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The Prospector, April 29, 2014

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

VOL. 99, NO. 29

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

APRIL 29, 2014

ART
AGAINST
ALL
ODDS

ILLUSTRATION BY DIEGO BURCIAGA / THE PROSPECTOR

Despite circumstances, art students continue to excel

BY ANDREA ACOSTA

The Prospector

A sense of inspiration in the workspace is necessary when it comes to producing art. However, at the Fox Fine Arts Center, students say they lack inspiration due to the lack of technological equipment and the deterioration of the building.

"Every artist wants their workspace to be their home—a place where we can be inspired, a place to create, an environment where we feel appreciated for what we do," said Veronica Chaparro, senior art major. "It's hard to do so when the walls are so dingy, colors are bland, the equipment is falling apart and being aware that ceiling tiles are crumbling. It's heart-breaking, really."

Chaparro said that it is not that the building isn't being maintained, but

that it's outdated. It needs more than a facelift and needs to be renovated inside and out.

"Our professors and maintenance crew do their best to keep it all clean, but the building needs more than a paint job," Chaparro said. "We've had a major leak in the sculpture room, where all the electrical equipment is kept, and many students were slipping on the floor and feared being electrocuted."

According to Robert Moss, vice president for the Environmental Health and Safety Department, nothing has been reported to him that concerns mold, leaks or the crumbling of tiles at the Fox Fine Arts Center.

"Our department is always on the lookout for any type of circumstances that put the students' life in danger and the campus as a whole," Moss said. "However, if there is in fact any

leaks or mold in the classrooms, we can certainly offer assistance on this matter. However, students have to voice their concerns to either a faculty member or the department chair, so this way we get contacted and take action on the matter."

The Environmental Health and Safety Department is responsible for the oversight of the university's chemical hygiene, biological safety training, the evaluation of fume hoods, bio-safety cabinets and radiation equipment. Moreover, they also conduct campus fire inspections and are available to offer any safety workshops.

Moss said that when an issue such as this presents itself, the first measure would be to visit the space and evaluate and assess its condition.

"For example, we would confirm if it's a leak or just another form of discoloration in the walls or ceiling,"

Moss said. "If it's not, then we go ahead and approximate the square feet that have been affected. Lastly, if it is something that is out of our hands, we contact and hire a contractor, in order to remediate, and can come in and help improve the damaged area."

According to Moss, there haven't been a lot of instances where they've had to do this, but if it's necessary, students and faculty are encouraged to call them for their assistance.

Cristina Moreno, senior ceramics major, said that compared to other art departments that she has visited, UTEP has a very decent program.

"People from out of town, professionals and faculty and staff from other universities, have constantly expressed their opinion on the building and say that we are very lucky to have

“People from out of town, professionals and faculty and staff from other universities, have constantly expressed their opinion on the buildings and say that we are very lucky to have what we have here.”

- Cristina Moreno,
senior ceramics major

see ART on page 10

APRIL 29, 2014

PERSPECTIVES

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

JASMINE AGUILERA, 747-7477

COLUMN

Art: the tragic end

BY JAVIER CORTEZ
The Prospector



When it comes to administering what is and is not art, things can become tricky. You can have the perspective that any and everything can be art or you are the exact opposite.

I am of the opinion that very little is art. In fact art is one of the most undistinguishable human activities known to mankind. The act of art is a strict discipline the goes unnoticed and finds its way into our hearts, soul or minds.

One thing that needs to be understood is that entertainment is not art. Although entertainment might range and vary on what someone thinks is entertainment, the intention is always the same. True art is never made to entertain people. It either does or doesn't.

If you try to create art to entertain then the point of making art has been lost. Miley Cyrus, by today's standards, is a great entertainer, but she is not an artist. Her music does not have any authenticity, originality or substance.

Even what we call art today is not art. When we inculcate and subjugate the masses into thinking that art can be done as a profession and you can gain monetary value it actually devalues the whole meaning of creating art. It is an expression of self and nothing more.

Raphael, Van Gogh and Michelangelo made nothing in vain. It was not a popularity contest, and fame was not a virtue in their time. Art does not need to be entertaining, and doesn't even need to be liked. It is completely uninfluenced by what is good-bad, right-wrong or appealing-unappealing.

If you look at the two biggest mediums of art in the world today they are music and film. They have been cor-

rupted by monetary gain, and have been sensationalized even before the film or album is released.

We will never see a film like the "Thin Red Line" top the box office. Instead we have "The Avengers," "Captain America" and "Spiderman" making history with each opening week. Which is funny because we all know what happens in each and every single movie.

We will never hear another album like "Illmatic" by Nas because the masses want to buy the new Rihanna album that she didn't write and probably has no constant theme to its name. It seems that every single song she puts out is a chart topper.

Rihanna has 13 number one singles, which ranks her third of all time. She is 26 years old and has more number one singles than Nas, Tupac and Biggie Smalls combined. It is a popularity contest which is not a true showing of artistry and merit.

Most of this can be attributed to the fact that originality is an impossible feat. Everything has been done before. Life is cyclical and redundant. Even if an artist of any medium is trying to do something that has never been done before, they will always in some way duplicate someone else's work.

Everything stems from something—original thought is long gone. Miley Cyrus might have tried to sound original as possible on her latest album, but Cristina Aguilera did the same thing more than a decade ago and Madonna did more than 20 years ago.

Christian Bale did an excellent job as Batman, but we can't give him any artistic credit since there is a new Batman movie made every 10 years. The same goes for Superman and Spiderman and every other fictions superhero known to man.

In summation, art is dead.

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

FROM THE VAULT



FILE PHOTO/THE PROSPECTOR
Dec. 4, 1979, students discuss court decisions and accreditations within the institution.

