For all her help and for being so generous with her time.

Pema Euden
For lending her beautiful Bhutanese dress.

Sonam Deki and Sonam Wangmo
For their wardrobe assistance.
In a city where the majority of its people identify as part of the Hispanic and Mexican-American community, it is easier to forget or to realize El Paso is a city with diversity. A diversity that brings different kinds of cultures, ideas and beliefs together in one place. That diversity can be found at the University of Texas at El Paso, where students, professors and staff from different parts of the world contribute to the university’s success.

This issue is about recognizing the contributions of those who share and teach us about their culture with El Pasoans.

This magazine includes my story about two Bhutanese students, who traveled more than 8,000 miles, bringing with them their customs, beliefs, ideas and language. In this story, I explain their adaptation and overall experience with this desert land.

Our writer, Mike Flores, wrote about some of the most important international student-athletes who, with their talent, are trying to bring recognition and championship trophies to UTEP. Some of these athletes had to give up their chance of receiving a free college education in the countries where they were born.

Claudia Hernández’s story reports on how feminism plays a role in the life of some El Pasoans, and the different views between UTEP professors from India and Lebanon toward the role of feminism now that they are part of this borderland.

This issue also includes Grecia Sánchez’s story about the possible consequences if the Johnson Amendment is “totally destroyed” by President Donald Trump from an El Pasoan perspective.

This magazine wouldn’t have been possible without the help of my writers, photographers, editors, designers, advisor and my friends. Every person who is part of this magazine deserves my respect and I want to thank them for their hard work and dedication.

Christian, Gaby and Michaela, thanks again for making this semester one I won’t forget. The advice and jokes I’m able to receive from you guys have made me a better writer and a better person. Thanks for being there when I needed support.

This is my second issue as editor of Minero. During this time, I have been able to fix some errors I’ve made as an editor in the past. To our readers, thank you for reading our magazine. I hope you enjoy our work.

Mom, thanks for being my motivation. Even though you are no longer with us, this magazine is dedicated to you.

Rene Delgadillo

Rene Delgadillo

DVDs from $3.99, Sexual Enhancement Pills, Wigs & Lingerie, Novelties, Lotions, Shoes, Gag Gifts & Much much more ...

UTEP Students & Staff receive 10% off with school ID
Students of the University of Texas at El Paso enter and exit the different buildings of their university without noticing the inspiration behind them or their connection to a small distant kingdom located more than 8,000 miles away from El Paso, Texas.

Since 1917, UTEP offers a unique environment inspired by Bhutanese architecture, which is attributed to Steven Worrell, the first dean of the school, and his wife Kathleen.

The Land of the Thunder Dragon, officially known as the Kingdom of Bhutan, was a mysterious land to the world up until the mid-20th century. This was mainly due to their government’s policies, which isolated them from the rest of the world. Bhutan has been able to conserve its cultural heritage and environmental spaces thanks to its isolation policies.

Today, the Kingdom of Bhutan continues a strict enforcement of its policies toward foreigners despite allowing tourism since 1974. Traveling to Bhutan costs an additional $250 per day per person. This amount covers land transportation, food, guide services as well as accommodations and has discouraged many from traveling to this “new land.”

Kathleen Worrell’s attention was caught after reading “Castles in the Air,” a 1914 National Geographic article about the temples in the Kingdom of Bhutan. Because of this, Kathleen persuaded her husband to construct new buildings at the school inspired by Bhutan’s architecture.

When the original campus, located on Fort Bliss, burned down in 1916, the school relocated to its current site in the western foothills of the Franklin Mountains. Worrell’s idea of Bhutan in the borderland became true. The first building with the Bhutanese architectural theme was Old Main, a building that has been used as a library, museum, administration building, assembly site, store and social center.

“I think that the Bhutanese architecture and artifacts across the campus make UTEP one of the most beautiful universities anywhere, an assessment validated by many international recognitions that our distinctive and coherent Bhutanese-style campus has earned,” says UTEP President Diana Natalicio.

Bhutanese students at UTEP

UTEP’s first Bhutanese student, Jigme Dorji, enrolled at UTEP in 1973 to study engineering, increasing the presence of Bhutan’s culture in the Sun City. As of the spring 2017 semester, 31 Bhutanese students are currently studying at UTEP. The students are part of the Bhutanese Student Association, whose goal is to make all students from Bhutan feel welcomed while preserving, promoting and enriching the unique Bhutanese culture at UTEP.

Some of the Bhutanese students at UTEP receive the Bhutanese Cultural Endowed Scholarship, distributed by UTEP, and the rest receive the Royal Government of Bhutan Scholarship. In some instances, students are able to receive both scholarships.

As a developing country, Bhutan currently has only one university, the Royal University of Bhutan. As a result, not enough resources are available for the government to educate all their youth. As a way
of bringing back talent to Bhutan, senior students in high school are required to take an exam by the government. This exam allows them to study in a new country, with the condition of returning to Bhutan once they finish their college education. They must go back and work in Bhutan as part of the agreement signed by both parties.

Sonam Choki Lhamo, a junior physics major and president of the Bhutanese Student Association at UTEP, says growing up in Bhutan sometimes means students have to grow up with the mentality of moving out of their country and setting up in a place they might know nothing about.

Pema Euden, a junior mathematics major and vice president of the BSA, says the architecture at UTEP provides a way for Bhutanese students to feel connected to their culture and loved ones.

Pema and Sonam both traveled around 30 hours to reach El Paso, the city where their new life would continue. “The first few months that I was here, I had trouble talking to students and professors. I had no idea of how to approach them and maybe because I did not know how things work here,” Pema says. “Little by little, I was able to talk and one of the things that helped was looking at the similarities between my country and UTEP.”

