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The Prospector, April 24, 2018

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ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

THE PROSPECTOR

WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

VOL. 103, NO. 28

THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO

APRIL 24, 2018

ARTS AND ENTERTAINMENT ISSUE

CREATING

a space for creatives



DESIGN BY ALEJANDRA GONZÁLEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

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APRIL 24, 2018

OPINION

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

MICHAELA ROMÁN, 747-7446

Balancing art and truth

BY GABY VELASQUEZ
The Prospector



For the longest time I have felt stuck between my passion for photojournalism and my passion for art. I never thought I was a good writer, or liked to write at all, but I really liked to capture life and showcase everyday people and their emotions to accompany news and journalism-written stories.

Originally I was in the UT CAP program, where I planned to only stay at UTEP for my first two semesters then transfer to UT Austin.

The day I was registering for classes for my first semester, I didn't know what to tell my advisor about what my major was going to be. There were two students in front of me and I was texting my high school yearbook teacher and my Nino Chuy, asking them to help me choose.

Of course, they both told me to follow my heart.

After deciding to stay at UTEP, I changed my major from multimedia journalism to graphic design. I'm not entirely sure why I made the switch, but I just knew I wanted to still be a photographer somehow.

Luckily, I was able to continue practicing photojournalism at The Prospector after being brought on as a staff photographer, while still working on my art and graphic design class projects.

Last semester, when professor Melissa Warack went over photojournalism in my 20th-century art history class, it made me feel like it wasn't crazy for me to be working as a photographer at The Prospector as an art major.

I feel that being stuck in the middle works when I'm shooting because my creativity flows well. I can get shots from different angles that other photographers might not think to get since I have studied perspectives primarily used in art.

However, last semester during my printmaking midterm critique, my classmates made me really think about what I want to do with my artwork. I told them I wanted to keep my artwork separate from my photos and my job. I didn't think they understood what kind of photos I take. They don't know that it's photojournalism. I'm thinking it really confused them, which ended up confusing me a lot too on what I want my pieces to say.

Although in my classes I'm free to manipulate photos, whether it's through means of Photoshop, illustrating or even layering prints on my photos. When I'm taking photos for the newspaper, there are limitations

and ethics I have to follow, both while taking the photos and editing them.

My best friend encouraged me to combine the two by using the photos I would take at protests and other politically driven events and use them as references for my prints in my print-making classes.

He would say I would be a great "political artist." But I did not want to change the meaning of the photos I was taking and turn them into political statements. I didn't want to use my photos to come across as an activist.

Yes, I do care about border issues and social movements, however I kept thinking more about the purpose of a photojournalist's job. Although I'm not a journalism major, I always follow journalism ethics. Just like when I'm covering sports and concerts, I can't act like a fan. The same goes for news events.

But then for the second half of the semester I told myself, "okay fine, if they want me to use my photos, then I will."

That's when I recognized photography is also one of my strengths as an artist. My art professor Kim Bauer confirmed this when he told me the way I think the best is through the viewfinder.

I now understand that it's not so much about the artist that I want to be, but the kind of artist that this community possibly needs me to be. What I am doing is telling the El Paso community's story in a visual way. Because sadly, not everyone reads, not only our newspaper, but also they don't read at all.

These are issues everyone should know, and if I make it interesting enough to catch their eye, there is a better chance viewers will try to be more involved in what is going on, not only in El Paso, but the country.

Although I believe that my work is now stronger because of that, I think I am still having trouble finding my middle ground. I am still leaning more toward staying ethical in a journalism sense and trying to avoid photo manipulation. This sometimes affects my art though because I forget how it is to be a free artist.

I'm not sure what I will end up doing for a career come graduation, but I still have a year and a half to continue practicing both and see where I end up. The good thing is, I know I'm capable of both and I'm not confined by one way of thinking.

Follow Gaby Velasquez on Twitter @Ga_velasquez7

The Prospector stands with other University student-run newspapers in joining the call to #SaveStudentNewspapers

We understand it's no secret that student publications across the nation are in jeopardy now more than ever. The implementation of digital media throughout the globe has made picking up a newspaper seem less important, being that news can now be found at everyone's fingertips.

The Prospector stands with The Independent Florida Alligator, who started the #SaveStudentNewsrooms movement, and other student-run publications across the nation who are calling for a statement that puts into perspective how important media outlets are at the college level without sacrificing editorial integrity.

Publications nationwide have been taking crucial hits toward budget cuts and some have even seen their publication lose funding entirely. Some were asked to cut a print version of their papers, while others have been closed down completely.

This has even struck us at The Prospector, a 100-plus-year-old publication, as we have recently faced printing cuts. We will not be publishing the print newspaper in the summer and content will solely run on our website, TheProspectorDaily.com. We plan on continuing to print in the fall and spring semesters.

For over a century, The Prospector has been dedicated to offering students a voice on campus through valid information, which plays a vital role in our rights in this country. We have also been semi-self-sufficient, relying on advertising sales and the university budget for printing costs, student compensation and other costs.

As long as there are students enrolled at UTEP, Student Media and Publications will dedicate itself to continuing its publishing and continue to deliver news at the highest quality possible.

The Prospector Editors

With a heavy push for STEM studies, don't forget the arts

BY JAKE DEVEN

The Prospector

Imagine a world without artists—a world without literature, philosophy, history, music and linguistics. It's a gray, gloomy world, and one that is becoming more of a reality every year. In an era fixated with science, technology and data, the humanities are in a decline.



Fewer students are studying liberal arts than they did a few decades ago. A recent study by the American Academy of Arts & Sciences, through its Humanities Indicators project, found that the number of bachelor's degrees in the humanities that were earned in 2015, the last year for which there is data, was down nearly 10 percent from three years earlier.

The value of a liberal arts education has been debated over the course of this digital renaissance we find ourselves in. Some question an education that doesn't explicitly provide training in hard job skills—such as a liberal arts degree—while others push back, noting that employers increasingly are seeking soft skills or the problem-solving and critical-thinking abilities that these majors bring to their jobs.

When we are surrounded by such rapid advances in science and technology, the study of fields like literature, art history

and philosophy, can seem to some a waste of our collective time and talent. It is common to hear today, in the era of big data and STEM—science, technology, engineering and mathematics—that liberal arts degrees are relatively worthless.

What is someone with a degree in English literature going to do with it besides teach?

It's understandable that art degrees don't always provide an obvious trajectory from major to career, but there are still plenty of reasons why students should major in a liberal arts subject. Studying liberal arts is vital for the ways in which it teaches us how to be human. Art and design classes train students to find creative solutions to contemporary problems through visual awareness, problem solving and cultural understanding. History and philosophy classes teach us about our ancestors in hopes that we don't repeat their mistakes and provide a framework of how the world and those who inhabit it live.

Criticism aimed at the humanities has only grown over the years, with some colleges across the country and even the current administration in Washington pondering the eradication of liberal arts degrees. Part of the problem is our culture. Aided by technology and dominated by data, we've come to value speed and instant answers over leisurely thought and complex questions. The instant gratification of Google has made us lazy, despite

having the largest library humanity has ever known in the palm of our hands.

Liberal arts have always been full of marketable skills: communication, critical thinking and writing skills—they've just been terrible at marketing these assets, not only to employers, but to the very students acquiring them.

At first, I did not consider writing as an option when I first enrolled at UTEP, but I fell in love with my first college-level English and writing classes. It changed my life. That is what happens at college: you find a life-long passion, if it is offered.

The liberal arts emphasize essays over exams, discussion over lecture, creativity over memorization—all principles that have shaped the way I learn, communicate and do business. Liberal arts degrees not only offer knowledge, but cultivate habits of the mind that allow graduates to mature into successful, productive members of society, who can appreciate others, experience and embrace the notion of empathy and seek lifelong learning.

Having a liberal arts degree isn't the hottest ticket in our tech-heavy world, but being amazing at what you do is. We don't need to fit a narrative. We're quite fine making progress, building things, having ideas, being real people with real achievements and ambitions and not cardboard cutouts.