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FRONTERA

Escena artística crece en la región fronteriza

POR CASSANDRA ADAME

The Prospector

Al ver la ciudad, repleta de espacios vacíos, edificios y calles arrojadas, los artistas ven en ella un lienzo en blanco. Galerías pop-up, murales y pintura de aerosol en lata refugian la ciudad.

Kerry Doyle, directora del Stanlee & Gerald Rubin Center for Visual Arts, dijo que ciudades en estas circunstancias son idóneas para el desarrollo de los artistas.

“La ventaja para ellos de que haya edificios abandonados, es que pueden entrar y empezar una galería, u negocio, sin tener realmente nada de capital”, Doyle dijo.

No todas las galerías son de carácter permanente. Existen otro tipo de galerías que tienen la finalidad de ser más espontáneas, accesibles e informales. Pop-up galleries es el nombre que se les da a este tipo de galerías.

Estas galerías abren por unos cuantos meses o incluso días para después cerrar. Todo lo que se necesita es un edificio vacío, el permiso del dueño y artistas que estén dispuestos a limpiar y a rehabilitar el lugar. Las galerías pop-up permiten de manera más suelta apoyar a artistas emergentes. Generalmente, estas galerías no cobran entrada y mantienen un ambiente menos intimidante para los visitantes y ofrecen arte a precios más económicos.

Esto no ocurre solamente en El Paso y Juárez. Doyle comenta que desde hace años, algunos artistas entran a barrios que nadie más quiere, donde los edificios están abandonados y es barato vivir. Los artistas a veces empiezan a hacer sus estudios su casa y viven adentro de los mismos estudios donde trabajan. Ahí mismo abren galerías dándole así una nueva vida a la economía de la ciudad.

Consecuentemente, la intervención de los artistas en una ciudad favorece plenamente su economía. En el libro “The Rise of the Creative Class” (el ascenso de la clase creativa) de Richard Florida, se documenta el efecto que los artistas, o la presencia de los artistas, tienen en la economía de una ciudad. Florida cree que la clave está en construir una sociedad creativa, más diversa, abierta e inclusiva donde se pueda aprovechar más plenamente las capacidades de sus miembros.

Como en toda apuesta, siempre existe un riesgo.

“El peligro de los artistas que intervienen los espacios, muy frecuentemente, es que pueden ser los primeros que tengan que salir de la zona. Los dueños de estos espacios al verlos limpios y rehabilitados se percatan de su potencial económico y cultural”, Doyle dijo. “Es muy interesante para los artistas manejar esta dinámica. Después de que nadie quiere el espacio, este vuelve, para ser mas interesante a los ojos de las personas, es una ironía”.

Miguel Patiño, veterano de guerra de 47 años, es dueño de la galería Rock House Café & Gallery, espacio libre para artistas de todas las

disciplinas que lleva un año abierto al público. Esta galería pretende ser permanente y sábado y domingo ofrece espacio gratuito para que los artistas puedan vender sus piezas.

“Yo nací en El Paso, pero a los doce me fui a Albuquerque”, Patiño dijo. “Entonces visitaba otros lugares donde habían galerías y me fascinó, pensé: algún día quiero poner una galería”.

Patiño comenta que a su regreso a El Paso observo que si había arte, pero los artistas no se conocían.

“Estaban todos desparramados, entre todos los artistas tenían problemas y nadie los organizaba”, Patiño dijo.

Actualmente, Rock House se sustenta del bolsillo de su dueño, donaciones y la ayuda de artistas y amigos, todo esto para mantener el espacio abierto y gratuito.

David Flores Rivera (Mambu), artista urbano de Ciudad Juárez, es integrante y uno de los fundadores de “Colectivo Reziste”.

Desde el 2003, han intervenido el exterior de edificios abandonados por medio de estenciles.

“Nosotros tratamos de que el espacio se vea mejor, en lugar de empeorarlo, con campañas de identidad grafica fronteriza. Considero que estamos contribuyendo a la estética de la ciudad. El paisaje urbano se ve mejor si esta intervenido, ya sea con estencil o grafiti”, Flores dijo.

La esencia de este colectivo a sido cambiar la imagen negativa que se tiene de la ciudad a los ojos del mundo. Usualmente, usan imágenes como los Valdez: Tintan, El Loco Valdez y Don Ramon; Nico Liko y luchadores locales.

“Queremos que exista una empatía entre la imagen y la gente”.

Actualmente “Reziste” esta trabajando con Neo Muralismo Mexicano, que son murales monumentales, mezclando técnicas tradicionales con acrílicos, estenciles y pintura de aerosol.

El estudiante de tercer año de educación de arte, Theron Smith, dijo usar en algún momento las galerías que están surgiendo para mostrar su trabajo artístico.

“Creo que es muy emocionante para El Paso tener varias galerías surgiendo en el centro”, dijo Smith. “En verdad muestra que nosotros, El Paso, tenemos un fuerte énfasis en la promoción del arte”.

Profesor y doctor de historia del arte y vice-presidente de la Comisión Histórica del Condado de El Paso, Max Grossman dice que es importante tener galerías de arte, porque atrae a las personas al centro de la ciudad y necesitamos rehabilitar el centro. Poniendo galerías ahí, hace del centro un lugar fresco e interesante donde estar, especialmente para gente joven. Para el pleno desarrollo de ideas y la cultura en general, es necesario que las personas tengan puntos de reunión.

Contacte a Cassandra Adame por medio de theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



CRISTINA ESQUIVEL/ The PROSPECTOR

The Rock House Café and Gallery provee un espacio libre para artistas de todas las disciplinas.