UTEP’s architecture is not an exact replica of Bhutanese buildings, Pema says. She says the university missed some details. Despite this, El Paso and UTEP have won her heart. “There are differences in the colors here and other differences that UTEP couldn’t catch in terms of architecture, but for the most part, this makes me feel at home,” Pema says.

In 2015, UTEP inaugurated Centennial Plaza with the Lhakhang, a cultural center and exhibit that was a gift from Bhutan to the United States. It is the only structure of its kind outside the Kingdom of Bhutan.

Bhutan was the featured country during the 2008 Smithsonian Folklife Festival in Washington D.C. Bhutanese artisans assembled a replica of the Lhakhang on the National Mall as the centerpiece of Bhutanese participation in the festival.

“At the end of the two-week exhibit, the Bhutanese people donated it to the people of the United States, specifying that it should be re-erected on the UTEP campus,” Natalicio says. “At the end of the festival, the Lhakhang was disassembled and shipped to UTEP. Later, Bhutanese craftsmen traveled to El Paso to help us reconstruct the ornate cultural center that you now see in Centennial Plaza.”

Culture Shocks

Although she misses her home country, Pema says the people of El Paso have made her fall in love with the city. She says she has been able to find similarities between the two countries. “I love the people here because they are really welcoming, I think mainly because of the Hispanic population. I’ve had people come up to me and just talk. When you’re a foreigner, some people are pretty curious about you and they’re nice,” Pema says. “I think Bhutanese culture and (the) culture here is more similar to Mexican culture because of family values. The ways in which you respect your elders is similar to what we do in our country and it’s nice to see that even thousands of miles away from home.”

UTEP is one of the few universities in the world with an insight to another country, something Sonam says she finds soothing as she is away from home. “Bhutan shares a border with India and it’s similar to the bridge here. We have our huge gate just like you guys, and this is one of the ways in which I can relate back to my country,” Sonam says. “From some buildings you can see the other side of India just like we do here with Mexico.”

Without doing any research about her new home, Sonam arrived in El Paso one night in August 2014. Amazed by the lights and the view from the plane, she believed it would be the perfect city. She then woke up to realize she would face one the most difficult culture shocks in her life. “The next morning when I woke up, I was so sad. I’m used to seeing a lot of green and then I saw this dry heat without trees and I just got sad,” Sonam says. “It was so horrible. I was like ‘what am I doing here?’

“UTEP and El Paso will always be my second home.”

- Sonam Choki Lhamo
Junior physics major and president of Bhutanese Student Association at UTEP
Juárez more than I love El Paso, I know people don’t get paid a lot over (Juárez), but I love how cheap it can be. It’s so cheap and everything is so cool, I love the street food in Juárez like enchiladas—I also like gorditas.”

After spending time at Mexico, Pema says El Paso’s sister city is nothing like what is being described by some politicians. “I do not agree at all (with Trump). I’ve been to Mexico and I (know) for a fact that everyone is really nice,” Pema says. “Maybe he should spend some time at border cities and then say something about them.”

Their lives after UTEP
As part of the scholarship agreement both students received from Bhutan, Pema and Sonam have to go back and work in Bhutan once they are finished with their education in the United States. “If I don’t go back, I have to pay Bhutan twice the money they’re spending on me, and trust me, they are spending a lot of money on me. I better go back or prepare to pay some money to the government,” Sonam says while laughing. “Bhutan trusted me and I would never do that to my country.”

Sonam wants to obtain her master’s degree in geophysics at UTEP and hopes to join a research group to help Bhutan because of its earthquake zone location. “I have to go back and I’m happy to do so,” Sonam says. “But UTEP and El Paso will always be my second home. Every time I leave, I feel sad because I miss the people of this city.”

Borders from a Bhutanese perspective
As international students, Pema and Sonam say the failed immigrant travel bans signed by President Donald Trump worried them, not necessarily because the government could target them, but because they both have friends who are citizens of the countries who were banned from entering the United States for 90 days. “I don’t think Trump would ban or attack my country since we’re a small developing country. He would just be wasting his time by banning us from entering the U.S.,” Sonam says. “I have friends from the countries that he was trying to ban, and of course I worry about their safety.”

Not even Trump’s rhetoric against Mexico or friends telling Bhutanese students to not travel to Ciudad Juárez have had an effect on Sonam or Pema. They regularly decide to take the risk with an Uber that drives them to Mexican soil. “I’ve been to clubs, buffets, to beauty salons; I do my manicure over there; I’ve been to Mexico City and Cancun,” Sonam says. “I love

At least UTEP is better, you have trees here.”

Another difference Sonam noticed was the lack of discretion between couples. She says Bhutan is a conservative country, where couples don’t kiss in front of others as a sign of respect. When she arrived to El Paso and saw couples kissing at school, she felt as if they were “performing a show to everyone.” “I’m not used to seeing people making out everywhere. For me this was really uncomfortable and I just miss the privacy, it shouldn’t be an open show for others to see,” Sonam says while laughing. “I respect they love each other, but I don’t think it’s necessary for you to be doing it in front of others.”

For Pema, another difference is the way people address themselves to others. “In Bhutan, if you see someone who is older than you, you don’t call them by their name. You would call them a brother or a sister. Or if it’s an elder person, you call them like an uncle or an aunt,” Pema says. “It was kinda weird at the beginning here, but now I’ve been getting used to the how you guys talk to each other.”