Follow Jake Deven on Twitter @jakedeven

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Football WR Warren Redix

5 hours ago

Sports

Join The Prospector Sports Weekly Podcast as they sit down with UTEP football wide receiver Warren Redix to talk about his journey to the scene as a hometown football player and the music career he is pursuing.

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Old money in El Paso is now being reinvested in the arts



MICHAELA ROMÁN / THE PROSPECTOR

(Left) Don Shapiro and Valentin Sandoval stand in front of a Los Visionaries mural at Power at the Pass. The two have partnered to start Power at the Pass, a center for artists to cultivate ideas and work on multimedia projects.

BY MICHAELA ROMÁN

The Prospector

A book, a documentary and a newly revamped building on Texas Avenue in central El Paso are all the works of an entrepreneur, Don Shapiro, and filmmaker/author, Valentin Sandoval. Around a year ago, the two came together to start Power at the Pass at 1931 Myrtle Ave.

In 1950, Shapiro graduated from New York University with an accounting degree. A Bronx native, Shapiro went to school on the GI Bill after serving in the Navy during World War II.

"After that I wanted to travel, and as luck would have it, a friend of mine and myself were offered an automobile to deliver from New York to Fort Worth," Shapiro said. "That was my first taste of Texas. I was there a month and had a job unloading freight cars and earned enough money to buy a car with my friend. We headed west and wound up here."

Shapiro started Acton West, a store that specializes in jeans in 1970. This was around the same time that the North American Free Trade Agreement started to create jobs across the border. The company started as a \$9,000 investment in a small 4,000-square-foot building with 25 employees which grew into four plants that employed 1,700, while supporting an additional 1,000 through contracted plants.

Shapiro became a multimillionaire and sold the company in 2004 when the government put an embargo on all imports and they could no longer cross any goods.

Now 90 years old, he has been in El Paso for 63 years and invests his money in real estate. He owns seven of the buildings on Texas Avenue between Piedras and Cotton streets.

One of those buildings was built in 1945 by General Motors to construct Jeeps for World War II. In the '70s it became part of Action West, which Shapiro has owned since.

Now, the building has been transformed into a creation center for visual artists, filmmakers, podcasters and creators of any and all mediums.

"It's an idea generation hub where you cultivate," Sandoval said. "It's really geared toward multimedia content creation."

Shapiro and Sandoval want Power at the Pass to become a space where UTEP students and other young creators in El Paso can come in and create content for businesses like Adobe and for publications like the Huffington Post, Vice and BuzzFeed.

"You leverage the geopolitical position of Juárez and El Paso, with NAFTA and with this administration. The new maquiladores will be coders, they will be millennials shooting minute-and-a-half webisodes," Sandoval said.

About a year ago, Shapiro met Sandoval and together they formed a partnership. Shapiro had been working on a book about his life and journey and needed someone to help him write it.

Sandoval's first book "South Sun Rises" was released in 2014 and tells the story of his upbringing. The book was about his mother, who raised four kids as a single parent and became a citizen. The book received the Southwest Book Award from the Border Regional Library Association.

Shapiro and Sandoval were able to connect through their upbringing. Having strong mothers was a common theme in their discussions. With that, the two saw their connection as a chance to finish Shapiro's book.

"It's crazy that my first two books are so intent on motherhood. The difference is that one single mother on her own from Juárez, and Don's was from the Bronx, were great healthy ideal parental figures and that's why Don and George, his younger brother, are so successful," Sandoval said.

Don's brother George Shapiro is an award-winning producer in Hollywood with a net worth of \$50 million. He is best known for producing "Seinfeld."

Sandoval was interested in Shapiro's story so the two decided to continue the book and rename it "Power at the Pass."

“(El Paso) is no longer Paso Del Norte, which was the passage, it’s not a passageway, it’s a power and energy city. It’s only the beginning,” Shapiro explained.

The two also decided to start a film production company, Coronado Film Productions, to produce a documentary that is also based on the book and explores what they describe as the other major players in El Paso. The project showcases the story of Cecilia Levine, Emma Schwartz, UTEP President Diana Natalico, Jim Scherr, Jaime Bermúdez, Lyubov and Aleksander Titovets and other El Pasoans who they say have put El Paso on the map.

Before writing books, Sandoval started a degree in print and electronic media in 1997 at UTEP, but never finished his degree. However, he won four film awards while in school and went on to work on movies in Albuquerque, New

Mexico and different parts of the Southwest as well as editing for Magnolia Pictures.

Sandoval is looking to find interns that will help him edit and work on all of the footage for the "Power at the Pass" documentary. He also wants to have interns and other young artists come in and work on projects.

Richie Marrufo, a production partner at Power at the Pass, fulfills a variety of roles at the building. For 10 years Marrufo has hosted the Barbed Wire Open Mic Series, El Paso's longest running open mic.

To celebrate the 10th anniversary, Marrufo started a podcast, BWOMS, where he interviews writers, poets, musicians, singer-songwriters, educators and entrepreneurs.

"It highlights some of the unique culture influencers in the city as well as people who pass through," Marrufo said.



MICHAELA ROMÁN/ THE PROSPECTOR

El Paso entrepreneur Don Shapiro holds a copy of an El Paso Herald Post article published in the 1990's that talks about the success of his jeans company, Action West.

Constructing mirages in the desert through photography



(Left) Volunteers from the El Paso and Las Cruces region hold Mylar mirror panels at Ardivino's Desert Crossing on Saturday, April 31. (Right) Artist Steven Randall instructs the volunteers on where to stand to create the mirage.

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BY CHRISTIAN VASQUEZ

The Prospector

Next to an active train track, and a few hundred feet from the U.S./ Mexico border in Sunland Park, New Mexico, over 100 volunteers of all ages came together in the desert. “The idea with this was basically how to make a mirage,” said Steven Randall, a interdisciplinary artist and lecturer at UTEP’s art department, where he teaches 3-D design.

“There is something really strange and beautiful about having a group of strangers come together for a really intimate shared moment for 15 to 20 minutes.” To create the man-made mirage, Randall had 75 volunteers on a hill holding up large Mylar mirrors so only their feet showed. “Our intent is to explore the seemingly immaterial with the hope to uncover hidden patterns

and give our shape findings,” Randall wrote in the artist statement.


“I think everyone wants to be a part of something special, even if it’s half a second.

—Robert Ardivino, Co-owner of Ardivino’s Desert Crossing



For many, the collaborative effort was not about the end result, but the idea of art bringing people together. “What interests me is a large array of people, who are different ages, cultures, just like this single thing bringing them all together and just having them unite for a single piece of art,” said Andrew Briseno, a sophomore majoring in graphic design. Randall said that he did not want to limit the work to institutions, but wanted to create an event where anyone could come and participate. “It’s also something I think anybody can relate to. It’s not really a deep idea, you know imitating this mirage. It’s kind of a simple thing that accessible to everybody,” Randall said. Randall got the idea during his daily commute from NMSU and UTEP. Coming from New York, he said that when driving across the desert landscape he immediately noticed all the mirages. “So I started thinking about my relationship to my car totally different and my windshield became my relationship to reality,” Randall said. “It was like the screen in which things were passing by me. I

started thinking like mirages, like glitches, like a dropped pixel within my screen, so this is part of a larger body of work dealing with mirages.” He currently has an exhibit at the Rubin Center and is working with the Nanotech Institute in UT Dallas to explore the idea of a collaborative man-made mirage. Robert Ardivino, co-owner of Ardivino’s Desert Crossing and a photographer, gave Randall permission to use the restaurant’s property as a venue. “I really think it was a lot less about the photography and a lot more about the people holding those signs and the fact that they were willing to come out and hold Mylar without a face and just be a part of the art piece,” Ardivino said. “I think that’s so awesome.” Randall brought 75 panels, but quickly ran out as the crowd was much larger than expected, so the remaining volunteers stood behind the Mylar panels. “I liked the amount of people who showed up, I thought there were going to be just a few for this community, but seeing all these people gathering around, and the fact that we ran out of panels and we had to improvise ways we could use the people in the photos,” said Briseno. Briseno said he wants to see more collaborative works like this one. Ardivino thinks that El Paso is starting to see a growth of skilled artists. “I think everyone wants to be a part of something special, even if it’s half a second,” Ardivino said. “I think people that come and help and be a part of something like this are more conscious people, and I like that.” For more information and to check out the completed work and Randall’s other works, visit svrandall.com.