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Election Dates/ Online Voting

Begins: Wednesday, April 30, 7:00 AM

Ends: Thursday, May 1, 5:00 PM

For more information including the election code, visit the SGA Office at 304 Union Bldg, East. 915-747-5584

Or visit our website at www.utep.edu/sga

INITIATIVES

Campus organization aims to put art students on the map

BY MARIA ESQUINCA

The Prospector

A blank white wall is slashed angrily with red paint. The wall seems to bleed through the jagged sharp lines. Crim-

son roses erupt from the center and have been delicately placed atop the jagged lines to create a soft contrast.

On the floor below, people walk through the low-hanging vines of black wires that hold glowing red objects at their ends. The objects give an eerie Kubrick quality to the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center for the visual arts and are the opening piece of Maximo Gonzalez's exhibit "Magnificent Warning."

The exhibit was showcased last year and was the inspiration for the name behind the Maximo Art Society, a UTEP student organization that focuses on creating networking and exposure opportunities for artists.

According to Francisco Melendez, senior graphic design major and event planner for MAS, Maximo represented the ideals the organization wanted to base in themselves.

"Maximo had just come in and we had been very inspired by him. He knows what it's like to be a beginning artist," Melendez said. "He was just very inspirational and we kind of just wanted to base ourselves on those ideas."

Jorge Murillo, senior graphic design and metals major and president of MAS, said the organization started last year by a group of friends that



SPECIAL TO THE PROSPECTOR

Maximo art society member welcomes gallery goers.

wanted to make art students more known in the UTEP community.

"It was a group of us that were interested in having an art group because

we felt a little left out," Murillo said. "We wanted to make the art student more present in the university."

One of the goals of the organization is to develop professional opportunities for its members through exposure.

"What we want the members to take is to be able to be exposed to the professional world, allowing them to experience the real world for artists," Melendez said.

MAS has attempted to do this by providing workshops for their members, showcasing their work in galleries and by exposing members to professional artists.

Last year, MAS members were able to showcase their work in a Chalk the Block gallery, an event in which artists

create murals out of Chalk on the sidewalk. According to their website, the event has drawn in 30,000 people annually and premiered over 200 artists.

"Chalk the Block was the first big event and we let other people in El Paso know about us," Murillo said. "We had a gallery space and E.P. natives were able to see student work."

This year, MAS led the Salon de Refuses, a gallery that showcased the work of students who did not get into the Annual Juried Student Arts Exhibition at the Rubin Center.

"For people that didn't make it into the student art show, we helped them get into this makeshift student gallery at the fox fine arts to still get that op-

see MAS on page 6

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FEATURE

Psychology major spray paints the city like a canvas



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOSEPH PETERSON

Senior psychology major Joseph Peterson spray paints a wall in Downtown El Paso.

BY LORAIN WATTERS

The Prospector

Two giraffes share their last kiss as they are set on fire, while a panda tied to a multi-colored balloon floats over pyramids. The sky is filled with pink planets, swirling with yellow and blue gases, as a peacock walks by and says, "Keep it real."

The world of Joseph Peterson, senior psychology major, is grandiose with color, coming alive on concrete walls, street signs and canvases, with an assortment of spray cans.

Peterson creates these quirky abstractions to be visually appealing for city dwellers.

"I have always been attracted to street art, it's interesting. While walking about, it makes the normal different, like when you're walking and you see stickers on stop signs or a wall with a stencil," Peterson said. "It's just odd. It's like a Batman or Spiderman of art—you never see them do it, it just appears."

Influenced by Henri Matisse, Banksy, Jean-Michel Basquiat and David Choe, Peterson uses epigrams of these artists and their styles by making his own stencils to spray paint on surfaces.

"I like to let the art sell itself. People find different things in my work, so a lot of (them) are untitled. They have subjects for me, but that may change to the person whose eye it catches," he said.

Using his own optimistic approach on life, Peterson uses bright colors to represent happiness since, as he says: "Life is too short to be stuck in the mud."

However, with a 0.48 percent employment rate per 1,000 jobs in Texas as of May 2013 (according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics), making a successful career as an artist in El Paso is a difficult task.

"I think the whole town is a bit of a struggling place for the arts. People's attitudes often are not accepting of the action into purchasing art," Peterson said. "People often treat art as unattainable, but for the artist to be self-sustained in their craft, people need to support the artist financially."

Peterson will graduate in May and then go on to graduate school at UTEP, where he will study personality and art therapy.

Peterson also bartends at a local Olive Garden to help pay for school and his art supplies.

He also sells his artwork at events like Last Thursday's and the Art and Farmer's Market.

"I receive a few grants and financial aid, then I cover the spread. I barely get by and sometimes I need to take a loan out," he said. "If I didn't have a 'real job' and tried a straight art approach it would be choices like dinner or red paint. It would be a stressful time."

see CANVAS on page 6

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CANVAS from page 5

Peterson began to sell his artwork two years ago after speaking with the owner of Lucy's Restaurant.

"He told me to start selling it and make money off of these mother fuckers," he said. "It was a harsh statement, but a novel idea. I don't think people are fuckers, but his point was made."

Yet, Peterson will still give his art away for free even though he may be struggling financially.

"It's a good vibe to give things away," Peterson said. "The best things in life are free, especially if it's a kiddo who's viewing it. Money shouldn't get in the way of art, money fucks art up."

When Peterson does have an interested buyer for his artwork, he ships his pieces out on a national scale.

"It's already gone further than I ever thought," he said. "I can only hope my technique improves since I want to ship overseas."

Peterson is currently working on a project to have an international campaign that will build on his art and image.

For more information or to view Peterson's artwork, visit facebook.com/keepingitreals.

Lorain Watters may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.