Both students say they have not encountered any issues of racism in El Paso, but wonder if people might be talking about them when they are not within earshot. This fact has not stopped them from adapting to this border city as they continue to educate others about their home origin. “I really don’t mind if people say some racist stuff as long as they are not trying to be racist. They can ask if they’re just curious about my culture. I’m curious all the time about the culture here and I like to ask some stuff,” Sonam says. “If you’re nice and genuine about it, I’m okay with it (people asking).”

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una vez que terminen su educación universitaria. Pema Euden, estudiante de tercer año en la carrera de matemáticas, y Sonam Choki Lhamo, estudiante de tercer año en la carrera de física, viajaron alrededor de 30 horas de Bután para llegar a El Paso. "Los primeros meses que estuve aquí, tuve problemas para hablar con estudiantes y profesores. No tenía ni idea de cómo acercarme a ellos y tal vez porque no sabía cómo funcionan las cosas aquí", Pema dice.

Sonam, asombrada por las luces y la vista desde el avión, pensó que había llegado a la ciudad perfecta. Se despertó para darse cuenta que se enfrentaría a uno de los choques culturales más difíciles de su vida. "Vi este calor seco sin árboles y me puse triste. Fue tan horrible. Yo estaba como '¿qué estoy haciendo aquí?'", Pema dice.

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Cruzar la frontera es algo que Pema y Sonam hacen con regularidad a pesar de la retórica negativa hacia Ciudad Juárez. "He estado en clubes, buffets, en salones de belleza", Sonam dice. "Amo Juárez más de lo que amo El Paso, sé que la gente no gana mucho en Juárez pero me encanta lo barato que están las cosas".

Ambas estudiantes tienen que volver a Bután cuando ellas acaben su educación en Estados Unidos. "Si no vuelvo, tengo que pagarle a Bután el doble de dinero que están gastando en mí, y créeme están gastando mucho dinero en mí", Sonam dice. "Pero Bután confió en mí y nunca traicionaría a mi país. UTEP y El Paso siempre serán mi segundo hogar. Cada vez que me voy, me siento triste porque echo de menos a la gente de esta ciudad".

Los estudiantes de la Universidad de Texas en El Paso entran y salen de los diferentes edificios de su universidad sin notar la inspiración o la conexión a un pequeño reino situado a más de 8,000 millas de El Paso.

Desde 1917, UTEP ofrece un entorno inspirado en la arquitectura de Bután atribuido a Steven Worrell, el primer decano de la escuela, y su esposa Kathleen. "Creo que la arquitectura de Bután del campus la hacen una de las universidades más bellas", dice la presidenta de UTEP Diana Natalicio.

Como un país en desarrollo, Bután actualmente cuenta con una sola universidad, la Universidad Real de Bután. Por consecuencia, no existen suficientes recursos para que el gobierno pueda educar a todos. Esto a su vez, ha incrementado la diversidad en UTEP. Como medida para traer el talento de vuelta a Bután, se les aplica a los estudiantes de último año de preparatoria un examen hecho por el gobierno. Este examen les permite estudiar en otro país, con la condición de volver a Bután una vez que terminen su educación universitaria. Pema Euden, estudiante de tercer año en la carrera de matemáticas, y Sonam Choki Lhamo, estudiante de tercer año en la carrera de física, viajaron alrededor de 30 horas de Bután para llegar a El Paso. "Los primeros meses que estuve aquí, tuve problemas para hablar con estudiantes y profesores. No tenía ni idea de cómo acercarme a ellos y tal vez porque no sabía cómo funcionan las cosas aquí", Pema dice.

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Desde marchas, campañas y revueltas, el feminismo se ha ganado su lugar en el reflektor. Esto podría deberse a un aumento de conciencia social que ha habido desde varios años atrás.

El feminismo es una de las manifestaciones históricas más significativas emprendidas por las mujeres en busca de equidad en derechos humanos. Esto cobró vida después de la independencia de los Estados Unidos en 1776 y la Revolución Francesa en 1789. La idea comenzó después de que los logros obtenidos por estas guerras no beneficiaran a las mujeres. A pesar de conformar la mitad de la población estadounidense, las mujeres aún no contaban con una voz en la sociedad.

Fue entonces que las mujeres se unieron y movilizaron hasta alcanzar el derecho a votar en las elecciones federales de 1920, cuando la enmienda 19 fue aprobada en Estados Unidos.

Pero no todo acabó ahí. Tras ese acontecimiento, las mujeres demandaron equidad social, la eliminación de discriminación civil para las mujeres casadas, el acceso a la educación y a un trabajo remunerado justamente.

**EL FEMINISMO EN EL PASO**

El Paso es considerada una ciudad distinta a las demás cuando se trata de problemas sociales, ya que es un lugar cuya población es mayormente bicultural. Según el censo hecho por el gobierno estadounidense en el 2016, sólo el 11 por ciento de la gente viviendo en El Paso forma parte de la raza anglosajona. Esto quiere decir que El Paso cuenta con una
amplia población proveniente de diferentes países.

Las costumbres y la rutina estadounidense no son usuales en esta ciudad fronteriza. El Paso consiste mayormente de culturas colectivas, es decir, las culturas en las que el bien como sociedad es más importante que el bien individual. Aunque también se pueden notar culturas individualistas, culturas en donde la sociedad se preocupa más por el bien individual.

Esto fue lo que llamó la atención de la doctora Deepanwita Dasgupta, profesora de filosofía en la Universidad de Texas en El Paso. Ella nació y fue criada en la India y al llegar a los Estados Unidos para estudiar una carrera universitaria, vio la diferencia entre el rol que juega la mujer en una sociedad fronteriza y en su país natal. “Todos somos feministas en el sentido que buscamos el derecho a la educación, a ser capaces de perseguir un trabajo o alguna meta por sí mismos”, Dasgupta dice.

