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THE PROSPECTOR

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
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Bryan Mena / The Prospector

Veteran activist Xan Joi, 69, stands before her box truck covered in murals that best capture her beliefs Wednesday, Nov. 13, at the Whole Foods parking lot in Westside El Paso.

A woman of many titles

Jewish, lesbian, activist grandmother travels country for nearly two decades, makes stop in El Paso

Bryan Mena

The Prospector

Xan Joi, 69, describes herself as a social justice warrior, an anti-war activist, a Jewish woman, a lesbian, a grandmother, a feminist and an author who's traveled throughout the country in her truck since 2001, racking up over 400,000 miles.

Amid a passionate 18-year-long journey, veteran activist Joi cruised the streets of El Paso in a box truck covered in striking, colorful murals while visiting fellow activist, Cemelli de Aztlan Tuesday, Nov. 12.

Originally from a farm in rural New Jersey, Joi moved to California in 1975 when she was a 25-year-old single mother.

Joi recalls dreaming of California as a little girl.

"Every day, the sun would set over the cornfield next to my farmhouse and my mother used to always say to me, 'That's where California is, where the sun is setting.'"

In 1975, she moved into a small apartment in Berkley, California, with her daughter, where she remained until a passion for activism crept up on her decades later.

During the immediate aftermath of the Twin Towers terrorist attacks in New York City, Joi feared that the U.S. would wage war on terrorists in the Middle East, but that same fear also sparked a fire inside her that blazes to this day.

see ACTWIST on page 4

Grant will enhance UTEP computer science students' professional skills

Alexia X. Nava Carmona

The Prospector

UTEP's Computer Science Department received a \$742,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Education to work on professional leadership courses for its students.

The team behind the grant, led by Associate Professor of Computer Science Salamah Salamah, will launch the first of three one-credit courses to enhance students' leadership and professional skills in the spring of 2020, according to UTEP University Communications (UC).

"Everybody wants computer scientists, but we want to make sure that our students ... are enhanced with leadership skills and all that so that hopefully they can move up the ladder faster — if not get hired at leadership positions," Salamah said.

"We've recognized for a number of years that it's important for students to develop skills other than their technical skills, which are typically called 'soft skills,' but I like to call them 'professional skills' because these are the things that advance them," said Elsa Villas, co-investigator and associate director of the Center for Education Research and Policy in the College of Education. "It's not only about the technical knowledge, it's the ability to communicate — not just telling people about what you do, but understanding what other people do to enhance the work you do."

The grant will offer financial help for students to study abroad and travel to conferences, according to Villas.

"Incorporated into this project will also be support for students in terms of travel, to go to either study abroad or some of the relevant

conferences that are student focused in computing, such as Grace Hopper and Great Minds in STEM," Villas said. "It will also support students who want to go to undergraduate research experiences ... it aligns with the UTEP Edge."

The team is also planning to give workshops to faculty for them to incorporate what they learn in their classes, Salamah said.

"We don't want this to be only limited to these courses, we want to have workshops with faculty where they can incorporate some of these learning materials into their classes," Salamah said.

Among the things the faculty will learn in these workshops are the creation of inclusive environments in the classroom, the development of a sense of belonging with the students and meeting students where they are, according to UC.

The grant is also expected to give a focus to female students, who are low in number in engineering and computer science nationwide, according to Salamah.

"One of the things that we will be pushing forward, always pushing for, is to include ... to focus on females, whether in recruitment for these programs, whether the teachers ... it should be the same," Salamah said. "The practice that we do should be the same, but encouraging female students to take part of this will be one of the foci."

Among the department's support for female students is the Association for Computer Machinery's Council on Women (ACM-W), which has a chapter in UTEP as the Women in Computer Science academic organization.

see GRANT on page 4



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Multi-level marketing often confused for pyramid schemes

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

The nature of multi-level marketing (MLM) often gets legitimate MLM companies confused for illegal pyramid schemes, but there is a clear line dividing both concepts.

Fernando Jimenez-Arevalo, UTEP associate professor of marketing and management, said the economic MLM concept emphasizes reselling.

"Multi-level marketing is when a company sells their products to people who can also resell those same products to other people," Jimenez said.

He said to think of it as selling small quantities of stock to one individual, rather than large quantities to corporations such as Walmart or Costco.