Peterson's artwork is displayed at a downtown location. Paintings shown are part of his "Keep it real" series.

MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

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COMMENCEMENT

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6. The student procession will depart for the Sun Bowl Stadium as early as 6 p.m. Please ensure that you have checked in and picked up your reader card before departing the Don Haskins Center.

For parking recommendations, tips for families and friends, and other information:

www.utep.edu/commencement

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MAS from page 4

portunity to show their work," Mendez said.

The organization has also teamed up with the Rubin Center to provide direct contact with professional artists exhibited at the center.

"I think the Rubin Center has been the group that has helped us the most to achieve our mission to be a catalyst for the arts in the community," said Alejandra Urquide, senior graphic design and advertising major and historian for MAS.

One of the opportunities the Rubin Center helped MAS achieve was having a private lunch with one of the jurors for the Annual Juried Student Arts Exhibition. This allowed members to have a one-on-one conversation with a professional artist.

The Rubin Center also allowed MAS to have a reception on the opening night of the student exhibition and provided the organization with contacts to attain jurors for the Salon de Refuses exhibition.

The element of exposure and networking is what has sparked interest in the organization among UTEP students.

"That's part of everyone's goal, is to get known. It's your way of communicating with others," said Angel Marin, sophomore graphic design major.

The organization has also been able to establish connections at UTEP. They helped with the decorations for Queer Prom and participated in UTEP's first Liberal Arts Street Festival.

Currently, MAS has around 40 members and 344 likes on Facebook. MAS is not limited to art majors and welcomes any UTEP student interested in art. The fee for joining is \$15.

"We really want this to happen, we really want this to be something that lasts and that helps not just this generation of art students, but the ones that keep coming," Mendez said.

Maria Esquinca may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

APRIL 29, 2014

ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR

ANDREA ACOSTA, 747-7477

Downtown welcomes artists to affordable housing



TANIA MORAN / THE PROSPECTOR

The unused Saddle Blanket site will house striving artists in the city. Occupancy is expected to start in late spring or early summer of 2016.

BY JOSE SOTO

The Prospector

What is currently an underutilized space in Downtown El Paso will soon house local artists and creative businesses.

The unused former Saddle Blanket site will undergo a massive transformation into an innovative, an affordable housing project for striving artists in the city.

Artspace, America's leader in artist led community transformation, partnered with the El Paso Community Foundation, Artists' Communities in the Downtown Core, the city of El Paso and local artists

to set the plan in motion for permanent affordable housing for artists and affordable commercial space for businesses. Artspace follows the mission to create, foster and preserve affordable space for artists and arts organizations.

The dire need for such development became apparent when a market survey was released to the El Paso public in 2008, producing more than 400 responses. The results were given to local stakeholders in 2010, who have proceeded with the plans. The goal is to create an entrepreneurial arts center, where artists currently face a need for affordable

space, to create and sell their art and maintain a profitable lifestyle.

"In our many meetings with the creative community, we have learned that there is a great need for a permanent place/space for artists to live and work, collaborate and experiment and share their ideas with the community," said Cathryn Vanderbrink, vice president of Artspace. "The response from artists in El Paso is one of the largest in our experience."

Vanderbrink said that two local artists, Chris Cummings and Katherine Brennan, had previously heard of Artspace and worked with the city to bring a project to El Paso.

"The work began with a Preliminary Feasibility Study, progressed to an Artist Market Survey, and ultimately to the predevelopment contract that has allowed us to advance the project to its current place," Vanderbrink said. "This method of working (responding to invitations by a local community) is how almost all of Artspace's work began."

Samantha Brown, a UTEP alumna with a bachelor's degree in graphic design, sees this as an opportunity for El Paso to focus on their local artists.

"Most often, local artists are overlooked by the general public. Many don't realize that the salary of an artist, most usually isn't enough to live off of," Brown said. "This will surely help out our community in assisting them find a better economic zone."

Yvianna Hernandez, a UTEP alumna with a bachelor's degree in art, agreed with Brown and said this project is long overdue, and she feels a sense of relief to see that it is actually happening.

"Unfortunately, some of El Paso's best artists leave the city because they simply can't afford to work and live on their own here. This will help the art community here in El Paso preserve it's talent," Hernandez said.

Both Brown and Hernandez have been waiting for the project to begin since 2010. Although they say that it's taken longer than expected, they are excited to see some progress.

"I'm glad they finally have announced dates and information,"

Brown said. "The art community was starting to worry."

Anyone working and skilled in any fine arts is encouraged to apply. This includes painting, drawing, sculpting, book art and printmaking, among other art genres such as film, video, digital media, photography and music composition.

"For live/work residential units, the application process is a formal low-income housing application process that involves submittal of materials that demonstrate income qualification (low enough income to qualify for affordable housing, enough income to be able to afford the rent), prior rental history verification, etc.," Vanderbrink said. "Qualified households are then interviewed to discuss their involvement in the arts."

A preference is given to qualified households, who demonstrate a commitment to their particular art form.

"For commercial spaces, we are in continual conversation with individuals and organizations interested in establishing an arts-related business in the project," said Vanderbrink.

Miguel Veliz, senior graphic design major, said he believes the art community will benefit a lot from this project.

"Having all artists in one building would help to support each other and collaborate in projects. Also, the El Paso community could come and learn about what an artist's studio life is like," Veliz said.

see DOWNTOWN on page 9

ART

Costume designing is taken to the next level

BY AMBER GOMEZ

The Prospector

Proudly marching through comic conventions as your favorite character can be pretty rewarding, especially if you've taken the time to create the costume yourself. For cosplayers, who have been going to conventions for years, creating their costumes has become more than a hobby.