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El Pasoans march for the planet on Earth Day



1. Marchers walk down Oregon Street from UTEP's Centennial Plaza to San Jacinto Plaza downtown on Sunday, April 22 as they take part in the March for Planet Earth. 2. Andrew Torres (right), a junior anthropology major, were organizers of the event. He is the sustainability representative for the Student Government Association. 3. Attendees of the march hold signs at Centennial Plaza in support of saving the Earth. 4. Marissa Rojero, a junior physics major and member of the Frontera Water Protection Alliance, spoke at Centennial Plaza before the march. 5. Rene Romo and his mom, Olga Romo, hold signs during the march as they walk down University Avenue.

SERGIO MUÑOZ / THE PROSPECTOR

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

What upcoming album are you looking forward to?



ANDREW DIAZ
Sophomore engineering major
“I’m looking forward to J. Cole’s album, because he’s awesome. All of his stuff has been really good, his last album was okay, it was pretty decent.”



CARLA CORNELIO
Junior rehabilitation sciences major
“The Arctic Monkeys are coming out with a new album and I am fan of them because they are awesome.”



JOSELYN PEREZ
Sophomore criminal justice major
“I’m excited for J. Cole’s album. His rap isn’t like everybody else’s, he talks more about life, not about money and drugs, it’s really good, and his beats.”



ISSAC MUÑOZ
Freshman civil engineering major
“I was really looking forward for the new album called ‘Vacation In Hell’ by Flatbush Zombies, it is like rap.”



HECTOR ACEVEDO
Sophomore English major
“I’m not waiting for a specific album, but I’m waiting for the Zoé and Mon Laferte concert that will be here in El Paso.”



What upcoming movie are you looking forward to?



JOSELYN GALLEGOS
Junior interdisciplinary studies major
“‘Infinity War.’ That is coming out next week, because me and my family we always go to watch it. It’s like a family thing.”



JOSE LUCERO
Freshman undeclared major
“I’m very excited about, ‘Infinity War,’ ‘Jurassic World,’ and ‘Hereditary,’ by studio called A24. It’s a horror movie and I am so excited.”



ERIC OROZCO
Sophomore biology major
“‘The Incredibles 2,’ because I saw it as a kid and now I am going to watch it while I’m older. I am planning to go with friends.”



JASMINE URBINA
Junior nursing major
“Honestly, I don’t watch many movies. I don’t have time to watch movies.”



JUSTINE VALLES
Junior criminal justice major
“I’m looking forward to ‘Infinity War.’ I love superheroes movies, and then it’s just a big like crossover of all of them within the same universe.”

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Five UTEP students earn scholarships through advocacy for equality

BY JAKE DEVEN
The Prospector

The focus of this year's Tacotote Tacolture Scholarship.

The annual scholarship, which helps students in the El Paso-Juárez region grow academically and professionally, was awarded to five UTEP students who personify Tacotote's principles of giving back to the community, leadership, success and creativity.

"I'm grateful that a local business, such as Tacotote, takes the social responsibility of helping their community, which is something that all businesses should follow as an example," said Sandra Navarrete, a sophomore accounting and finance major and one of five students to receive the scholarship.

Navarrete lives in Cd. Juárez and crosses the border every day to come to school. Like many UTEP students in the same position, this takes a toll on finances, especially when they are constantly converting from the Mexican peso to the U.S. dollar.

"As an international student, I am very dependent on the exchange rate between the U.S. dollar and the Mexican peso, so any help I can get is very useful," Navarrete said.

Navarrete applied for the scholarship after learning that the central theme of the award was based on equality, a subject in which she hopes to educate her community about. The Texas poverty rate is at a 10 year low, with 15.6 percent of Texans in poverty, compared to 12.7 percent nationwide.

She wants to educate the population and help others gain the knowledge and financial literacy to break out of the vicious cycle of poverty. Her plans include educating those that are most vulnerable in society, which she says are women and minorities.

The nearly 2,000-word essay that Navarrete wrote focused on giving back to her community through financial literacy.

"The only way to close (financial) disparities and to provide equal opportunities for everyone is through financial literacy," Navarrete said.

Upon graduation, she hopes to become a certified public accountant (CPA) and an actuary, which is a field that is heavily dominated



GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR
President Diana Natalicio congratulates the recipients of this year's Tacolture scholarships.

see TACOLTURE on page 8

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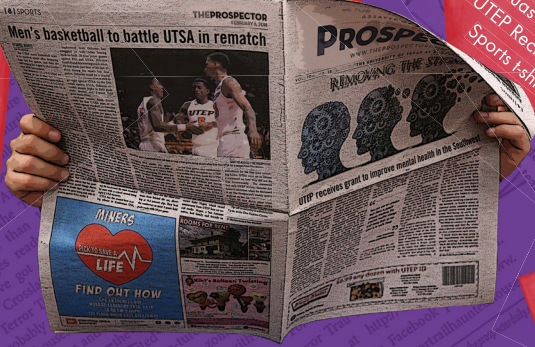
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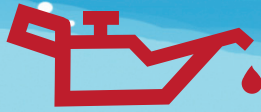
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TACULTURE from page 7

by men. Navarette says she is inspired heavily by Sheryl Sandberg, the chief operating officer of Facebook, and even wrote about her in her essay. Sandberg’s book, “Lean In: Women, Work, and the Will to Lead,” concentrates on empowering women in the workforce and her journey climbing the corporate ladder in a male-dominated industry. “It really inspired me to see how she’s able to succeed in her field,

and her ideology on how women can empower each other really stuck with me,” Navarrete said. She’s now joining as many organizations as she can and gives talks to educate others about financial literacy. One thing she wants her community to recognize is, “financial literacy is not complicated or intimidating, and it’s one of the only ways we, as a society, can be equal.” For now, Navarrete says she’s joining as many organizations as

she can and gives talks to educate others about financial literacy. One thing she wants her community to recognize is, “financial literacy is not complicated or intimidating, and it’s one of the only ways we, as a society, can be equal.” Other winners include Hugo Retana, Joy Alejandra Contreras, Paloma Vianey Martinez and Desia Schier.

Follow Jake Deven on Twitter @jakedeven

UPCOMING EVENTS
KNOW YOUR VOICE: PROTECTIVE ORDERS

As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the University Police Department is hosting Know your Voice: Protective Orders from 11 a.m. - noon on Wednesday, April 25 at Union East, Andesite Room 102B. Speakers at this event will talk about how to stay protected from family violence, sexual assault and stalking.

DENIM DAY: ADVOCACY FAIR AND FASHION SHOW

UTEP will host Denim Day: Advocacy Fair and Fashion Show from 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. on Wednesday, April 25, at the Union Plaza. The event encourages people to wear denim jeans to raise awareness of sexual assault. The event is inspired by the Italian Supreme Court that overturned the conviction of an alleged rapist because the victim was wearing tight jeans.

TAKE BACK THE NIGHT 2018

The Office of Student Conduct and Conflict Resolution, among other UTEP organizations will host Take Back the Night, an event that hopes to end sexual relationship and domestic violence. The event is from 7-9 p.m. on Thursday, April 26 at the Union Cinema, located on the first floor of Union East.