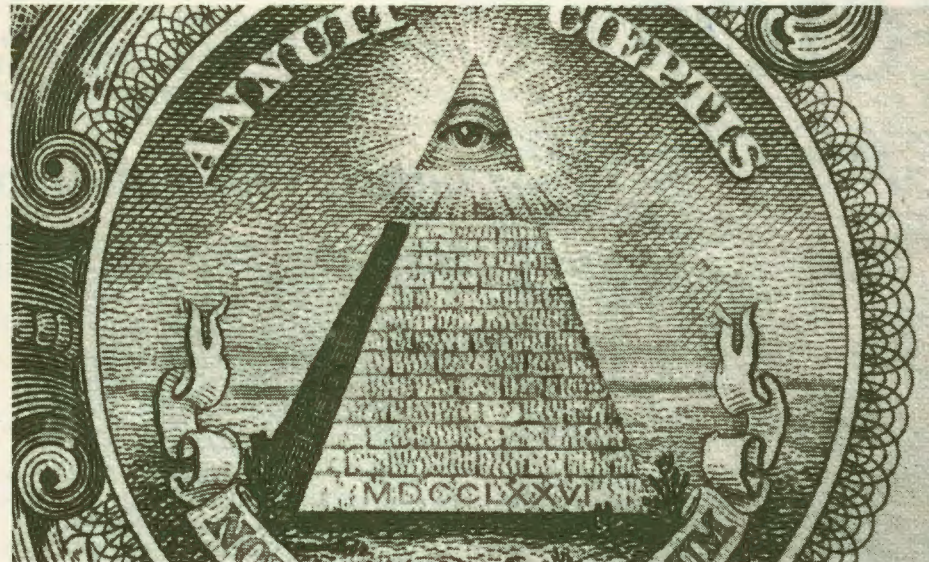
In MLM, successful individual sellers make profits through commission, a percentage of money from each sale they make. They are also able to earn additional commission by recruiting other sellers who recruit more people themselves, thus creating a profitable network of sellers.

The more sellers that they have working below them, the more commission the individual will earn. As the chain continues, the visual diagram of this strategy begins to resemble — you guessed it — a pyramid.

This raises two questions: what makes an MLM different from a pyramid scheme? and why is one legal while the other isn't? The main difference is that an MLM actually sells a tangible product, while a pyramid scheme does not.

In a pyramid scheme, Jimenez says you start by paying an initial joining fee, sometimes up to \$500.

Sometimes sellers embroiled in pyramid schemes are required to pay an additional monthly fee on top of that. Once an unsuspecting victim joins a pyramid scheme, their instructions are to recruit more and more people,



Flickr / Courtesy of Jim Hammer

eventually resembling a pyramid structure of sellers.

Recruits are told that only recruiting matters, instead of the actual product.

"Sometimes, nobody is even selling anything," Jimenez said. "In multi-level marketing, you don't need to recruit if you don't want to. It is encouraged because you receive some incentive from the sales other people make, but it's not required."

A classic example of a pyramid scheme shut down by the government is in the case of Global Information Network (GIN). GIN branded itself as an address book full of important contacts, including some of the most elite and powerful financial experts in the country, that would help its members network and level up in their professional career. The company was founded by Kevin Trudeau, a man notorious for prior run-ins with the FTC due to his deceptive commercials and false health claims published in his

book "The Weight Loss Cure 'They' Don't Want you to Know About."

An investigation done by CNBC found that GIN was ultimately a \$110 million pyramid scheme Trudeau created in order to hide his assets and evade paying more than the \$37 million he owed the FTC as a result of his already established fraudulency. At its peak, GIN accumulated more than 35,000 members. Trudeau was arrested and charged in March 2014 and is currently serving a 10-year prison sentence.

El Paso Community College student Karine Irwin, 19, has been a distributor for the cosmetics company "Sengence" since January 2018.

"At first I tried to sell. I never really tried to recruit," Irwin said. "They like you to recruit because you get commissions, but I have a great paying job as a waitress, so I never really considered this a career opportunity."

Despite earning no extra commission, Irwin reported an average profit of \$300 for every \$600 in orders she placed. She described an

overall positive experience working with the company, especially as an avid fan of makeup.

"I actually really only signed up because I loved the products and get a discount as a distributor," Irwin laughed. "Overall, I don't think I have any regrets. I never spent more money than I had and I made a lot of friendships through the company."

Another multi-level company called Vector has made frequent visits to UTEP in the past. David Rodriguez is an assistant manager for the company and was stationed at a popup information booth inside the Union East building. He explained that Vector teaches its recruits basic entry-level marketing skills by providing them with a free training manual. After this, they are tasked with selling kitchenware products from a company called Cutco. Sales pitches are made on an appointment basis.