"While making costumes is a hobby of mine, I have had a few paid commissions and have had a job as an apprentice to do a few costumes," said Mia Vasquez, sophomore theater arts major. "I ultimately do not see it as a job though because I do it because I love it."

While Vasquez has been cosplaying for many years, she started making costumes two years ago when she came to UTEP. She then began to design costumes for others before she had made any for herself.

"I chose costuming at UTEP and from there I caught on very quickly and was a natural," Vasquez said. "A

year later, I was asked to apprentice under a very kind elderly woman, who I admire greatly, named Sharon, who enhanced all that I learned. The next thing I knew, I was not only fixing costumes at UTEP, but was making them at Kids-N-Co. It was then I decided I wanted to make costumes for myself and not just other people."

Vasquez' first self-made cosplay costume was Mavis from "Hotel Transylvania." She is paid for her work if someone orders a costume made for him/her. Typically, she spends \$10 to \$30 on supplies to make the costume. She said she then puts her money to a good cause.

"I tend to donate some of the money I earn to organizations that I want to see being something more than they already are. The rest goes to a savings account to be used on future supplies I might need," Vasquez said.

While some people make costumes for a job, others make them as a hobby.

Christina Gonzalez, junior theater arts major, makes costumes for

herself and has won several costume contests such as Best Female Comic Character for "Black Widow" cosplay at Sun City Sci-Fi. The costumes that she creates are along the lines of superhero or villain-based that she styles to make her own.

"At first it was just a hobby, but I had a friend that pushed me into cosplaying and I can see myself doing it as a job," Gonzalez said. "One of my favorites to make was Poison Ivy. With her, I made a leotard-based corset and covered it with weeds. To make it more interesting, I made the bust with orange leaves to accent it—to make it original and more my style."

Making costumes and being in cosplay competitions was very rewarding to Gonzalez, who said she will be participating in The Miss El Paso, Texas, pageant.

"It was my New Year's resolution to go after different fears and out of my norm. Running for Miss El Paso was one of them," Gonzalez said.



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

Christina Gonzalez designs costumes as a hobby that pertain to superheros or villan. Poison Ivy is one of her favorite costumes.

see COSPLAY on page 8

STADIUM

Ballpark art is a hit for El Pasoans

BY LESLY LIMON

The Prospector

El Paso is a city rich with culture and beauty. Recently, the city has been working on developing more public art for El Pasoans, especially with the new ballpark nearing completion.

The ballpark will feature artwork by local artists who have been commissioned by the city. Gaspar Enriquez is one of the artists who will be working on the murals for the stadium. The mural he is working on will portray the history of baseball in the city of El Paso.

"The city has a 2 percent budget for the arts," Enriquez said.

“It’s great to see street, public art and artists, being appreciated, respected and recognized by the public and the city.”

- Fernie Perez,

senior graphic design major

see BALLPARK on page 10



MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

The 60-ft. glass window created by local artist, Robert Davidoff, is one of four entrances to the Southwest University Ballpark.

COSPLAY from page 7

"I've always wanted to be in a pageant, but I was shy. Cosplaying opened up a big part of me. Now I'm very courageous and it really did boost my self-esteem. I realized that if I could do cosplays, then I could do a pageant."

Vasquez and Gonzalez said that anyone who wants a career in costume-making needs to remember that practice makes perfect and one can always teach themselves.

"It's a fun hobby you can do if you want it to be a career or a part-time hobby," Gonzalez said. "As a begin-

ner, at first it was tough to make the costumes, but over the years you will get better. Every costume is a piece of you. It's a piece of artwork that you're making. Be shameless about it."

Amber Gomez may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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By **MINER**

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PERFÍL

Estudiante conserva su cultura mexicana

BY JOSE SOTO

The Prospector

Aquí en UTEP, no es fácil encontrar artistas que conservan las raíces de su cultura, de la convivencia de nuestra frontera y de las costumbres mexicanas.

Julia Sosa, estudiante de teatro y sociología, comparte su tiempo, sus esfuerzos y sobre todo su arte en ambas ciudades—lo cual es importante para ella, ya que dice que es muy difícil quitársela.

“No que me la quiera quitar, es lo que me construye como persona y artista. Es mi identidad”, dijo Sosa. “A donde quiera que yo vaya y cualquier cosa que yo haga, mi influencia mexicana va estar ahí. Ya viene contigo. Así es como haces arte orgánico. Si la niegas, el arte va estar muy deprimido”.

Sosa es vocalista de la banda Lunatic, que se presenta en Juárez, otras ciudades de la república mexicana y aquí en El Paso. Formada en el 2012, Lunatic ha aprovechado de la turgencia de la vida social en Juárez. Por la violencia, la escena artística fue reducida y muchos optaron por asistir a eventos aquí en El Paso. Hoy, las cosas han cambiado. Ambas ciudades gozan de la música local y eso hace posible que Sosa y su banda se muevan entre El Paso y Juárez, manteniendo las hermanas cuidadas en sincronización.

“Hoy, las cosas están renaciendo. Ahora, vez a la gente de Juárez con ganas de recibir arte y entretenimiento”, dijo Sosa. “El Paso está notando de eso. La gente de ambas ciudades son muy nobles y nos gusta que sepan que no somos ni tanto de aya, ni tanto de acá. Somos unidos. Somos la gente de la frontera”.

Aparte de su esfuerzo musical, Sosa dirige obras de teatro en UTEP y la mayoría de las veces, escoge obras que llevan tintes de la cultura mexicana y son relevantes a la comunidad hispana. Sosa dirigió “Sazón de Mujer” y actualmente esta en el proceso de dirigir “A Solid Home” que es una traducción de “Un Hogar Solido” como parte de Chicano Theatre Series en UTEP.