‘SAGA OF A LEGENDARY CITY: CIUDAD JUÁREZ’

UTEP’s Center for Inter-American and Border Studies is hosting a book presentation by Oscar J. Martinez, a professor of history at the University of Arizona, from 3-4:30 p.m. on Monday, April 30, at the Blumberg Auditorium at the UTEP Library. The book will touch on topics like the reasons that led to the violence that made Juárez the most violent city of the world.



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ENTERTAINMENT

EDITOR
CLAUDIA FLORES , 747-7446

thChrch welcomes El Paso artists with a creative space



on-one to teach you things like bud- geting, how to market your work, or how to just work on big projects more effectively,” Fernandez said. “There are certain skills that go into that, so that’s really what we try to focus on. It’s not just the artistic creative stuff, but the structure and business behind it.”

“Our doors are open, and we will literally sit with you one-on-one, for as long as it takes to help you start making steps to improving your craft or your business...”

- Gabe Fernandez
Founding partner of
thChrch

thChrch hosted a Beto O'Rourke fundraiser on Wednesday, April 18. The space will serve as a space for artists and other future events.

BY ELENIE GONZALEZ
The Prospector

Just under the U.S. 54 overpass, adorned with Chicano-inspired murals and at the edge of Lincoln Park in central El Paso, lies the thChrch, a collaborative creative work/study space for artists and entrepreneurs to develop ideas with the help of the community.

Their mission is to bring local communities to life through the culture of music, film and art. “Community is our religion,” it states on their website.

The 5,000-square-foot building, which once was a tire storage warehouse, opened its doors in September 2017 and has become a hub for local creatives to use as a communal space to work on projects, house events and seek help through the direction of its operating partners Frank Luna and Gabe Fernandez.

“The underlying goal is trying to educate artists who are bad at business, bad at money management, along with building business relationships and building the long-term career,” Luna said. “That’s the main thing we do here, we try and educate artists.”

Luna, who is the founder and creative director for thChrch, founded the first space when he was living in San Diego in 2014. He saw the success he had there and wanted to bring his ideas back home to El Paso knowing there was a need for it.

Once he found the perfect space in the Lincoln Park neighborhood, thChrch took off and word quickly spread amongst the arts community.

As fate would have it, the neighborhood mirrors the Barrio Logan neigh-

borhood in San Diego, which cuts right through Chicano Park. When you see pictures of Chicano Park, there is an obvious influence on Lincoln Park.

“I came back to El Paso because I love El Paso, I see how much can be done here,” Luna said. “So that’s our goal, to elevate any artist, any collective, any entrepreneurs to get as much content in and out of El Paso showcasing us. The big thing that I learned in San Diego and coming here too is just to listen to the community and so we can build together.”

He says that Barrio Logan is now a flourishing little arts district that a majority of the neighborhood operates

and they own their own businesses and galleries, which he hopes to see happen in El Paso.

Luna works together with Gabe Fernandez to assure they can provide the best support for those who walk into thChrch doors.

Fernandez, a graduate student in educational administration at UTEP, who is the producer and education director at thChrch, created a curriculum about how to assist anyone who comes in for advice. He has a passion for education, and says that one of the things he enjoys doing most is sitting down with creatives, consulting with them and helping map out a plan.



GABY VELASQUEZ- / THE PROSPECTOR

thChurch is a space created by Frank Luna to help the local artists to learn bout new ways to improve their art and business

GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

The big goal of theChrch is to help artists understand that in order to make the long-term goal work, artists have to start thinking like entrepreneurs.

“It doesn’t matter who you are, if you’re a small business or a creative or a musician, we’ve created a curriculum and we’ll actually work with you one-

UTEP senior and theater performance major Stephanie Carrillo is just one of the creatives who has been involved with thChrch from the beginning.

“The greatest thing that they stand for, which for me I feel personally as an actor and a director, is they try to get artists paid for doing what they love to see CHRCH on page 10

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CHrch from page 9 do,” Carrillo said. She proposed an idea to Fernandez and with his help, she is in the process of building a theater company and already has some shows that are lined up. As a UTEP student, she is working closely with professors in the department to showcase plays that have already been established by other student actors and designers. “Every semester, there is a director that is picked out of the senior students,

to direct a show. They cast their show, direct their show, only for that one day for a grade, and essentially no one gets to see it,” Carrillo said. “I thought, well what if we take those shows that are already built and we bring them here once their done and we put them up so that they can get paid.” Carrillo understands the importance of making sure artists get paid for their craft so that they don’t feel the need to leave El Paso and instead keep their talent local. She emphasizes that it’s truly

about the community effort and giving back so others can grow and she is thankful for how thChrch has helped her evolve. “That’s what we want to do, we want to create, for us, not just for the artists but as a platform for the artists to create for the creatives. That’s what they’ve helped me do,” she said. Property owner Jonathan Hernandez was approached by Luna to help make this project happen. He showed Luna the space and after a series of conversa-

tions, they decided to get the project off the ground. “We kind of did it very bare bones at the beginning and then we started investing in the space, in central El Paso, in an old warehouse that can bring life to the community,” Hernandez said. “I believe thChrch managed to start out very organically and I think it was only possible through a collective group of people reaching for something, to create some intimacy and make it comfortable, like a place where somebody in a suit

and somebody in jeans can interact in the same space, different demographics, different people coming together.” Michael Cortez, a 2012 UTEP graduate who majored in graphic design and printmaking, has been able to use the space to showcase his own artwork during a recent event. “To me, thChrch is a place to spark innovation in the creative side of things. There’s a lot of people trying to make innovations in business, in technology, and these guys are the influencers for creatives, for musicians, artists, you name it. They’re trying to get that spark of culture to kind of lead the way through the rest of El Paso,” she said. Aspiring entrepreneur and artist Alexander Lopez often steps into the thChrch and says they have helped him not only to become more creative, but to learn how to channel his ideas. “One thing is to create the art, but nobody really knows what you do after and that’s where thChrch comes in and they help you promote it,” Lopez said. “They even help you price it, they help you not only be creative but also get into the business mindset.” thChrch is located on 3900 Rosa Ave. and doors are open to the public every Saturday from 2 p.m. – 7 p.m. Although it is still in the building process, Fernandez encourages anyone seeking advice to visit. “Our doors are open, and we will literally sit with you one-on-one, for as long as it takes to help you start making steps to improving your craft or your business,” Fernandez said. “You’re not alone. There’s a community here to build with always. It doesn’t matter what you do or what your genre or skill level or even your age, we’re here to help.”

Follow Elenie Gonzalez on Twitter @eleniegonz

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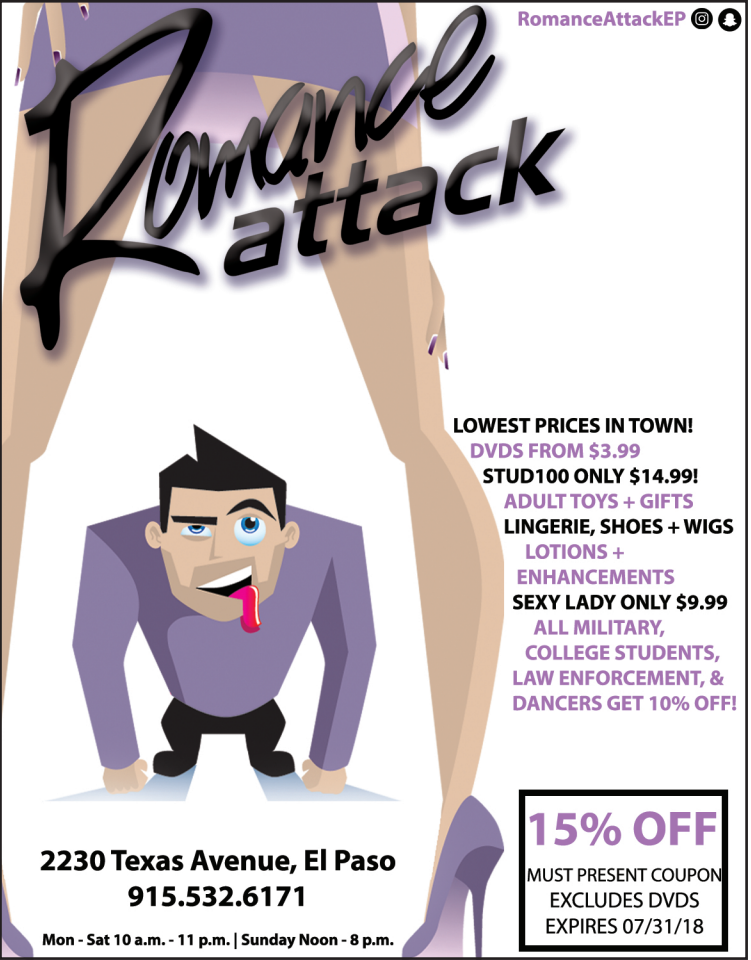


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Betsabeé Romero prepares for ‘Tu huella es el camino’ mixed-media exhibit



Betsabee Romero looks at the art work of students at the Rubin Center for the upcoming annual Juried Student Art Exhibition.