Maissa Khatib, una mujer nacida y criada en Libano, cuenta su experiencia desde que decidió mudarse a El Paso. Tras ser hija de un padre refugiado, ella no pudo ser registrada como libanesa en su propio país, sino como refugiada. Al no tener nacionalidad, Khatib no pudo gozar de las mismas oportunidades que un ciudadano libanés. A pesar de sufrir una infancia sin muchas oportunidades debido a su estatus migratorio, Khatib explica cómo su familia vivía una situación única en su país. “La gente siempre se reía de mi papá por no ser ‘suficientemente hombre’, porque lavaba trastes, cocinaba y planchaba nuestros uniformes. Pero esto significaba que mi mamá y mi papá eran un equipo, y como equipo, se ayudaban mutuamente”, Khatib explica. “Fui criada en una familia feminista sin siquiera darme cuenta, y esas fueron las semillas que se quedaron sembradas en mí. Yo veía los roles de género completamente diferente a las personas de mi edad y de la sociedad donde vivía”.

Khatib actualmente reside en El Paso, lugar al que hoy llama hogar. Ahora es maestra y directora del programa árabe en UTEP, lugar donde estudió un doctorado en ciencias interdisciplinarias de la salud. Su rama de estudio gira alrededor de la aculturación, integración, inmigración y la salud de las mujeres. “En los espacios públicos, siento que El Paso aún está lidiando con mucho machismo. He visto cómo muchas veces los hombres creen que tienen más derechos que las mujeres por el simple hecho de ser hombres”, Khatib dice.

**Las mujeres en el campo laboral**

En Estados Unidos, las mujeres ganan 80 centavos a comparación del dólar que ganan los hombres en el campo laboral. Según la Organización Internacional del Trabajo, las mujeres, teniendo el mismo puesto con las mismas responsabilidades, ganan 22.9 por ciento menos que los hombres. La justificación de esto es que el hombre es el proveedor del hogar y debe de ganar más que una mujer.

Federica Kraft, ingeniera nacida y criada en Alemania, llegó a El Paso hace tres años para trabajar en una empresa alemana llamada Bosch. Al llegar a El Paso, Kraft notó una combinación peculiar entre la cultura de Estados Unidos...
y la hispana. “Las mujeres en El Paso parecen ser muy fuertes, dicen lo que sienten. Pero cuando hablo con algunos de mis colegas, los hombres siempre me dicen que saben que sus parejas dependen completamente de ellos”, Kraft dice. “Esto significa que muchas mujeres pueden llegar a aceptar muchas cosas en una relación por el simple hecho de sentirse que dependen de ellos”.

De acuerdo con Guillermina Núñez-Mchiri, directora del programa de estudios de género y la mujer en UTEP, un salario justo podría ayudar a las mujeres y familias a salir adelante y también podría crear un ciclo de progreso y avance socioeconómico.

Núñez-Mchiri, quien nació en Estados Unidos con ascendencia mexicana, fue criada en México y Estados Unidos al mismo tiempo. Al vivir cruzando de un país a otro, pudo ver contrastes culturales que le dieron su forma propia de ver al mundo y a las mujeres. Hoy en día, Núñez-Mchiri cuenta con un doctorado en antropología y da clases en UTEP. “En esta sociedad, el hogar que tiene papá, mamá y dos niños, ya son menos de una cuarta parte de todas las viviendas en Estados Unidos. Hay mamás que son las proveedoras principales de sus hijos pero si las expectativas son que ‘como tienes a alguien que te mantenga, por eso no te voy a pagar igual’, entonces estamos mal como sociedad”, Núñez-Mchiri dice.

Gerardo Sáenz, estudiante de medios digitales en UTEP, dice haber cambiado su opinión sobre la sociedad tras haber tomado una clase enfocada en estudios de la mujer. “La clase habla de la mujer en los años 30, sobre cómo era proyectada por los directores, y se nota mucho cómo usaban a la mujer como un medio para llegar a la audiencia y para someter a la mujer a estar en ciertos roles que la sociedad las obligaba a estar, (como) el cocinar, y el estar en la casa”, Gerardo explica.

Gerardo dice ver a El Paso con una actitud un poco más abierta al feminismo desde algunos años atrás. “He visto el movimiento feminista un poco más proyectado en El Paso en comparación con otros años pasados. Se nota que las mujeres están pidiendo más igualdad ante la injusticia. Pero sin duda hace falta despertar aún a más gente”, Gerardo dice. “El feminismo es algo que se necesita, es algo muy bueno. Sin embargo, como todo, necesita tener una medida. Hay una línea muy delgada entre los extremos, ya sea ser muy sumiso o radical, hace que el movimiento pierda sus objetivos”.

Khatib dice que para generar un cambio en la sociedad, las generaciones más jóvenes tienen que conocer este concepto y su significado. Con estos esfuerzos, ella dice El Paso podría ofrecer un espacio confortable a personas de otras culturas que han sufrido de discriminación. “Hay que empezar con la educación desde etapas tempranas. A través de actividades tanto curriculares como extracurriculares, en donde las mujeres y los hombres son tratados de la misma manera”, Khatib dice. “Tenemos que reforzar la equidad de género practicando este valor desde edades tempranas. Todo debería estar basado en el potencial y la capacidad de las personas, no en su género”.

“EN LOS ESPACIOS PÚBLICOS, SIENTO QUE EL PASO AUN ESTÁ LIDIANDO CON MUCHO MACHISMO”.