“Me gusta que las obras que dirijo lleven algo de valores mexicanos, que son universales, pero a nosotros nos gusta apropiarnos de ellos”, dijo Sosa. “Sobre todo el respeto, el amor, el cariño a los padres y adultos, pero también toques de catolicismo y revolucionari-



TANIA MORAN / THE PROSPECTOR

Julia Sosa dirigirá la nueva obra llamada “A Solid Home,” como parte de la serie de teatro chicano.

os que hacen pensar en los sistemas de creencias como mexicanos”.

Aunque “A Solid Home” será en inglés, Sosa dijo que los que no sean de habla hispana podrán entender un poco de la historia y cultura mexicana.

Esa convivencia entre dos mundos ha hecho que Sosa aprenda a coexistir como artista y estudiante, haciendo que su arte refleje la actualidad de ser integrante de una sociedad mezclada por raíces en la madre tierra y el esfuerzo americano. De acuerdo a la estudiante, mantener una identidad fija es la manera de construir arte relevante y honesto.

“Es inevitable tener influencia americana viviendo aquí. Yo la tengo, como todos que vinimos en la frontera. También, vivimos hoy en la globalización”, dijo Sosa. “Pero tenemos que tomar en cuenta de donde vinimos y que es lo que nuestro ecosistema anterior puede aportar a lo que ahora hacemos. Mucha gente se viene a los Estados Unidos y no se acuerda de su patria. Mi arte se esfuerza a recordarles de eso”.

Evdokia Romanova, una estudiante de Rusia, dice que para ella, las artistas como Sosa la han ayudado a entender a la cultura de El Paso. “Creo

que sus obras llevan una connotación cultural que dejan a la audiencia con un entendimiento de lo que es ella como persona”

Sosa toma en cuenta que muchos estudiantes de UTEP vienen desde Chihuahua y otras ciudades de México y hay que complacerlos. Demográficamente, UTEP es una universidad compuesta de no solo estudiantes ni temas estadounidenses, pero también de elementos mexicanos. Aristas como Sosa hacen posible que no nos desviemos de eso.

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectoraily.news@gmail.com.

DOWNTOWN from page 7

“I do want to be part of this project, and definitely I would apply for space in the future, because not only would benefit me as an artist, but because it’s a great opportunity to share visions with other artists as well.”

Vandenbrink describes the living spaces as being larger, more durable and flexible to accommodate the living and working needs of the artistic residents.

“Community facilities will exist that will allow artists to exhibit work and hold arts-related events and performances on the property,” she said. “The building will be sustainable, with many green building features.”

The budget for the Artspace El Paso project is set at approximately \$11 million. Public sources include the city of El Paso, Federal Home Loan Bank, private fund raising and an affordable housing tax credit application that was submitted this year. Artspace expects to have the funds for the project secured by August, with site construction expected to start in spring 2015.

Artspace is currently engaged in site investigation and is also doing schematic designs and ongoing communal activities. Occupancy is expected to start in late spring or early summer of 2016.

Jose Soto may be reached at theprospectoraily.news@gmail.com

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BALLPARK from page 8

"I hope that younger and older generations can collaborate together (on public art projects), but most artists are individuals, who more or less keep to themselves and come out of their creative worlds once in a while."

The Southwest University Ballpark was scheduled for completion by the initial game day on April 28.

With the anticipation of the ballpark completion and the first home game, one can only imagine how hectic things are for artists and faculty involved in the completion of the stadium.

Enriquez' murals aren't the only art that spectators will be able to see at the stadium. "The River Chronicle, a History of El Paso Del Norte" is a

60-foot glass window created by local artist Roberto Davidoff. The huge window provides spectators with an insight into the history of El Paso—where the city began to where it is today, with the Rio Grande river providing a flow to the artistic timeline.

A plaque describing the artwork reads, "The river has been forever the constant heart of our area. The Rio Grande—with the people, places, and events that surround it—becomes a chronicle of El Paso del Norte."

Davidoff gathered images for this project from the UTEP Library's Special Collections department, the El Paso County Historical Society and from the private collection of Michael and Carol Bernstein.

The city allocated roughly \$850,000 for the artwork at the ballpark. The central theme of the work displayed at the stadium will be the history, culture and development of El Paso.

With the stadium being so close to the university, the artwork being displayed has an impact on UTEP students and artists.

"I think El Paso has come a long way, said Fernie Perez, senior graphic design major. "It's great to see street art, public art and artists being appreciated, respected and recognized by the public and the city."

The City of El Paso's Museums and Cultural Affairs Department is working closely with the community, in order to hear their opinions on what it is they want to see with public arts

projects. The rise of these projects can be seen throughout the city, and one project in particular is currently being put up near UTEP.

Photographer and artist, Patrick David Walker, is currently working with the El Paso Public Art Committee. His work can be seen at the bus stop located across from the Glory Road Transfer Center. One of his photos is printed on the inside of the grid, and make up the walls of the station. The images are broken up, however, and once you take a second look, everything comes into focus. The colors also change throughout the day, because of the different areas where sunlight hits the art.

"I did research on El Paso history and decided that I wanted this par-

ticular project to focus on my photography. I took classes to learn about the native plants in the region, and over the course of one year, I gathered several hundred pictures," Walker said.

The design of the station was brought to life by Catherine Widgery, and Walker took the photos for the project, making this a team effort.

"I really enjoy working for the Museums and Cultural Affairs Department of El Paso," Walker said. "Not a lot of people are aware of public art in the city. It's wonderful to know that my art is now a part of our city and a part of its history, too."

Lesly Limon may be reached at theprospectordaily.ent@gmail.com.