GUSTAVO RAMIREZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

BY AYLIN TAFOYA
The Prospector

The world of art is often subjective, leaving an art piece to do the talking and giving the audience free reign over what to think about it. However, Betsabee Romero’s art is meant to convey a certain message.

On Friday, April 20, Romero was a juror for the upcoming student art exhibit at the Rubin Center, while doing a site visit for her upcoming exhibit in the fall. In October she will be presenting her “Tu huella es el camino” (Your footprint is the way) mixed-media exhibit.

“I’m really enthusiastic and excited to have the opportunity to be face to face with the work of young students here, and I don’t know what to expect, but I know it will be a wonderful experience,” Romero said.

Romero has mainly lived and worked in Mexico City, and for more than 15 years, she has opened up a critical discourse of issues, such as immigration and daily rites of passage, global consumption and recycling and community outreach in the art world.

The Mexican artist is known for her mixed-media installations that specifically highlight the Mexican and Mexican-American life, including the migrant experience, religiosity and gender roles within those cultures.

“What we can take from this is what she’s mentioned about having Mexican and Mexican-American artists

exhibiting in Mexico and vise-versa, and how even though we identify in many ways, we still have that division of some being Mexican, some being American, even though we’re the same” said Antonio Castro, an associate professor of graphic design at UTEP. “But I think that is something that is changing. I mean, there’s efforts that are happening on both sides of the border that are bringing both peoples together.”

Castro said that Romero has spoken about how artists are affected by culture and the culture that they live in. He said the problems that Mexican artists are experiencing versus what Mexican-American artists are experiencing are completely different.

“I think it’s great for all of our Mexican national students to see what is happening in Mexico City and see how she’s applying her thinking into border issues and cultural events,” Castro said.

Romero studied communication at the University of Iberoamericana and received her master’s degree in visual arts from the National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). Later, she studied at the Louvre and at the School of Fine Arts in Paris and she has a doctoral degree in art history from UNAM.

She’s had more than 100 individual exhibitions in Mexico, the United States and Europe in places like the British Museum, the Mega Offering of the Zocalo of Mexico City, Nevada Mu-

seum of Art, Neuberger Museum, Nelson & Atkins Museum of Art, Old San Ildefonso College, Amparo Museum in Puebla, Canberra University Museum and Recoleta in Buenos Aires.

“She’ll be exhibiting in the fall semester and we’re thoroughly excited to have her here because she’s a core to our mission of exhibiting Mexican and Mexican-American artists and artwork, and also with us being here on the binational border I think it’s of great pertinence in regards to that as well,” said Daniel Szwaczkowski, preparator at the Rubin Center. “Also having a woman’s voice in the arts is always a great and strong thing. I’m not too familiar with her artwork, although I know that she has done really large-scale sculptures and printmaking. What I’m most interested in seeing from her and learning more about is her printmaking process, where she is utilizing large tires to actually carve into and then using those tires as the printing surface.”

As for her future collaboration with the UTEP’s Rubin Center, she

expressed her enthusiasm and hopes of what she wants translated through her art.

“I think that my dream would be more in terms of the relationships that you get with the public and to get more contact with communities,” Romero

said. “For example, to get a long-term experience with the community’s problems and to know that maybe you can do something real to change the circumstances with your work.”

The artist is most known for treating rubber as wood by carving textures, patterns, and symbols, painting them and even printing with them.

“All these issues come from the real history and traditions of the places that I’m in. So, for me it’s very important to work with the real communities on workshops on doing the pieces for the exhibitions with art schools and this kind of dialogue with the community around the place where I will exhibit,” Romero said.

Part of the exhibit will relate specifically to the El Paso/Juárez border, since one of the pieces will be a continuation of a previous project she did in October 2017 in Juarez. Her piece was an installation project of flags and wooden feet titled “Tu huella es el camino; tu bandera, la paz” (Your footprint is the way; your flag, the peace.)

“It has been this kind of magical moment with this piece that usually should be very difficult and you don’t understand how the piece is finally born. But it happened, and there are pieces where you think are not gonna be possible, but it happens and this was one of them,” Romero said.

Her exhibit will run from October 11 through December 14, and will be free for UTEP students, faculty, and members of the El Paso community.

✉ Aylin Tafoya may be reached at aylinvtafoya97@gmail.com

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GUSTAVO RAMIREZ/ THE PROSPECTOR

Romero is welcomed by the Rubin Center Assistant Director Melissa Barba and Mateals Visiting Assitant professor Jessica L. Tolbert.

‘In the Next Room’: A play about vibrators and feminism



CLAUDIA FLORES / THE PROSPECTOR

The UTEP cast for “In the Next Room” rehearses at the Wise Family Theatre.

BY CLAUDIA FLORES

The Prospector

The UTEP Department of Theatre will finish its semester with Sara Ruhl’s play “In the Next Room.”

The Tony Award nominee for best new play and a finalist for a Pulitzer Prize, “In the Next Room” or the vibrator play”tells the story of the invention of the vibrator and its use as a medical treatment to cure women of “hysteria.”

“We used to have this concept that women used to suffer from hysteria. It’s not true, but it was a medical idea, and to treat hysteria they thought the appropriate thing to do was to create paroxysms in women and they used vibrators to do this, and so Sarah Ruhl has had a lot of fun playing with this history,” said Jay Stratton, a theatre assistant professor and director.

Taking place in the late 1800s during the Victorian Era, this play is a strong call on feminism, as it deals heavily with female agency, according to Stratton.

“The main character is in an unfulfilling marriage and part of the reason that marriage is unfulfilling is because of the sex life that she has,” Stratton said. “One of the fundamental questions this play asks is that women get to like to have sex and she gets to ask to have sex in her terms with her partner in the way that she likes in a very repressive society.”

Joseph Fernandez, junior theater performance major and the lead actor, said that the strong female empowerment message this play has is very prevalent in society today.

“If you look in the past throughout history, women were submissive to men and recent time with things with the ‘Me Too’ movement, I think this show is a great punch in that direction,” he said.

Stratton, who comes from a professional theater background with over 17 years of experience in the performing arts, has directed multiple shows at UTEP, including “Medea” “Bloody Shakespeare,” “Sister Act” and “Dead

Man’s Cell Phone,” which was also written by Ruhl.

Finding the right cast and preparing the actors to build their characters is crucial for the development of a play, as well as the many other technical elements that build the piece. In February, Stratton began to put the show together to give the production and the cast the time needed to end the last show of the season on a high note.

“It’s been many months rehearsing every night from 6 to 9 p.m. In a professional environment the rehearsal period is three and a half week tops and it’s rehearsing six or seven hours a day, and in an academic environment we rehearse much longer but for shorter times, Monday through Friday every night. These people don’t get weekends,” Stratton said.

As the rehearsal process might be long, according to Mariana Baidon, sophomore theatre major with a concentration in musical theater, and the actress who plays Mrs. Givings, said this process is what she enjoys the most.