MAISSA KHATIB
Maestra y Directora del programa árabe en UTEP
through campaigns and peaceful marches, women have demanded gender equality, allowing the feminist movement to grow and expand throughout different parts of the world.

Deepanwita Dasgupta, professor of philosophy at the University of Texas at El Paso, was born and raised in India. She said that after arriving to the United States for her college education, she noticed the difference in roles between women living on the border and in her native country. “We are all feminists in the sense that we seek the right to education, the pursuing of a job and goals. To have the opportunity to travel, to express opinions, to write and not necessarily always have to abandon your goals and your dreams for something else that people demand,” Dasgupta says.

Maissa Khatib, a woman born and raised in Lebanon and the daughter of a refugee father, said she could not be registered as Lebanese citizen in her own country because she was considered a refugee as well. Despite suffering a childhood without equal opportunities, Khatib said her family lived a unique situation. “People always laughed at my dad because he was not ‘man enough,’ because he was washing dishes, cooking and ironing our uniforms. But this meant that my mom and dad were a team, and as a team, they helped each other,” Khatib says. “I was raised in a feminist family without even realizing it, and those were the seeds that were sown in me.”

Khatib, who is also the director of the Arabic program at UTEP, says El Paso is still far away from reaching gender equality. “In public spaces, I feel that El Paso is still dealing with a lot of machismo. I have seen how many times men believe they have more rights than women for the simple fact of being men,” Khatib says.

Interim director of the Women and Gender Studies Program at UTEP, Guillermina Núñez-Mchiri, says a fair wage could help women and families create a cycle of progress and socio-economic advancement. “In this society, the home that has a dad, a mom and two children, are already less than a quarter of all homes in the United States. There are moms who are the main providers of their children, but people who believe in stereotypes against women do not pay them what they deserve,” Núñez-Mchiri says.

Gerardo Sáenz, a digital media production major at UTEP, says he took a film class with feminist concepts, which changed his opinion. “Taking that class changed my point of view on how this society has treated women over the years,” Sáenz says. “The class explains how film directors used women as a means to enforce women into certain roles like cooking and being a housewife.”

Khatib says that with educational efforts, El Paso could offer an encouraging space to people from other cultures, who have been victims of discrimination. “We need to reinforce gender equity by practicing this value from an early age. Everything should be based on the potential and capacity of people, not their gender,” Khatib says.
I WANT TO GO SOMEWHERE... FAR FAR AWAY

Photo, Story and Design by Nina Titovets

MT. ARTHUR, NEW ZEALAND
Mother Nature is at her finest in New Zealand. Hiking through this natural park reminds you of how tiny you are in this world.

VENICE, ITALY
A mirage of colors and passages by canal, or bridge. There are views at almost every turn. Oh, did I mention pasta?!

ST. PETERSBURG, RUSSIA
Peterhof, an exquisite example of luxury and artistry. Restored to perfection, you can spend the whole day exploring your noble side.

HEIDELBERG, GERMANY
Truly a Grimm’s fairy tale brought to life! This city is filled with quaint architecture and lush greenery. A feeling of peace and dash of mystery.

CANCUN, MEXICO
A place where waters are so blue and clear, even the mermaids can’t resist a selfie.

AMSTERDAM, THE NETHERLANDS
The Bulldog coffeeshop, a staple of the city and a place where one can find a little more than coffee.

LONDON, ENGLAND
The London Eye is a thrilling experience, the perfect vantage point to see London and all its glory!
WHITSUNDAY, AUSTRALIA

Heaven on Earth?! A marbling of blue and white, these islands are home to a quartz beach and the Great Barrier Reef.

PAINTREE RAINFOREST, AUSTRALIA

Opulence is the perfect word to describe the Hall of Mirrors in Versailles, every inch is covered in wealth.

BARCELONA, SPAIN

This campervan was my home for almost a month while traveling the coast. It was the epitome of road tripping.

MOSCOW, RUSSIA

Saint Basil’s Cathedral on the Red Square is even more vibrant at night, truly one of a kind.

SYDNEY, AUSTRALIA

Gaudi never disappoints and the city is filled with his architectural genius. Park Guell is a fantasy brought to life, with panoramic views.

TRES PISCINAS, COSTA RICA

A building that needs no introduction. It is truly a sight, like a gleaming white shell washed ashore.

LUCERNE SWITZERLAND

Nature’s slip and slide! People lined up to take turns down the rocks, some of the most fun I’ve ever had.

Just a short drive out of the city you can find views such as this. A sea of green locked between earth and sky.
Do not dump waste, chemicals, paint, custodial waste, and general rubbish items (tires, old car parts, shopping carts, etc.) into storm drains, channels, or ditches. No tirar basura, aparatos electrodomésticos, muebles, llantas, y chatarra a canales y acequias del sistema de drenaje pluvial.

Keep material out of the stormwater conveyance system (curbs, gutters, sidewalks, streets, drains, culverts, and arroyos). Dispose of grass, leaves, yard waste, and construction debris properly. No tapar el flujo pluvial a canales, alcantarillas y arroyos con basura. Disponga correctamente de basura vegetal (césped, ramas, y hojas) así como basura de construcción.

leave natural vegetation in place where possible to prevent erosion. Si es posible, deje crecer a vegetación en forma natural para evitar la erosión.

Recycle oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids, or dispose of them properly to prevent the pollution of stormwater, groundwater and the rio grande. Recicle aceite, anti-congelate y lubricantes o disponga propiamente de ellos para prevenir contaminación de sistema de drenaje pluvial, mantos acuíferos y el rio Bravo.