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ART from page 1

what we have here. Because according to them, this kind of space is not seen just anywhere," Moreno said. "Overall, I think that students should be a little more appreciative of what we have here."

Janet Luna, senior art education major, said that there are other factors that keep art students from working at the studio.

"The lack of ventilation is another factor that all of us face here in the Fox," Luna said. "Especially in the departments where it's crucial to have it, such as the printmaking and painting studios. This is very crucial since we are working with toxic chemicals constantly."

As a result of the extractors not working properly, students often have to find another way to have the air circulate in the room.

"Technically, no chemicals or paint should be poured down the sink, which is why we have a bucket where students dump all this in, but it works the same as if we would use the sink," Luna said. "The odor tends to stay for long periods of time, and the sink is already clogged up from the use of previous years. It has not been fixed yet."

Luna said the odor travels around their workspace and also makes its way to the hallway, where students may be taking their lunch break.

Frank Espino, freshman drawing major, said they have received new equipment, but it's still not what the students expect.

"We constantly receive leftover and second-hand equipment that other

departments don't use anymore, and that don't work to its full 100 percent potential," Espino said. "Unfortunately, there is not much money from the budget being spent on the art department as a whole."

Espino said that nothing would actually get done, until a serious incident occurs.

Luna said that compared to other UTEP departments, the arts is left behind when it comes to renovations.

"Every student is entitled to work in an engaging and uplifting environment," she said. "I see a huge difference when I walk by other departments with high-end technology, where students feel comfortable and at ease, doing what they love to do rather than being worried about safety and their health, as we do here."

Joaquin Vasquez, senior graphic design major, agrees with Chaparro and Luna. He says it's challenging to be inspired when working in a crowded and uninviting environment.

"I think the university could definitely benefit from such a facelift or take some ideas from other campuses' art departments," Vasquez said.

Vasquez said that although students could use new equipment and space, he still appreciates his limited workspace.

"I can only be optimistic about making artwork to the best of my ability, no matter the circumstances in which we do it in," Vasquez said. "I realize that we may have it better than some other universities out there."

Andrea Acosta may be reached at theprospectordaily.news@gmail.com.

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APRIL 29, 2014

SPORTS

EDITOR

EDWIN DELGADO, 747-7477

Usual suspects find success at Drake Relays

BY JAVIER CORTEZ

The Prospector

After a successful showing at the Drake Relays in Des Moines, Iowa, the Miners are less than three weeks away from the Conference USA outdoor championships.

After a rocky start to the outdoor season, both men and women showed promise over the weekend at the Drake Relays. The men's distance relay team regained their title as they took first in the distance medley, led by All-American junior Anthony Rotich.

On the women's side, senior Janice Jackson took home the silver medal in the 100-meter hurdles and led the way for the women.

"The Drake Relays were crazy to say the least," Jackson said. "I ended up winning my heat in prelims by a decent margin, but the 4x100 was a different story. Overall, though, the final was good for me and it was one of the better starts I have had this season."

All in all, head coach Mika Laaksonen felt it was a good meet for the men and women.

"I think it went pretty well," Laaksonen said. "Overall, we had a bunch of season-best times and it was probably the best weather I have ever seen at the Drake Relays in the 15 years that I have gone there."

Weather is something that has hampered the Miners throughout their outdoor season. Both UTEP meets were plagued with wind, but the Miners still tried to perform well.

"The women have stepped up as a team... (they) have a chance at conference. The men have gotten a little too comfortable since the indoor season."

- Mika Laaksonen,
track and field head coach.

"The weather should not be an excuse," said sophomore hurdler Sven Zellner. "For hurdles and sprinters, the wind can mess you up, especially at UTEP because the wind is too strong. Everyone has the same conditions, though, and it is an even playing field for everyone."

Personally, Zellner didn't feel his performance was great, but he said he is confident the men will do well at the conference championships in May.

"The Drake Relays did not go well for me, but if everybody puts forth the effort in conference and steps up we can win," Zellner said. "We won the outdoor last year and indoor this year, so if we want to win again we need everyone to step up."

Although there were improvements at the Drake Relays, Laak-



Freshman distance runner Cosmas Boit, along with Anthony Rotich, Abiola Onakoya and Daniel Tarango, earned gold in the distance medley relay. Laaksonen said the women have outperformed the men since the start of the outdoor season.

"I think the women have stepped up as a team," Laaksonen said. "The women actually have a chance at conference. The men have gotten a little too comfortable since the indoor season. The men are up for a rude awakening at the conference championships."

Although it seems the men have taken a dip in performance, Anthony Rotich has been able to be successful

at the meets. Laaksonen said the junior is a completely different athlete.

"Anthony does not need to run a personal-best time at the conference championships to win," Laaksonen said. "Anthony is at a whole other level. You really don't have to measure his performance at the conference championships."

Jackson said that with experience aside, the women have a great chance to win the conference championship.

MICHAELA ROMAN / THE PROSPECTOR

"I think we have just as much of a chance as anyone else," Jackson said. "Everyone is on equal footing. Everyone has been improving and especially for the freshman who need to gain experience. Getting the race plan down and believing in yourself is key."

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

CAMPUS LIFE

UTEP sports provide entertainment for students



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP's student section, full of the Miner Maniacs at a men's basketball game against Rice on Feb. 1.

BY JAVIER CORTEZ

The Prospector

Some people who attend an athletic event want more than to just be entertained. They want to root for a certain team, understand the dynamics of each athlete and ultimately analyze the game. Others, go to athletic events for the atmosphere, the poetry in motion and the simple entertainment.