“There wasn’t a day that I didn’t have at least one laugh (during rehearsals). How you start forming a bond with these people, whether you share with them the entire play or not, the performances are pretty fun too, but I think forming those bonds and discovering those stories is what I enjoyed the most,” she said.

A firm believer in the audition process, Stratton says that when it is time to cast actors for the play, he looks for students, whose core of their personality lines up with the core of the character, aside from their acting skills.

“I get to know students through class work and other shows, and

also we have an audition process and you have to trust that audition process. There was some people who I thought they would be really good in the show and when they came into the audition, they had the material, they came in, did the material and didn’t work,” he said. “It doesn’t mean they’re bad actors, but they were not connecting with the material. For whatever reason it doesn’t work, and you have to trust that process.”

Before moving to Texas, Stratton spent 17 years in New York working as a professional actor, which was years that gave him the experience and knowledge to succeed in the area to later become a theater professor and share his experience with his students.

Nick Thomas, senior theater performance major, and actor, said that he really enjoys working with Stratton, as it is always interesting to see how he helps actors to discover things about the character themselves.

Fernandez, who plays the role of Dr. Givings, added that Stratton has always had an interesting way to make rehearsals fun and productive.

“He helps you as an actor and your process in rehearsal to grow so much and discover so many great things,” Fernandez said.

“In the Next Room” will run from April 27 through May 6 at the Wise Family Theatre, located on the second floor of the Fox Fine Arts Center.

“This play is intriguing, is funny, obviously is mature content, so you can’t bring your kids to the play, but it is terribly romantic,” Stratton said. “This is a great date play because I promise that you will laugh and laugh and laugh, but also be very moved by it. If you want to see some vibrators in action in a comic but tasteful way, this is a good show for that.”

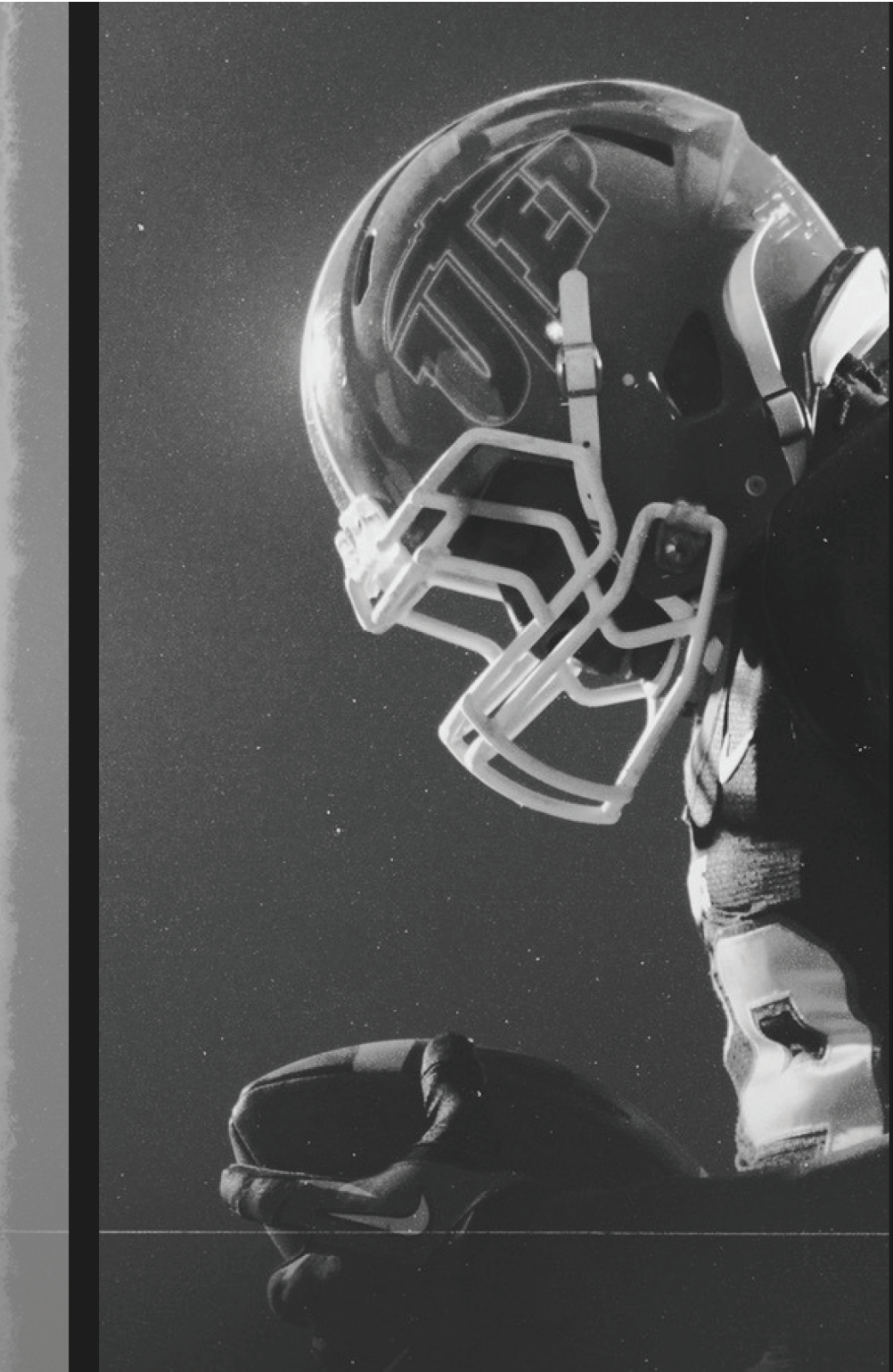
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✉ Claudia Flores may be reached at gigibertaflores43@gmail.com.



CLAUDIA FLORES / THE PROSPECTOR

“In the Next Room” will run from April 27 through May 6 at the Wise Family Theatre.





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SPORTS

EDITOR
JEREMY CARRANCO, 747-7446

Redix juggles football player and hip-hop artist personas



(Left) Wide receiver Warren Redix caught seven passes for 55 yards at the 2018 spring game. (Center) Redix poses for a photo shoot to promote El Woah. (Right) Redix recently released his single ‘C.T.D.’ He has over 1000 followers on his SoundCloud account.

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

On the field and in the classroom during the weekdays is not the only place someone can catch UTEP senior football wide receiver Warren Redix, but also in the studio on the weekends.

As a man of many hats, he’s showcased his talents on the field for three years, amassing 414 career yards through receiving off 49 receptions.

Since his breakthrough season in totaling 202 yards of receiving as a freshman, he’s yet to surpass his season-high.

With the new coaching staff, he feels that this is the year to top those numbers.

“It’s always been there, but I’ve just been slept on and haven’t been utilized correctly, I guess you can say,” Redix said. “With the new offense and the new coaching staff coming in, they just told us to compete. That’s what I’ve been doing. I’m the same dude, same guy, coming in every day working hard. They’ve just been utilizing me in a better way, I’ve been catching more passes and having fun.”

Then on the weekends, Redix takes off his football cap and puts on his music hat. He goes by El Woah, an alter-ego that he started to release hip-hop tracks under.

“I’ve been making music since middle school, but I never really put it out there,” he said. “I don’t know what got into me, it was the end of 2017 and I thought I’m gonna stop being scared and I’m going to produce content. So far, I think people have been liking it and vibing with it.”

It hasn’t slowed down his productivity on the field either. Redix and the receiving core are coming off their most successful spring season yet under head coach Dana Dimel.

However, there hasn’t been a more drastic improvement from a receiver than Redix. He caught three catches for 37 yards in their first scrimmage, and

finished the spring game with seven catches for 55 yards.

“I like the play of our wide receiver, catching the football,” Dimel said when referring to Redix.

Last year, UTEP’s leading target was Tyler Batson with 21 catches for 370 yards, which wasn’t even good enough to crack the top-30 receivers in C-USA. The Miners were among the worst in the nation for total offense and specifically passing.

