEP Miners hockey team is currently organizing a variety of fundraisers including selling t-shirts with the team's logo. They also hope to schedule scrimmages against teams in New Mexico within a few months.

The UTEP ice hockey team is still a year away from competing collegially, but its members hope to make great strides in that time period, both on and off the ice, in order to establish a new brand of sports entertainment in the borderland.

EN BREVE

Flanqueado por las montañas Franklin y rodeado del desierto de Chihuahua está El Paso, una ciudad conocida por sus días soleados, su intenso calor de verano y sus largas sequías. Ciertamente, no suena como el lugar ideal para un deporte de invierno – ¿o sí?

Para muchos, la escena deportiva en El Paso carece de un equipo fuerte. A pesar de contar con equipos de fútbol americano y basquetbol, el hockey en hielo se ha mantenido en el gusto de la comunidad. Dos estudiantes de UTEP, Mario Ramírez y Jorge Villegas, buscan no solo ser espectadores de ese deporte, sino también jugarlo a nivel universitario.

Con ese propósito, ambos estudiantes de ingeniería fundaron el primer club de hockey en hielo de UTEP.

"Los dos tenemos un gran respeto y pasión por ese deporte", dice Mario. "Sabíamos que la Asociación de Hockey en El Paso tiene un programa junior que envía a jugadores locales a diferentes universidades, así que pensamos ¿por qué se tienen que ir cuando pueden jugar aquí?"

El mayor reto que enfrenta ahora el equipo de hockey en hielo es ser reconocido oficialmente por UTEP. Para ello deben mantener por un año el estatus de organización estudiantil y cumplir con las reglas de la universidad. Mientras tanto buscan tener una base fuerte de jugadores y simpatizantes.

"Nosotros hemos jugado hockey desde pequeños y seguimos jugando. Por eso pensamos que sería una buena idea", dice Jorge. "Amo el hockey porque es un deporte de ritmo rápido. Nos gusta el hockey en hielo porque es un deporte único".



UNIVISION  26

#1 en APOYO a



& MINERO
MAGAZINE

Más Noticias
Mejor Información

WWW.KINT.COM