"It's not like door-to-door cold calling," said Rodriguez. "You set up appointments and you get paid regardless of results. It's nothing like traditional marketing jobs," he added.

Though this may sound appealing, Rodriguez admits to the company's high turnover rate.

"Most of our people that come in do it for a few weeks, and then they leave," said Rodriguez. "We don't mind if they leave, that's fine, but at least they were able to get those marketing skills."

While many have taken on MLM side gigs by selling for companies like Sengence, Herbalife and Mary Kay, Jimenez discourages students from pursuing these jobs full-time. Instead, he encourages students to think practically and make wise use of their time.

"Typically, I ask my students if a certain product is good or not, why isn't it on Walmart's shelves? I could make much more money just by selling truckloads of this in retail stores rather than by selling it one-on-one," Jimenez said.

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THE PROSPECTOR

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SPEAK YOUR MIND

Indigenous protesters advocate for clean water

Local environmental group protests San Elizario pipeline, calls for water protection

Paulina Astrid Spencer

The Prospector

Climate change is a topic of discussion for many across the world, giving birth to high profile activists like Greta Thunberg and local groups like Frontera Water Protectors Alliance (FWPA).

"There is so much evidence of the harm that we are doing to the planet and we need to do something to correct it," said Cristian Colmenero, a 24-year-old UTEP digital media student.

For Crystal Moran, co-founder of FWPA, climate change is not an opinion but rather an undisputable fact that calls for environmental protections.

"Everyone needs to understand that our literal lives and children's future are being threatened by the climate crisis," Moran said.

FWPA was founded in 2016 by Moran and local activist Cemelli de Azatlan to rally in solidarity with the Standing Rock protesters, who demonstrated against the Dakota Access Pipeline. Protesters rallied against the Energy Trans-

fer Partners' pipeline, which runs through the Standing Rock Indian Reservation, to stand for the protection of water, land and indigenous people's sacred sites.

The alliance consists of individuals who identify as indigenous and other allies who are passionate about environmental preservation and the protection of water supply from oil and gas industries.

Moran organized a "sunrise water ceremony" in San Elizario, Texas, where the federally approved project "San Elizario Crossing Project" is expected to take place.

The proposed project aims to construct and install a pipeline that would run beneath the Rio Grande River near San Elizario.

When the project was announced in 2016, many protesters including groups like FWPA were concerned that the construction of the pipeline would contaminate the water supply for El Paso County and its surrounding areas.

Other major concerns for FWPA include Marathon Refinery, fracking in Hueco Tanks

and the open-pit copper mine of Samalayuca, Mexico.

According to Moran, Marathon Refinery applied for a permit that would allow it to freely emit contaminants such as carbon monoxide, hydrogen cyanide and hydrogen sulfide into the air.

"Hydrogen Cyanide creates cell death by essentially cell suffocation. It affects mostly respiratory systems, therefore, it's very dangerous for adults and children who already have respiratory illnesses, such as asthma," Moran said.

Hueco Tanks is considered a sacred place by several American Indian tribes due to its ancient pictographs, a sacred place that's been subject to fracking which puts everyone's health at risk, according to Moran.

"Fracking outside of Hueco Tanks is very near to our groundwater aquifers that provide drinking water for El Paso and surrounding cities," Moran said. "This will contaminate our water with the dangerous chemicals used in the fracking process."

Canadian company, VVC Exploration Corporation, recently submitted paperwork to federal Mexican environmental authorities to open a copper mine in the city of Samalayuca, Mexico, which is 35 miles away from El Paso.

Although the project claims to bring thousands of jobs to Samalayuca, environmentalists and allies still do not support the project.

"This project will further contaminate our water, air and land of this region with volatile compounds used in the copper extraction process," Moran said.

While FWPA continues fighting for the environment, Moran encourages anyone with an interest in environmental advocacy to join her team.

"We desire to make huge impact and change in our El Paso community and the state towards a more sustainable future and to have in place a 100% renewable energy infrastructure program for our community as soon as possible," Moran said.

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ACTIVIST from front page

"9/11 was when the towers were hit and I was probably on the road by the 21st. I think it took me about a week," Joi said. "I was totally committed to anti-war and organizing other women to go out into the street and influence our state (California), our communities and D.C. to not go to war."

Joi has traveled and lived inside her box truck ever since, traveling to places in political turmoil like Charlottesville, Virginia, during the 2017 "Unite the Right Rally" and the Standing Rock Indian reservation during the 2016 Dakota access pipeline protests where she got arrested for protesting.