Redix was thrown to just eight times last season, totaled 128 yards and didn’t have a dropped pass.

“Definitely underutilized,” Redix said. “This year, I think a couple of us

can hit the 1,000-yard mark and that will translate to wins. We’re trying to get to bowls. I’m trying to lay the foundation for my senior year.”

Southern Miss’ Korey Robertson was the only receiver to cross the 1,000-yard mark in C-USA last year, but Redix stays firm that this team will send a couple beyond that milestone. “Whether it be me, Kavika Johnson, Terry Juniell, a transfer like Justin Garrett—we got some guys that can go, I feel. With this new coaching staff, I’m excited to show everyone that last year was a fluke,” he said.

The Montwood High School graduate’s goals are predicated off his pride

see REDIX on page 16

Hernandez eyes first round destination in draft

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS
The Prospector

Former UTEP standout guard Will Hernandez is on pace to become a top-40 draft pick in the 2018 NFL draft.

He would be UTEP’s highest draft pick since Thomas Howard was selected 38th overall to the Oakland Raiders in 2006.

But if he gets drafted on Thursday, Hernandez could be the first Miner picked during the opening round in exactly 50 years.

Miner great Fred Carr is the highest drafted player in the program’s history at No. 5 to Green Bay Packers, followed by guard George Daney, who went 22nd overall to Kansas City Chiefs—both coming in the 1968 NFL draft.

So where does Hernandez fall?

Some NFL analysts have him going in the mid-20s of the first round, while others say the hybrid guard will go at the top of the second round.

Teams like Miami, Carolina, Buffalo, Cincinnati, Detroit, Dallas, Tennessee, Philadelphia, New England, New Orleans and Jacksonville all need a guard and each have a first-round pick.

But that list can expand beyond that to teams that simply need an offensive lineman, such as the New York Giants, Atlanta, Cleveland, Arizona, Los Angeles Rams, Kansas City and Baltimore.

Opportunities seem endless for his draft stock.

“As long as I get picked up, it doesn’t matter to me,” Hernandez said following his pro day in March. “I just need an opportunity.”

Despite finishing his college career on an 0-12 squad with the Miners, he finished by starting all 49 games of his

career at the left guard spot. He was named to the second team AP-All American in both 2016 and 2017, and was recognized by being named to the All-Conference USA team each of his four years.

“Will can make a difference from the get-go,” said UTEP quarterback Ryan Metz, who played alongside Hernandez for three seasons. “Not only is he strong, a great athlete and a great football player, but the guy is a great person as well. He’s somebody that any NFL team would want. He has a great opportunity and I think he’ll make the most of it.”

He made a case for being a first-round choice during his NFL Combine performance. At the nation’s biggest college showcase, Hernandez pounded 37 reps on the bench press, showcasing his strength, and ran a mid-tier 40-yard dash at 5.15 seconds, which both were among the best for lineman.

“I definitely think they’re starting to value guards and interior linemen more,” Hernandez told reporters at the NFL Combine. “I’ve heard it from teams themselves. I think it’s starting to even out a little bit between tackle and guard.”

Still, there is push back from linemen being drafted in the first round. No offensive lineman was drafted in the first in 2017, and just two were drafted in 2016 at 28th and 31st overall.

He will also compete with Notre Dame guard Quenton Nelson, who is now projected to be a top-10 pick in the draft.

“I think he’s a top guard,” senior receiver Warren Redix said. “Some people got (Nelson) because it’s a big school, but at the end of the day, I would take my guy Will Hernandez for sure. If not,



ADRIAN BROADDUS / THE PROSPECTOR

UTEP graduate Will Hernandez is projected to be the first Miner drafted in the first round of the NFL draft since 1968.

someone’s gonna get a steal with him in the second round for sure.”

None of this matters to Hernandez, though. Instead of being in the lime-light in Dallas this weekend, he chose to stay home to be with family and friends in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A recent trend has a pattern of mock drafts pinning Hernandez to the Panthers, Bills or Bengals.

“I don’t keep up with it at all,” Hernandez said after his pro day. “Only time I hear about it is when someone

tags me on it, I take a quick look at it, and then forget about it.”

But still, his former teammates are basking in his potential and rooting for him to shoot as low (drafted) as a team will take him.

“Every player goes in and dreams of being in the first round,” Metz said. “To be in the first round, to know you were picked or to even be in the first round, that’s gotta be such an awesome feeling.”

So now for his fans, for his teammates and for Hernandez himself,

they will all play a waiting game to see where he gets drafted.

“A few weeks ago it seemed like Cincinnati (Bengals) was a for sure thing,” said former teammate Derek Elmen-dorf. “This is for sure an offensive line class, but we’ve been there every step of the way and some days it feels like he’s going to be somewhere for sure, and then other days it’s different.”

The 2018 NFL draft will take place in Dallas from Thursday, April 26 through Saturday, April 28.

Follow Adrian Broaddus on Twitter @adrian_broaddus.



Track and design helps Horn find path in life

GABY VELASQUEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Junior sprinter Carvellion Horn has been with the UTEP track and field team since the 2016 indoor season.

BY DANIEL MENDEZ
The Prospector

Carvellion Horn, a junior from Terrell, Texas, has been part of a family dynasty with UTEP track and field. The team continues to be one of the school's best athletic programs, having claimed 20 of the university's 21 national championships. This season, track and field has been nationally ranked and aside from national champion Michael Saruni, the team currently has other players excelling on the roster. Horn's younger sister freshman Leearia Horn runs the 300-meter

hurdle and his older brother Carnell ran for UTEP previously from 2013-2015. This past indoor track season, Horn helped his team finish third in the 4x400-meter relay at the Commodore Invitational, as he ran the third leg of the relay. He also went on to set two career bests at the New Mexico Classic, with a time of 22.99 in the 200m, and 51.11 in the 400m. Horn, who started attending UTEP to seek a computer science degree, decided after one class in his major that his hobby is what he should be focusing a career on, which is drawing and designing. He is now a graphic design major with a minor

in drawing. Through this, Horn has aspirations of pursuing a career in video game design. "I would say I've been drawing for a while, but I didn't really get the graphic design experience until college," he said. He has found many different influences, not only in his artwork, but also in his own personal life. The biggest influence has been his older brother, Carnell. His brother was one of the first Horn siblings to run track for UTEP and always created art through drawing. That is why Carvellion views his older brother as the person he really looks up to.

"I would say that it was maybe a hobby (drawing) because I was influenced by my brother," Carvellion said. "Because he was always making art and drawing stuff. It made me pick graphic design and now it's like a gateway to a career after school." Not only is his family an influence, but Horn also finds inspiration from the track and other sports UTEP has to offer. A couple of weeks ago, he had an assignment for his graphic design class, where he had to put his own spin on emojis, connecting them to El Paso. He decided to create emojis using inspiration from how the UTEP track and football fields look like. "I guess I just made my own idea," he said. "I tried to get influences from how the track and football field look just to make a certain type of emojis." Another big influence on Carvellion Horn is his appreciation of Manga, anime and the Japanese culture. His favorite anime is Naruto. One of his favorite things to do is draw cartoons, but he is also currently interested in drawing more realistic caricatures. "So far, what I like drawing is a lot of cartoons and stuff, but right now I've been trying to draw realistic things," he said. In addition, earned the 2017-18 winter Conference USA's Spirit of Service Award. This award is designed to recognize the community service efforts of the league's student-athletes, based upon community

service, good academic standing and participation in their elected sport. Horn utilizes his time management skills by juggling practices and traveling, along with three-hour long art studio labs and being a viable member of the community by participating in community service. "Usually, I just schedule and make sure there's certain times to do everything and put it in order and make sure everything is scheduled out," he said. The Department of Art at UTEP exposes students to different mediums of art, from sculpture to print-making to metals. Horn is finding all sorts of fun and intrigue being exposed to the different mediums the art program has to offer. "Right now, I'm taking my ceramics class and it's a lot of fun," he said. "Like I'm just enjoying the different type of stuff that I've never experienced before, so it's fun." Another aspect that art majors may find daunting, is the critique. In the critique part of a class, students discuss what was their inspiration behind their artwork with their professors and classmates. Horn has found the critique experience beneficial for him, as it has opened him up to seeing art in a different perspective, teaching him to take criticism. "It helped me better myself and how I take criticisms from other people," he said. "It helped me develop better ideas and how to look at other people's ideas, like how to see it in a different perspective."