For students such as Jonathan Covarrubias, junior psychology major, it can go both ways. He can be enthralled by the sheer athleticism of a Vince Hunter dunk, and at the same time be highly entertained. Which begs the question. Do sports and entertainment go hand in hand?

"I did play sports in high school, so I do understand the athleticism

involved and everything that goes into playing a great game. So I can appreciate what the athletes do, but at the same time I am entertained," Covarrubias said. "I think it has to do with the quality of the team. If you have a good team, more people are going to show up and be entertained. It's hard to be entertained when your team is getting smacked down."

At the end of the day, entertainment seems to always have the upper hand. Junior history major Jose Adame does not regularly attend UTEP sports events, but if the game is entertaining and has a great atmosphere, he will be there.

"I look at sports as entertainment," Adame said. "There are definitely a lot of sports and plenty of options for whatever you are into. Most definitely, I look at it as entertainment."

There is no question that at times sports can be fun to watch. The atmosphere alone at a basketball game can enthrall almost anyone. Sports seem to capture people across the spectrum—from loyal fan to unknowing spectator—sports can bring them together.

"Nowadays and at universities, it is more of a social thing," said freshman human biology major Thalia Mendez. "Everyone thrives on the atmosphere. No one really likes to sit at home and watch a game, they'd rather go. I have noticed it is more of a social and entertainment thing."

Although sports can be entertaining, they do adhere to a strict set of rules. A player must follow certain guidelines and cannot overstep the rulings of a judge, referee or umpire. With all the structure, rules and guidelines, some say sports cannot go past entertainment and venture into the realm of art.

"I wouldn't exactly view sports as an art," Adame said. "I have never viewed it as an art. In some sense, it can have an artistic perspective, but I

"If you have a good team more people are going to show up and be entertained."

- Jonathan Covarrubias,
junior psychology major

don't solely think it is an art. The only aspect that I can see as art is the separate athletes and how hard they push."

Opinion on sports as art and entertainment also varies depending upon male and female viewers. In North America, men are the dominant viewers of major sports—football, baseball, basketball and hockey.

According to espn.com/media-research and demographics, 94 percent of ESPN.com viewers are males between the ages of 18 and 34.

"I think it also depends on what sports you are talking about, but women will go for more of an entertainment aspect," Adame said. "While men will go to view sports on its principles and athleticism."

Javier Cortez may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

SOFTBALL

Final home series ends on a bitter note



BY LUIS BARRIO

The Prospector

The UTEP softball team concluded their last home series April 27, as the Miners fell to the Texas-San Antonio Roadrunners in two of the three games played.

With two setbacks against UTSA, postseason play is now out of reach for the Miners. They will close their regular season campaign May 3-4, when they take part in a three-game series against the East Carolina Pirates in Greenville, North Carolina.

"They are a pretty special group," said head coach Tobin Echo-Hawk. "As a first-year coach, they made it easy for me and my staff."

The Miners split the April 26 doubleheader against the Roadrunners with a 7-6 victory in extra innings. Sophomore pitcher Danielle Pearson hit a sack-fly to bring in junior Ashley Eldridge for the game-winning run.

In the final home game for the Miners this season, on senior night, the offense struggled to produce any hits, much less runs.

The Miners got their first hit in the fifth inning with a bunt-ruled hit. The Miners had two runners on base. A pop out to right gave the Roadrunners their second out of the inning, but Eldridge tagged third and tried to get one run. A nice assist from right field tagged Eldridge out at home.

The Roadrunners wasted no time getting things started. They started the ball game with five runs in the first inning. The Roadrunners' first baseman, Megan Low, hit a homer in the first inning. She leads the nation in homers with 22, including the one against the Miners.

The Roadrunners scored in all innings except the second. UTSA scored 10 runs on 11 hits. The Miners committed two errors in the contest.

In game two on Saturday, senior Colleen Hohman hit two home runs in an 11-8 losing effort, where the Miners played solidly.

The Miners entered the seventh inning down 11-3, and were able to produce five runs and make things interesting.

Senior Miraya Montiel was in scoring position when Erika Arcuri, another senior, scored on a single to left field. Eldridge accounted for two more RBIs with a single, and senior Alanna Leasau was able to bring Eldridge in herself.

The excitement was heightened, but the Miners had no more runs to produce.

"It was nice to see them keep fighting, but it was the little things that killed us all game," Echo-Hawk said. "We didn't take care of the ball and make sure (UTSA) didn't advance bases. It leaves a sour taste in our mouths; we're better than that."

All the excitement came on Saturday with the nine-inning game that

the Miners won. A near comeback in part two of Saturday had the Miners eager for Sunday.

The seniors, Arcuri, Kayla Black, Hohman, Leasau and Montiel, were all to be honored prior to the start of the Sunday Senior finale.

On a gusty Sunday, the Miners were welcomed by an enthusiastic crowd, and the seniors' team numbers were displayed in the batters' area.

Despite the Miners' struggle against some solid pitching by UTSA, Hohman said that this will not be the lasting memory of the senior squad.

"This is not what I'll remember. I'll remember the games when we fought, the games when we were hitting well, the games when we were pitching well, the bonds I've made with my teammates," Hohman said. "We were just flat today. I don't know why. You would think the fire would come, but it never did."

The Miners, who were expected to finish in last place in the conference standings prior to the start of the season, managed to get a 8-13 conference record and a 16-32 overall record. They currently sit at the 11th spot of 13 teams in Conference USA.

Luis Barrio may be reached at theprospectordaily.sports@gmail.com.

TANIA MORAN / THE PROSPECTOR

(Left) junior outfielder Ashley Eldridge observes the ball pass on its way to the plate. (right) senior pitcher Colleen Hohman pitches against UTSA at Helen of Troy Field on April 27.

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