Report illegal dumping in storm drains, culverts, or arroyos to UTEP EH&S. Reporte el veritdo illegal de residuosen los drenajes o arroyos al departamento EH&S en UTEP.

Properly dispose of hazardous wastes, pesticides, and fertilizers. Call UTEP EH&S to schedule waste pickups. Deseche correctamente los residuos peligrosos, pesticidas, y fertilizantes. Llama al departamento EH&S en UTEP y agendar fecha para recoger los desperdicios.

Storm drains are easily identified with “NO DUMPING” decals at stormwater inlets. Alcantarifado fe aguas pluviales es identificado con anuncios de "NO REVERTIR DESECHOS AQUI"
NEED A PASSPORT?

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Nota del editor: El Presidente Donald Trump firmó el jueves, 4 de mayo, una orden ejecutiva facilitando la no ejecución de las reglas que prohíben que las instituciones religiosas exentas de impuestos se involucren en la política.

Trump pidió al Servicio Interno de Ingresos (Internal Revenue Service) tomar una posición pasiva y “discreción en la prohibición” del reglamento para organizaciones sin fines de lucro que están exentas de impuestos. Una derogación de la Enmienda Johnson requiere la aprobación del Congreso.

Hablando de política en la casa de Dios

Denson, quien fue pastor en Nuevo México, entró a la universidad con el propósito de predicar su religión cristiana. Dice considerarse misionero ya que ha viajado y compartido su fe en varias partes del mundo como Jamaica, Londres, Phoenix y Houston.

“Vamos a todos los lugares a predicar. En los campus, centros de las ciudades, eventos deportivos. Creo que nuestro propósito es encontrar el lugar en donde se reúne la gente y predicar”, Denson dice. “No es una manera común de evangelizar, pero creemos en la iglesia. Si eres cristiano entonces consideras altamente el
amor por la iglesia en el sentido de involucrarte y dejarte formar por ella”.

Según Denson, es un desperdicio de tiempo hablar de política en un domingo de misa ya que los cristianos tienen “terrenos más grandes” que mirar. “Siento que como cristiano, este (mundo terrenal) no es mi hogar; somos exiliados aquí. Las cosas nunca serán perfectas”, Denson dice. “Nunca ha habido un sistema político perfecto o un candidato político perfecto. Siento que como cristianos, si eso es lo que buscas en cuanto a tu esperanza y tu alegría y paz, entonces eso no es cristianismo, no es cristianismo bíblico”.

En su experiencia como pastor en las elecciones pasadas, Denson dice haberse sentido decepcionado de ver a otros pastores desperdiciar su tiempo para hablar de política. “Como pastor, tienes que lidiar con diferentes ideologías políticas”, Denson dice. “No fue difícil para mí decir no a cualquiera de ellos o simplemente no hablar del tema. Al mismo tiempo, estaba muy consciente de personas en la congregación teniendo opiniones muy fuertes para un candidato en específico”.

TOMANDO DECISIONES BAJO LA INFLUENCIA RELIGIOSA

Según Ann Horak, profesora de estudios religiosos en UTEP, el grupo religioso más grande en Texas pertenece a la religión cristiana, la cual incluye el catolicismo, protestantismo, cristianos ortodoxos y cristianos sin denominación. De estos, los católicos romanos son el grupo cristiano con mayores seguidores tejanos. La segunda religión principal de Texas es el islam, con alrededor de 2 por ciento de tejanos identificados como musulmanes.

“Ciertamente, muchos tejanos siguen las opiniones políticas de sus denominaciones religiosas, aunque esto no es siempre el caso. Por ejemplo, muchos católicos se oponen al derecho a abortar y el matrimonio gay porque la iglesia católica se opone a ellos”, Horak dice. “Sin embargo, hay también muchos católicos que aman su religión, pero no están de acuerdo con todas sus enseñanzas y por lo tanto, no siguen a la iglesia en cuestiones como derechos de aborto o matrimonio gay”.

Denson dice que si es que se quiere practicar el cristianismo bíblico, los puntos de vista políticos de la persona deberán cambiar y se deberán tomar ciertas posiciones políticas de acuerdo con el cristianismo. “El aborto por ejemplo. Como cristianos, decimos que cada vida tiene valor, dignidad y eso va para los niños no nacidos. Creemos en la concepción desde el momento en el que el esperma y el óvulo se juntan”, Denson dice. “Otro ejemplo sería el matrimonio. Un cristiano va a tener que aceptar que Dios creó al hombre y a la mujer para que se unan como uno a través del matrimonio y que cualquier cosa fuera de eso está mal, esto en cuanto a relaciones sexuales y homosexualidad”.

Elizabeth Gallegos, estudiante de maestría en contabilidad en UTEP y quien se identifica como parte de religión católica, dice que no le gusta cuando los líderes religiosos le dicen explícitamente por quién votar. “Sé que especialmente en la iglesia católica hablamos de provida mucho, hablamos de inmigración, cosas como esas no me incomodan, pero cuando empiezan a apoyar a cierto candidato, ahí es cuando no me gusta”, Elizabeth dice.

La hermana de Elizabeth, Valerie Gallegos, estudiante de bioquímica en UTEP, opina que la gente de poder y quienes lideran organizaciones no deberían forzar su opinión en otras...
Deshacerse de la enmienda provocaría que organizaciones sin fines de lucro puedan producir dinero y hacer contribuciones a candidatos sin ninguna vigilancia de cómo fue recaudado ese dinero y a quién se le está donando”, Horak dice.