Follow Daniel Mendez on Twitter @dmendez24.



CLAUDIA HERNANDEZ / THE PROSPECTOR

Horn works on his abstract wood sculpture in a studio at Fox Fine Arts.



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Terry, Wade and Smith speak out about transfers

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospector

During the Tim Floyd era at UTEP, basketball players transferring to other schools hit record numbers.

In seven seasons at the helm of the Miners, Floyd saw 24 players transfer away from the school. During the 2017-18 offseason and preseason, eight players departed, crippling the team and possibly speeding the retirement of the Don Haskins' protégé in Floyd.

New head coach Rodney Terry arrived from Fresno State with hopes of shifting the culture at UTEP to a winning one, but that might not mean

that more players stay in the orange and blue from season to season.

"That's just the landscape of this game and that's the direction of college basketball," said Terry via phone while out on the road recruiting. "You can have a guy, who's your leading scorer and having a great career and having a great experience, all of a sudden say, 'you know what, I want to be challenged at a different level, I want to go to a different school.' That's just the nature of the beast right now."

During his seven years as head coach at Fresno State, Terry lost 20 players to transfer. The most in any season was five during the 2015-16 season.

The NCAA reports that transfer rates among men's basketball players

are higher than in any other sport. A December 2017 study by the sport's governing body showed that 40 percent of all men's basketball players who enter college basketball out of high school will transfer at least once during their college career.

Terry has already seen three transfers in his brief time since his hiring in March.

Trey Touchet transferred to McNeese State as a graduate transfer after finishing all of the requirements for graduation from UTEP.

Freshman forward Trey Wade was one of the better shooters on last season's team, shooting 48 percent from the field and finished seventh in points per game (7.2). He announced that he would transfer about one month after Terry's arrival.

On the same day that Wade announced his transfer, freshman forward Tirus Smith announced that he would be transferring via Twitter. Smith missed time with an injury in his first year, but had several memorable games when healthy and showed Vince Hunter-like flashes on the block, putting up his season-best 17 points against Howard in December.

When asked about his reasons for leaving via direct message, Wade attributed it to several factors.

"I'm going to do something else. Get closer to home and family," said the Marietta, Georgia, native. "It's been a rough two years out here for me."

Wade added that he thought that the new head coach had a good vision for the program, but that it was going to be a "process."



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Trey Wade shot 48 percent from the field as a freshman for UTEP last season.



FILE PHOTO / THE PROSPECTOR

Tirus Smith's career-high at UTEP was a 17 point performance against Howard on Dec. 21.

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“I met with his dad. I would have loved for both guys to stay to be honest,” Terry said.

The same problem arose with Wade as with Smith, according to the new coach.

“Those guys wanted to be closer to home and I said to them, ‘I can’t put you closer to home,’” he said. “But, I want those guys to be successful and if being closer to home is going to make them have a better chance to be

successful and be happy, because you have to be happy where you are.”

Wade was also asked about whether the fact that Terry was not recruiting his younger brother Trevin, a 5-foot-11 point guard from Montverde Academy in Georgia, played into his decision to leave or not.

“Something like that,” Wade said. “But coach Terry wasn’t disrespectful at all.”

Wade later walked back a little from that statement by saying that if the team had recruited his brother, he would have stayed, thus emphasizing that he wanted to be closer to home.

However, Wade did add that he felt slighted in some way by Terry’s efforts in convincing him.

“I also felt like if he wanted me to stay, there would have been more communication between the two of us,” Wade said.

Wade wanted to emphasize that he wished El Paso luck and appreciated all of the support of the community and fans.

Terry was asked about Trevin Wade and whether the meeting with Wade’s father saw the topic of his other son attending UTEP was brought up.

“There was some talk about that and I think that was something that was talked about with the previous

staff,” said Terry, adding that he was a “straight-shooter” who was never going to lie to the press. “I got a chance to look at (Wade’s) brother on tape and we have similar kinds of guys right now at that position. I was never going to mislead anybody and say ‘hey, this is something we could do.’ Because at the moment we were not in position to do it. I like Trey and I’d love to have Trey in my program, but at this point we just couldn’t do the other piece.”

Despite the 20 transfers away from Fresno State during Terry’s time at the helm, the team went 126-108 with a trip to the CBI, NIT and NCAA tournaments. Terry helped to recruit future NBA players like T.J. Ford, LaMarcus Aldridge, D.J. Augustin, Kevin Durant and Tristan Thompson while at the University of Texas.

Only four days after losing Wade and Smith to transfer, Terry announced his first two signings to UTEP. Efe Odigie is a three-star rated power forward/center, who is 6-foot-9 and 275 pounds, and he signed his national letter of intent to play for UTEP. On Monday, Nigel Hawkins declared he would commit to UTEP as well. After signing Odigie, the program has eight available scholarships with the departures of Touchet, Wade and Smith.

REDIX from page 13

for his hometown university and what that means to him.

“Being from El Paso) is an advantage because I know the city, I know the demographic. The chip is everyone doubts us no matter who you are. You get the El Paso label,” he said. “Just because I’m from El Paso don’t mean anything and I’m trying to show that this year.”

He feels that way for his music as well. Inspired by his trips to California, Redix became infatuated with art, which led him to taking his music more seriously.

“I was meeting dancers out there, people who draw, make music and they have their own creative music to show, so I thought, you know what, I kinda want my own thing too,” he said. “I came back to El Paso and I had a friend link me up to a producer and it kinda just took off from there.”

Like his idol Donald Glover, or Childish Gambino, who is a full-time actor and musician, Redix too is multi-talented in what he does on a day-to-day basis.

“During the day, it’s full-time football, full-time student. And then on the weekends is when I try to cook up music because I have time to sleep in so I can be there (in the studio) late,” he said.

So far on Soundcloud, he has over 1,000 followers and topped his best listens on his inaugural track “Sauce,” which has 1,923 plays.

“My dad’s a drummer too, so he’s a big influence on me for what he listened to back in the day, so I pick up on that and pick up the new flavor to that,” he said.

His musical inspiration ranges from Childish Gambino to Wiz Khalifa to Kid Cudi, while he draws football inspiration from NFL players like Antonio Brown.

“Don’t let anyone tell you that you’re just from El Paso,” he said. “Don’t let them control you, you control you and keep going out there and work on it and work towards your goal.”

But he keeps his football and musical life separate, even creating different social media accounts for his different personalities.

“None of my coaches really know about this,” he said. “One of my receivers just told the receivers coach and asked me to send him the link, but I’ve been really shy about it and separating my football side and music side. I have two separate Instagram accounts for it.”

He’s even made his name known through the El Paso music scene, where he hopes to perform live at The Lowbrow Palace soon.

“I salute him for doing this music thing,” said local R&B artist Miles Angel. “The journey of music is a hard one and I can’t even imagine how hard it must be to balance football, being a student and on top of that, music.”

For the immediate future, Redix wants to work on new projects this summer, including a possible EP release. In long-term thinking, though, he has dreams of one day playing football professionally.

“For right now, (making music) is just a lot of fun, I just want to have fun with it. In the future, if I can actually put some money into it, then of course, I think I can blow up and be a rockstar or something,” he said. “But for now, I’m putting all my dreams in some league dreams and this music thing will be on the side.”

Find Redix’s music on Soundcloud by visiting soundcloud.com/elwoah/ and listen to our exclusive podcast with him at theprospectordaily.com.



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