She periodically repaints the mural on the back of her Isuzu NPR with what she believes best captures society's most pressing issues. Her current mural depicts the issue of refugee intolerance and senseless war.

"I've been to different places and I change only the back of my truck depending on what's happening in our country, but the other sides stay the same," Joi said. "I have an anti-Monsanto mural on the left side which a Berkley artist did for my 60th birthday ... I have the 'end violence against women' side where I keep adding names of women who've gone missing."

On U.S. roads, Joi drives her truck as a visible testament to her life's commitment to activism, but on the ground, she conveys her passion through conversations with people who harbor different beliefs.

"This one guy I recently talked with ... I felt like he was ready to jump over the counter and attack me," Joi said. "It's so important for us to talk with each other."

Other times, her conversations end in mutual understanding.

"I recently also talked to another white man who ... said that he had never talked with anybody like me," Joi said. "He said he was tired of carrying around this hate for people like me and that he was happy I talked with him."

Joi has had conversations about gender-based violence, war, anti-immigrant sentiments, genocide and environmental issues, among several other topics.

Her next stop is Tucson, Arizona where she will promote her book "But What Can I Do?"

Despite the occasional threats and scuffles, Joi continues to participate in protests and marches across the nation.

Visit TheProspectorDaily.com to read Mena's full story.

Bryan Mena may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

GRANT from front page

"We talked to our female students. We invite them for these things, awareness is more important than anything," Salamah said. "Word of mouth is very powerful so female students will hear from each other and, more than anything, know that this is a safe environment and computer science is as much for females as it is for males."

This is the fourth grant Villas is involved in and has worked in similar programs before.

"I've been wanting to do this because the program that I ran before with engineering stu-

dents, all the engineering students, was pretty successful," Villas said. "I've been wanting to do this for the Computer Science Department because this would become part of what we're doing with the INCLUDES Project, which is the Computing Alliance of Hispanic-Serving Institutions (CAHSI) and it would be a promising practice that, if we're successful, we can disseminate other CAHSI schools, which is about 29 other schools across the country and Puerto Rico."

For more information, contact Salamah at isalamah@utep.edu.

Alexia X. Nava Carmona may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

PYRAMID from page 2

"Even if you're a talented salesperson, it doesn't make financial sense to sell one product at a time and still make a profit."

Despite the skepticism of some multi-level business models, Jimenez says that a good way to gauge if a particular company is legitimate or not is by asking several questions.

"I would typically challenge them to give an exact amount," Jimenez said. "How much do I need to sell or how many people do I need to recruit in order to make \$1,000 a month? If they cannot answer that question, then you know it's probably a pyramid scheme."

Though the presence of these unorthodox business models has increased since the rise of the internet, they still only make up a fraction of retail as a whole.

"A typical misconception of salespeople is that they are shady and want to maximize their benefits at the expense of a consumer. I would say, that's not true," Jimenez said. "In every profession, there's good and bad. Successful salespeople are good, honest, reliable and trustworthy. Don't let these pyramid schemes damage the reputation of salespeople in general."

Margaret Cataldi may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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Expert: Jealousy is the main reason why some don't practice open relationships



Photo courtesy of Pixabay

An open relationship is one in which two people in an ongoing relationship aren't exclusive with one another, having the freedom to engage in sexual, emotional or romantic interaction with others.

Maria Salette Ontiveros

The Prospector

Daniel Ruiz, UTEP alumnus and licensed professional counselor, describes open relationships as romantic relationships where all people involved agree to allow limited sexual, emotional and/or romantic interactions with other partners, but he said jealousy remains as one big reason why people don't do open relationships.

According to a scholarly article in the Journal of Sex and Marital Therapy, one-fifth of the population in the United States has engaged in consensual polyamory at some point in their lives. Multiple reports indicate that younger people are more likely to be in open relationships and to report "Open" as their ideal type of relationship.

Nonetheless, Ruiz says many young people still find relationship infidelity undesirable, contributing to a stigma around promiscuity or the desire for multiple partners.

He also said that alternative relationships models such as open relationships are often misunderstood or dismissed as simply not an option because of jealousy, sometimes a symptom of a lack of trust.

"I think that culture plays a main role when you are talking about open relationships because it depends how to person was raised, the values that the person had while growing up and also the society where the person grew up," said Lizbeth Gama, 30-year-old UTEP student majoring in kinesiology. "When it comes to an open relationship, it depends on the communi-

cation the couple has and their levels of jealousy, if any. Trust plays a main role when it comes to an open relationship, because without trust it is not possible to even have any relationship."

