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# THE PROSPECTOR

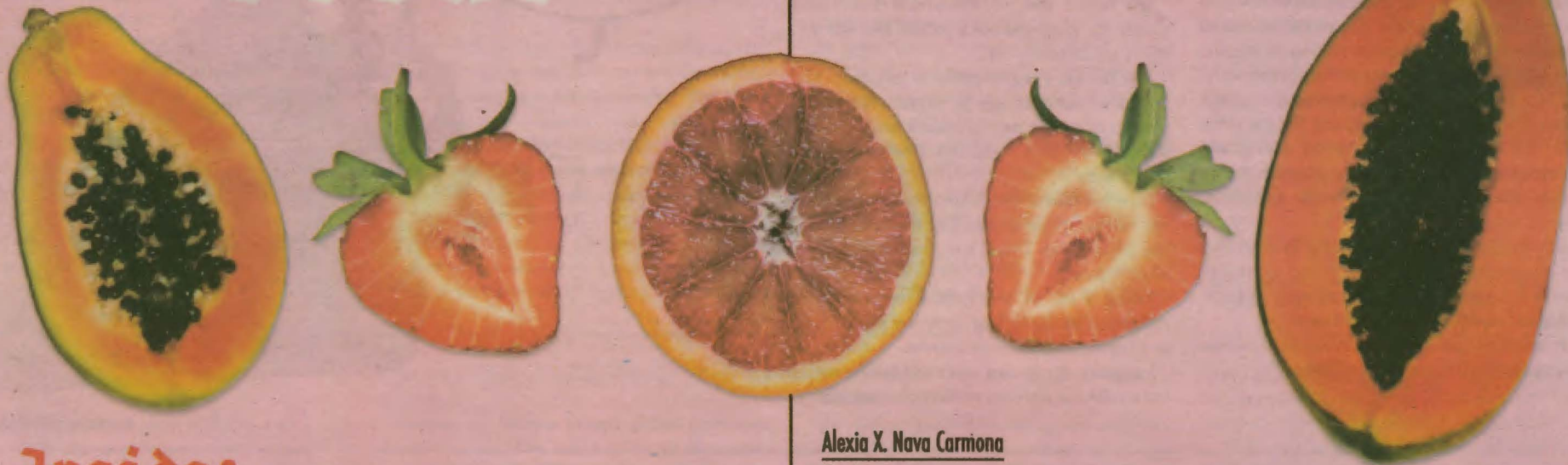
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## The Love Issue

# Destigmatizing masturbation



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**Getting over your ex** page 5

**Alexia X. Nava Carmiona**

The Prospector

Although it is a natural action, masturbation has been subject of its fair share of misconceptions and stigma, especially among women.

"Female masturbation has been seen as unnatural and immoral practice. It is considered a sin by many religions and forbidden," said Maissa Khatib, associate professor of practice with a doctorate in interdisciplinary health sciences and faculty member of the Women's and Gender Studies program at UTEP.

According to Khatib, one misconception is that masturbating will have negative effects on sexuality, sexual desire and functionality or will lead to an increased risk of anxiety and depression.

"(These misconceptions are) not true at all," Khatib said. "If you look at science, at what research has found about masturbation, is most of the time a lot of benefits ...

Photo illustration by Teddy Baylón

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# Being single is an unconscious decision I've made my whole life

**Bryan Mena**

The Prospector

Research shows that the number of single people in the United States increased by a surprising 58% within the past 30 years — a growing club I've been a part of every single Valentine's Day throughout my life.

There are probably several psychological reasons why my cat has a better dating life than me, but Elite Daily lists six reasons why people probably remain single, like being too closed off to human connection, too insecure or just simply not prioritizing it.

Laura Firestone, a licensed psychotherapist, interestingly mentions that some people remain single due to "an unconscious motivation to seek out relationships that reinforce critical thoughts they have long had toward themselves and replay negative aspects of their childhoods."

Justin Brown, a tech entrepreneur and founder of the social media platform Ideapod, has lived his entire adult life without dating, and he explains in a blog post how a certain theory helped him understand why — the attachment theory.

The theory was first formulated in the 1950s by psychoanalyst John Bowlby and it encompasses the psychological, evolutionary and ethological aspect of human relationships.

It describes four kinds of adults when it comes to attachment behaviors, like dating.

The first is the "secure" type, which Brown simply described as people who "are both comfortable showing affection towards their loved ones while also being alone and independent."