Rivera dice el problema es que si eres una organización sin fines de lucro y se quitan todas las limitaciones de la Enmienda Johnson, los recursos financieros podrían ser canalizados a candidatos políticos de parte de tu iglesia y después reclamar exención de impuestos o dar donaciones a caridad para después dárselas al partido político. “Es como un lavado de dinero, excepto que no estás lavando el dinero. En otras palabras, estás actuando como una organización con fines financieros.”

FINANZAS AFECTADAS SIN LA ENMIENDA JOHNSON

“Deshacerse de la enmienda provocaría que organizaciones sin fines de lucro puedan producir dinero y hacer contribuciones a candidatos sin ninguna vigilancia de cómo fue recaudado ese dinero y a quién se le está donando”, Horak dice.

Ann Horak
Profesora de estudios religiosos en UTEP
Thomas Jefferson once asked: Can the liberties of a nation be secured when we have removed a conviction that these liberties are the gift of God? President Donald Trump asked the same question at the National Prayer Breakfast on Feb. 2.

At this event, Trump announced his wishes to “get rid of and totally destroy” the Johnson Amendment due to constraints it places on the freedoms of religious leaders. According to the Internal Revenue Service, this amendment prohibits non-profit organizations that are exempt from taxes to “not participate in, or intervene in (including the publishing or distributing of statements), any political campaign on behalf of (or in opposition to) any candidate for public office.”

Professor of religious studies at The University of Texas at El Paso, Cesar Rivera, says the decision to repeal the Johnson Amendment does not threaten religious freedom if a religious leader is talking on his or her behalf and not for the organization.

Ryan Denson, missionary for the Christ in the Wild Ministries and a UTEP student who has preached on campus, says talking about a candidate during a Sunday service is a waste of time since you are not talking about religion. “There has never been a perfect political system or a perfect political candidate,” Denson says. “I feel that as Christians, if that’s what you’re looking for as your hope and your joy and peace, then that is not Christianity, that is not biblical Christianity.”

Valerie Gallegos, biochemistry major at UTEP, says talking about a candidate during a Sunday service is a waste of time since you are not talking about religion. “There has never been a perfect political system or a perfect political candidate,” Denson says. “I feel that as Christians, if that’s what you’re looking for as your hope and your joy and peace, then that is not Christianity, that is not biblical Christianity.”

According to Denson, it is obvious that money was collected and to make contributions to candidates without any awareness about how that money was collected and to whom it is being donated.

Horak says repealing the amendment will cause non-profit organizations to produce money and make contributions to candidates without any awareness about how that money was collected and to whom it is being donated.

Among the most extreme consequences of repealing the amendment, Rivera says, could be religious persecution, oppression and reducing religious minorities to a second-class status if they do not belong to the official religion of the country, which violates democratic principles.
International students from all over the globe have created a home at the University of Texas at El Paso, where 57 international student-athletes are enrolled. A huge part of UTEP revolves around sports.

UTEP’s most successful sport is basketball, bringing the school its one and only championship in any major sport. The head coach of the 1966 team, Don Haskins, made El Paso a must-talk subject as he was the first coach to ever use a starting team that consisted of all African-American players. The year of 1966 changed sports forever and UTEP started the revolution.

Today, UTEP basketball, both men’s and women’s, have a total of nine athletes from another country—four from the men’s side and five from the women’s unit.

One of UTEP’s top players is the 7-foot-1 center from Ontario, Canada, Matt Willms. He ended his junior season as the team’s top shot blocker and third-leading scorer.

However, the 235-pounder had already signed to play for Texas A&M in College Station, Texas, when he decided he wanted to come to the U.S., but as he explored El Paso and what it has to offer, Matt changed his mind about which college to attend. He says he knew he was making the right decision and has been under head coach Tim Floyd since 2012.

“In Canada, there are no sports scholarships. There’s no such things as full rides in Canada. Here everything is funded and people get the opportunity to play for free and go to school at the same time,” Matt says. “We get our traveling funded, we get cost of attendance on top of that, and we actually have a practice facility here. There is so much talent in Canada, but a lot of the athletes just stay there because U.S. schools don’t look at them as much.”

It was in 11th grade when Matt played his first year of organized basketball. He fell in love with the sport, but it never crossed his mind that putting a ball through a hoop could get him to where he is now—competing for a Division 1 school and graduating from college.

The transition from Canada to the El Paso lifestyle was an obstacle Matt dealt with when he first arrived, but he quickly got over that and wouldn’t hesitate to make the Sun City his home if he had to do it again.

“I adjusted fine to the way of life over here,” Matt says. “I miss
the bodies of water. I’m an early riser, so I would wake up early and just take a stroll along the lakes and all. Here, you can’t really find that. It’s what I miss the most from home.”

Like always, basketball got Matt through everything. With one year remaining at UTEP, Matt has a lot on his mind— from his goals and ambitions to what the future holds for him outside of sports.

“I probably plan on leaving after my last year, because I love to explore and see the world. But who knows, I could end up here later on in the road, hopefully coaching or something. I love El Paso, I love the surroundings here, I love the people. It’s been so special for me here,” Matt says. “When I came here for my very first visit, I knew UTEP was the place for me.”

Another of UTEP’s standout international stars is part of the duo that was ranked as high as No. 48 in the nation in tennis, Milou Pietersz. Milou moved to Spain when she was 11 years old from Arnhem, the Netherlands. Before attending UTEP, she took her talents to the Nicholls State in Thibodaux, Louisiana. When she transferred to UTEP, Milou was just beginning her junior year.