According to Psychology Today, jealousy is a complex emotion that encompasses feelings ranging from fear of abandonment to rage and humiliation. It strikes people of all ages, genders, and sexual orientations and is typically aroused when a person perceives a threat to a valued relationship from a third party. The threat may be real or imagined.

To put it simply, open relationships require an open mind where both partners are ready to see the other involved in either sexual, emotional or romantic interactions with other people.

Maria Salette Ontiveros may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

El Paso sees rise of CBD stores

Paulina Astrid Spencer

The Prospector

Cannabidiol, commonly known as CBD, is a naturally occurring compound found in the cannabis genus of flowering plants that has grown a notable presence in areas throughout the country, including El Paso.

According to The Motley Fool, CBD sales in the United States are expected to grow an average of 107% annually through 2023.

BDS Analytics also predicts that CBD sales are expected to exceed \$20 billion in the United States by 2024.

In June, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott signed into law House Bill 1325, legalizing the production and regulation of hemp. The bill saw bipartisan support, as both Democrats and Republicans sponsored it.

In a public statement, Heather Fazio, director of Texans for Responsible Marijuana Policy, said, "Finally, Texas farmers are no longer cut out of this lucrative agricultural market. Plus, Texans are now free to use CBD without fear of arrest."

The law allowed the state to set up a federally approved program for farmers to grow hemp as an industrial crop, only including products derived from hemp containing less than 0.3 percent of tetrahydrocannabinol, or THC, the psychoactive compound found in cannabis plants commonly used recreationally.

The City of El Paso has already begun to see the effects of the new bill with many CBD stores opening across town.

see CBD on page 6



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Claudia Hernandez / The Prospector
Cannabidiol-based products for sale at El Paso, Texas.

CBD from page 5

Among the few dozen stores across the city are CBD Holistics Company, CBD Whole Health, Rio Grande Hemp Company and many others.

Mesa Street in West El Paso has at least four CBD dispensaries.

There is a wide range of products that can be purchased at CBD stores, from topicals such as balms and lotions, to food products such as gummies and chocolates.

Some mainstream retailers, such as Rite Aid, CVS Health, Ulta Beauty, Circle K and even Urban Outfitters, have started to sell CBD products.

A pet owner can even purchase CBD products such as "Pet-Ness Dog Treats," marketed to promote a healthy immune system.

In this emerging industry, consumers can buy CBD-infused tinctures, bath salts, tea bags and even CBD-infused honey.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has not approved CBD and is continuing to gather data in order to learn more about the safety of CBD products.

"The U.S. Food and Drug Administration recognizes the significant public interest in cannabis and cannabis-derived compounds, particularly CBD. However, there are many unanswered questions about the science, safety, and quality of products containing CBD," the FDA posted on its website.

Without FDA approval, CBD stores and advocates cannot make medical claims or suggestions of the compound's effectiveness or they risk being closed and fined.

"Studies seem to suggest that there could potentially be medical benefits and it's a shame that we have to wait on the FDA in order to actually speak about it," Lee Angers, owner of CBD Holistics Company said.

Among the many health claims made by CBD advocates are the treatment of cramps, Crohn's disease, migraines, post-traumatic stress disorder addiction and epilepsy.

While the prevalence of CBD in Texas continues to unfold, the legal future of recreational marijuana in the state continues to be unclear.

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El Paso restaurants offer community traditional and Mexican-style ramen

Jaqueline Martinez

The Prospector

Studio Ghibli films and popular anime shows like "Naruto" and "One Piece," have all depicted traditional Japanese ramen, but the city of El Paso also has its own unique take on this famous dish.

Some recognize the dish as "Maruchan" or cup noodles, which is simply a Styrofoam cup filled with dry noodles and vegetables that only requires hot water to be ready to eat. However, the actual Japanese dish that's been around for centuries is far from a convenient instant meal.

Regular ramen noodles are made from wheat flour, water and salt in order to create the dough which is then hand-pulled, cut and steamed. The traditional ramen recipe calls for "kansui," which is alkaline water that gives the noodles a springy quality and can be substituted with baking soda.

Ramen is a versatile dish that can be served with either a meat, chicken, vegetable or fish-based broth and is usually topped with pork belly slices, fresh scallions, a soft-boiled egg, menma (fermented bamboo) and narutomaki, a type of processed fish paste usually depicted in the ramen of anime shows. Ramen bowls can also be vegan, served with completely plant-based ingredients.

In El Paso, several ramen spots can be found in the city's west side like Ramen Ishiba on 210 N. Stanton St. and Noodles & Dumplings on

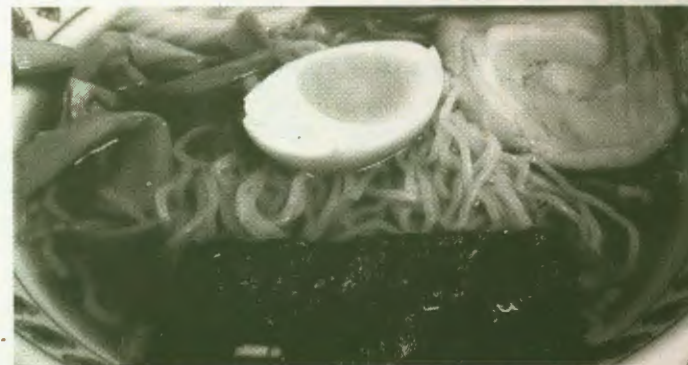


Photo courtesy of Matsuharu Japanese Restaurant
Traditional ramen at Matsuharu Japanese Restaurant in Northeast El Paso, Texas.

6303 N. Mesa St. In the Montecillo area next to Mesa Street is El Cuartito, a restaurant that offers Mexican-style ramen.

"It's Mexican ramen. It's like a mix of ramen and menudo or pozole. A lot of Mexican customers come here and really enjoy it," said Berenice Padilla, 19-year-old El Cuartito employee.

Across the street from UTEP on 204 Boston Ave. is the ramen shop Kaedama, owned by Andres Romero and chef Gabe Valencia.

The restaurant started off as a mobile ramen bus that served noodles and sushi burritos, often stationed outside Deadbeach Brewery, where long lines of people formed along Durango Street.

"I've never seen that kind of loyalty. I want to even say it is a fan base because once (Kaedama)

got really popular with the truck, it was able to really kick-start," said Luis Rene Flores, Kaedama marketing manager. "Even though it is Japanese, I feel it can also have a Mexican touch to it, because we are here on the border. We are all Mexicans in this kitchen and we're proud of it."

Like El Cuartito, Kaedama also offers Mexican-influenced ramen with the same Japanese essence.

An example of this combination is "The Tejano," which is a ramen dish that includes jalapeños toreados in a pork-based broth. Another ramen dish even comes in a chipotle-based broth.

In El Paso's east side, there are also a few popular ramen spots like Redds Ramen Ya on 1651 N. Zaragoza Road, which offers traditional ramen flavors like Tonkatsu based in pork broth.

In Northeast El Paso is a small Japanese restaurant called Matsuharu Japanese Restaurant, a family-owned business founded in 1998 on 4886 Hercules Ave.

Visit TheProspectorDaily.com to read Martinez's full story.

Jaqueline Martinez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

IN REVIEW: A treasure recounted in Prince's new memoir

Rebecca Reza

The Prospector

"It finished too soon" was my immediate thought after reading Prince's memoir, "The Beautiful Ones," released early November by Random House.

This project was the brainchild of the artist himself, set in motion several months prior to his ultimate death at 57 in April 2016. As the reader is gradually immersed into his Paisley Park world, discovering secrets of how he honed his talent to become one of the greatest superstars of our time — a handbook from the master himself — is suddenly cut short, as his life had been.

Prince Rogers Nelson was an eccentric, private, ambitious, accomplished composer and master multi-instrumentalist whose career had

been launched into the stratosphere following the release of his 1984 hit album "Purple Rain."

Writing, producing and playing many of the instruments on his albums, he had a work ethic unsurpassed by his peers. He would go on to sell millions of records, earn multiple Grammys and even an Oscar for his self-titled film, loosely based on his own life.

Loved and adored by fans and peers alike, upon his passing the publishing company, Random House, was left with the mammoth task of completing a project for an artist that rightfully had very little trust of such companies during his lifetime. Prince had signed the contract with the publisher just weeks before his death following months of negotiations.

Prince had famously battled with his record company, Warner Brothers, in the early '90s, over the lack of ownership of his master recordings. The fight launched an industry-wide call

for artists' rights and the ownership of their creations.

This was a battle that would be joined by fellow artists including George Michael, Mariah Carey and the King of Pop himself, Michael Jackson.