Since she has been moving all of her life, the transfer student says her transition from Louisiana to El Paso was not like her move from overseas to the U.S. “I was a bit overwhelmed before I moved here because it’s a big city and I didn’t know anything yet. Before I moved to the United States, I didn’t know of good schools to attend. Nicholls State is such a small school compared to UTEP, and there’s not much to do in that small city, so I really, really like El Paso,” Milou says. “I was super excited to see the rest of the world and see different surroundings.” In Spain and the Netherlands, there is no such thing as high school athletics—the schools recommend only one hour of physical education a day.

Moving out of her home country was a must for Milou. She says playing in a competitive division and earning her bachelor’s degree was just a distant dream if she had stayed in her home country. “In my home country, I could never play this much tennis and get my degree, too. It was a must for me to come here and play the sport I love. It was an opportunity that I had to take, no doubt,” Milou says.

As Milou enjoyed a great junior season, being ranked multiple
times in doubles with her partner Vivienne Kulicke, she expects larger results for her final season. Next year, as she graduates, Milou wants to be nationally ranked in both doubles and singles.

In golf, UTEP’s reigning Conference USA Golfer of the Year for the 2015-16 season, Frederik Dreier, says he feels as if he walks around campus as a celebrity. Frederik, who was born in Birkerød, Denmark, was only the school’s fourth-ever tennis player to receive the prestigious award of C-USA Player of the Year. “There are so many more opportunities, and the people in U.S. treat you like professionals over here. The coaches and everyone will do anything to help you succeed, and it’s cool that schools here allow people to live out their dreams here,” Frederik says. “I’m going to go pro after I graduate, and I wouldn’t mind living in El Paso either.”

Before making a name for himself on the collegiate level, Frederik was first introduced to golf by his grandparents at the age of 12 and he has been playing ever since. He heard about UTEP from a friend, Martin Simonsen, a former Miner golfer, who convinced him to email head coach Scott Lieberwirth. “I mainly came to America because in the Czech Republic they don’t have college sports there. The college in Europe is free, so I had to deal with missing out on something free, but I wanted to continue playing hockey more than anything. I didn’t want to stop after 18 years of playing,” Dominik says. “I was excited to try something new, but I was scared to move because it’s so far from home.”

The European hockey player, who arrived in El Paso in January of this year, has dealt with his biggest obstacle, time. Keeping in touch with his family back home has been difficult for him because of the eight-hour time difference. He says he needs to stay up late just to be able to talk to his loved ones. “The time change sucks. It’s hard, but I don’t get homesick as much because I’m really close to my teammates,” Dominik says.

After Dominik’s freshman season—and UTEP’s second year as a hockey club—he helped the Miners to win first place in their conference with a 31-3 record and got a chance to participate in the regionals, where their season came up short at the hands of Denver. “I want to graduate, and hopefully play in the pros someday. If that doesn’t happen, I will have my bachelor’s and will try and stay here in the U.S. for work opportunities and get some experience,” Dominik says.
Los estudiantes internacionales han creado un hogar en la Universidad de Texas en El Paso, donde actualmente hay 57 estudiantes atletas inscritos. Una gran parte de UTEP gira alrededor de los deportes.

El año de 1966 cambió a los deportes para siempre y UTEP comenzó esa revolución con el único campeonato que ha ganado en uno de los deportes más grandes de Estados Unidos. El coach del equipo de 1966, Don Haskins, hizo de El Paso una conversación obligatoria en cuanto a basquetbol colegial—fue el primero en usar un equipo conformado solamente por jugadores afroamericanos.

Uno de los mejores jugadores de UTEP viene de Ontario, Canadá. Matt Willms, quien juega la posición centro en el equipo de basquetbol de UTEP, terminó su tercera temporada como el mejor bloqueador de tiro del equipo y el tercer mejor anotador. “En Canadá, no hay becas deportivas. Aquí hay fondos para todo y la gente tiene la oportunidad de jugar gratis e ir a la escuela al mismo tiempo”, Matt dice. “Hay mucho talento en Canadá, pero muchos atletas se quedan ahí porque las escuelas estadounidenses no los ven demasiado”.

Matt planea irse después de su último año, pero no descarta la posibilidad de quedarse en El Paso porque ama los alrededores y la gente de esta ciudad.

Otra estrella internacional es Milou Pietersz, posicionada en el número 48 de la nación en tenis. Milou se mudó a España a los 11 años de Arhem, Países Bajos. En ambos países, no existen los deportes en preparatoria. “En mi país, no podría jugar tanto tenis y obtener mi título también. Era un deber venir aquí y jugar el deporte que amo”, Milou dice.

Para el siguiente año, Milou quiere clasificarse en posiciones altas a nivel nacional en competencias dobles e individuales.

Frederik Dreier, golfista de la Conferencia USA en la temporada 2015-16 de UTEP, dice sentirse como una celebridad cuando camina por el campus. Nacido en Birkerød, Dinamarca, fue el cuarto golfista de UTEP en recibir el prestigioso premio de jugador del año. “Los entrenadores y todos harán lo que sea para ayudarte a tener éxito, y está genial que escuelas aquí permitan que la gente viva sus sueños aquí”, Frederik dice.

Dominik Taras, estudiante de primer año, nacido en la República Checa, sacrificó su educación gratuita en Europa por continuar en el deporte que ama, hockey. “Vine a América principalmente porque en la República Checa no hay deportes colegiales. La educación es gratis, así que tuve que lidiar con perderme de algo gratis, pero quería seguir jugando hockey más que nada”.

Después de la primera temporada de Dominik—y el segundo año de UTEP como club de hockey—él ayudó a los Mineros a ganar el primer lugar en la conferencia, con un récord de 31-3 y pudo participar en competencias regionales.
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