The two greats of the '80s had often been labeled as rivals in the press, but they actually had high regard for one another.

Prince personally chose the editor and writer of his memoir — a writer named Dan Piepen — who had been given the opportunity of a lifetime. Famously private during his career, the artist had rarely granted interviews. Prince had been very explicit in what he wanted his memoir to be about to the very last detail of marketing and its release.

Visit TheProspectorDaily.com to read Reza's full story.

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Basketball off to a promising start

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Getting off on the right foot is a priority for any basketball program and both the UTEP men's and women's basketball teams have done just that.

Both programs stand at 3-0 heading into their respective matchups against The University of New Mexico and have displayed signs of exceptional play on both ends of the court.

The Don Haskins Center has been filled with a breath of fresh air as both programs earned under 10 wins in the 2018-2019 season and have now reloaded with solid talent and a blend of athletes that can be the main star on any given night.

The men's basketball team features several Division I transfers that have contributed immensely to Head Coach Rodney Terry's program in the early season.

UTEP's women's team features three top 100 junior college transfers, a reliable point guard, and a mixture of senior leadership that have brought much needed depth to Head Coach Kevin Baker's program.

Through three games the highly touted transfers in the men's squad along with several returners from last season have blended well and have dominated New Mexico basketball, earning victories over New Mexico Highlands, New Mexico State and Eastern New Mexico, and will take on The University of New Mexico this week.

The main identity of this Miner team is defense with UTEP holding its opponents to 59 points per game and a 35 percent field goal percentage so far this season.

In the Miners' matchup against New Mexico Highlands, it forced 20 turnovers and 17 against Eastern New Mexico. UTEP has struggled taking care of the ball at times, averaging 16 turnovers per game, which is usually the case with most teams at the start off the year. The team is looking to work out the kinks, passing the ball in the early part of the season.

"We know this season is a marathon and with saying that we know how much better we can be, and the potential of this team is through the roof," junior forward Bryson Williams said.

Williams will be the leader of that marathon for the Miners as he has shown why there was so much hype surrounding the 6-foot-8 Fresno State transfer, who is averaging a team-high 16 points per game and 65 percent from the field.

A strong duo for UTEP has been sophomore guards Souley Boum and Jordan Lathon as both can share the ball with ease. Lathon leads the team in assists with four and Boum averages



Daniel Rey Perez / The Prospector

Sophomore guard Souley Boum dribbles the ball past the NMSU defender at the Don Haskins Center.

two per game. Both players can bring defensive pressure every night as well as they are the two leaders in steals for the Miners, averaging one steal per game.

The Miners face a tough test this week in the form of The University of New Mexico, another mid-major team that is undefeated (4-0) and features a talented transfer player in JaQuan Lyle, who is averaging 19 points per game for the Lobos. The persistent defense and playmaking abilities of the Miners' big men must be evident if UTEP is to secure a victory at the Don.

The same could be said for the Miner women's basketball team as it takes on an undefeated Lobo team as well (4-0). Through the Miners first three games its extended depth and ability to score the ball well has led them to wins over UC Riverside, New Mexico State, and Alcorn State.

"When you have a team like this that's willing to play hard for 40 minutes you could do some big things and I think that's why we've had some early success because this team is willing to go that extra mile," Baker said following the Miners 92-47 win over Alcorn State.

Senior guard/forward Katarina Zec leads the Miners in points averaging 17 per game, while freshman guard Katia Gallegos has been a steady

maestro of the offense, leading the team in assists with three per game. Junior forward and top 100 junior college recruit Michelle Pruitt is playing well on both ends of the court, averaging three rebounds per game, and is second on the team in points per game with 11.

Sharing the wealth is one of the keys to the Miners' success as the team has 45 total assists through three games, averaging 15 per game. In the Miners' last matchup against Alcorn State, it had 23 assists for the game and 12 players scored at least two points.

"I think the thing that jumps out the most is the 25 assists and how we shared the ball and I did like that," Baker said.

The Miners will have to bring its strong defense that has forced 22 turnovers per game, against a Lobos team that averages 82 points per game and is led by sophomore guard Ahlise Hurst's 17 points per game.

Both the men's and women's basketball teams will take on The University of New Mexico at the Don Haskins Center Nov. 23, with the women's team's tip-off starting at 11 a.m. while the men's tip-off is set for 7 p.m.

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Miners lose to Rice, secure tourney bid

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

The UTEP Miners (13-14, 6-8) lost Saturday to the Rice Owls (24-2,13-1) in three straight sets, thus ending the most successful volleyball-regular season for the Miners since 2012's 16-13 record.

Thoroughly dominating the Miners in the first set and most of the match, Rice controlled the net. After the Miners scored the first and third points of the match the team would not lead again until the first part of the third set. Early on, the Miners were just a point behind the Owls at the 10 point mark. Rice then went on a seven-point run to take a commanding lead on the back of forced errors by UTEP.

Rice finished off the Miners in the first set by a score of 22-16, winning the last three points in a row. UTEP finished the first set with 11 errors.

The second set started with the first six points scored by the visiting Owls. The Miners would get no closer than five points for the remainder of the second set as Rice won 25-13. UTEP once again finished with double-digit errors with 10 in the second frame of the match.

Showing that there was still plenty of fight left in the Miners, UTEP started off with the first three points of the third set. Sophomore Kristen Fritsche had an assist on the first five points of the third set for the Miners. Rice started making a move once the Miners had a 5-2 lead with four straight points.

Once again, like the previous set, the Miners stalled once they reached nine points with Rice going on another seven-point run to take control of the match. The Miners would go on to only score three more points for the final set as Rice closed out the victory and with a sweep by winning the final set 25-12.

Junior Mallory Yost and redshirt freshman Kenidy Howard had five blocks apiece with Fritsche leading the team with 12 assists.

UTEP has played Rice twice this season and has lost all six sets in those matches.

The good news is UTEP is the seventh seed of the Conference USA Tournament, making it for the first time since 2016. Unfortunately, the bad news is that UTEP faces Rice once again in the opening round of the tournament. The overall series stands at 10 wins for the Miners and 36 for the Owls. The Miners have won one match out of the last five.

see TOURNEY BID on page 8

TOURNEY BID from page 4

When Ben Wallis took over as the Miners head coach, he took over a team that has not had double-digit wins since 2013. In year one, Wallis had more victories than the two previous seasons combined and the first double-digit win since 2013. He will retain the vast majority of the roster with only two contributing players graduating.

"It is going to take a herculean effort to beat a team like this," Wallis said. "We got to be able to believe that we can execute this stuff. We got one more shot at this. It is now a one and done type of situation."

UTEP takes on Rice University Friday, Nov. 22, in Houston, in the opening round of the Conference-USA Tournament.

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Football loses ninth straight

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Sophomore quarterback Gavin Hardison played his first game as a Miner this season, throwing for 222 yards and a touchdown.

UTEP (1-9, 0-7) was unable to keep pace with the University of Alabama Birmingham (UAB) Blazers (7-3, 4-2) falling 37-10.

Hardison replaced senior quarterback Kai Locksley in the final drive of the first quarter after Locksley started the game, throwing an interception and four incompletions in the first three drives for the Miners against the nation's sixth-ranked defense.

Hardison's 37 passing attempts for the game were the most by a UTEP quarterback since Zac Greenlee had 39 attempts against Florida International University Oct. 8, 2016.

UTEP was unable to overcome the two-headed rushing attack of UAB quarterback Dylan Hopkins and running back Jermaine Brown Jr. Both players combined for 284 rushing yards and two touchdowns.

UAB outscored the Miners 14-3 in the second half and outrushed the Miners 353-93 for the game. UTEP struggled converting on third downs only converting two of 13 attempts.

The Blazers got off to a 17-0 lead and never looked back as UTEP's only scores for the game came off an eight-yard touchdown reception to senior wide receiver Alan Busey, for Busey's first career touchdown as a Miner, and off a 41-yard field goal by kicker Gavin Baechle.

UTEP's receiving corps was led by freshman wide receiver Jacob Cowing's 85 receiving yards and five receptions. Cowing is averaging 79 yards receiving over his last four games.

Leading the team in rushing versus the Blazers was senior running back Treyvon Hughes's with 29 yards followed by senior punter Mitchell Crawford with his 26-yard run.

This is the eighth game this season in which the Miners have allowed 30 or more points.

The Miners had a huge game from senior linebacker Stephen Forester, making his first career start at linebacker collecting a career-high 11 tackles and a sack versus the Blazers.

The Miners next matchup will be a rivalry game against New Mexico State as UTEP will look to win for the first time since Sep. 3, 2016 versus the Aggies.

UTEP battles New Mexico State at 2 p.m. Nov. 23 in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

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Deseche correctamente los residuos peligrosos, pesticidas, y fertilizantes. Llama al departamento EH&S en UTEP y agenda fecha para recoger los desperdicios.



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