The second is the "anxious" type, the ones who are uncomfortable being alone and who constantly seek reassurance from their partners to quell their anxieties.

The third is the "avoidant" type, which Brown pins as the "extremely independent, comfortable being alone and uncomfortable with intimacy."

And finally, the fourth is a troublesome combination of the second and the third types, the "anxious-avoidant" type, the ones who are not only afraid of connection, but who also aggressively stay away from it.

The secure type of attachment behavior is clearly the ideal one for a robust love life — a type I am definitely not.

Like Brown, I peg myself as an avoidant type. I do so many things by myself, things that couples or even a pair of friends usually do together, like watch films, travel or try out new restaurants.

I catch a film at the Alamo Drafthouse every two weeks by myself and I've traveled to cities like Miami, San Diego and Washington, D.C., all on my own.

Living a life of free-spirited independence, unfettered by the lack of company from a lover or a friend, is all I've ever known.

Laughing at my own jokes and taking myself out on dates is my own version of a love life.

But I guess I'm also afraid of intimacy and being vulnerable, which is the other aspect of the avoidant type.

While attachment theory sheds a little light on why I'm chronically single, I nonetheless embrace my seemingly permanent relationship status.

Whether it's because I crush on guys that never like me back or because I habitually reject every single guy that ever shows the slightest bit of interest in me, my singleness is a reality that I've gotten used to — at least until I mature into a different kind of person at some point, hopefully a secure type.

Bryan Mena may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)



Illustration by Teddy Baylon

Check out the first episode in season two of The Prospector's podcast at [TheProspectorDaily.com](http://TheProspectorDaily.com)



The podcast recaps stories published online and in print and features segments, such as the Miner Minute, Internet Corner and Sports Nugget.

THE PROSPECTOR

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SPEAK YOUR MIND

# Condoms, their history and access at UTEP

**Maria Ramos**

The Prospector

Any person can walk into a convenience store such as 7-Eleven and buy male condoms for \$3 or less. Besides being affordable and accessible, there are multiple options from which to choose. From size, colors, flavors and varying descriptions, such as "pleasure for her," the options are seemingly endless.

The earliest known illustration of a man using a condom during a sexual intercourse is painted on the wall of a cave in France; it is about 12,000 to 15,000 years old. But the oldest condoms were found in England back in 1640, made of animal guts, according to the archive of "A History of Birth Control Methods" from Planned Parenthood.

It wasn't until 1843 when the rubber condoms were mass produced, when Charles Good-year patented the vulcanization of rubber. By the 1920s, latex was invented, which made the process of creating condoms easier, according to Case Western Reserve University. In today's market, latex condoms are still the most produced and sold. However, other options are now available besides latex material since there are people who are allergic to it, such as polyurethane condoms, that are made of a thin plastic and polyisoprene condoms, that are made of synthetic rubber

People can now find condom vending machines in bars or in the bathrooms of clubs, but getting condoms is still regarded as a taboo thing to do, especially among teenagers who start to explore their sexual life, as seen in various coming-of-age films.

There are many places where condoms are given away free of charge and all kinds and types of organizations that emphasize the use of condoms, not only to prevent unwanted pregnancies, but also to prevent sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

The cases of syphilis, gonorrhea and chlamydia reached an all-time high in the U.S. in 2018. The latest report from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) published in 2019 reflects the increase. The report shows more than 115,000 syphilis cases, 580,000 gonorrhea cases and more than 1.7 million chlamydia cases.

For about 10 years, UTEP has offered the upper level class Sex, Culture and Evolution, taught by Professor Aurolyn Luykx. The class is divided into two blocks. In the first, students learn about the history of sex and in the second block, a variety of topics such as STDs, birth control methods and pregnancies are explored.

"This semester we are talking about birth control methods and their effectiveness. Of course the male condom is one of the most well-known, but there are plenty more options," Luykx said.

Women have the option to buy internal condoms, better known as female condoms, which go inside the vagina.

"Female condoms are less popular than male and also more expensive," Luykx said. "I think that people don't hear too much about them. They might think that they are not very effective, but they are."

On campus, students can pick up free condoms at the Health and Wellness Center. There is also a program from the UTEP wellness center that seeks to educate and promote safer sex. Healthy Miner Sex Positive Peer Education Program has been in charge of distributing condoms throughout the UTEP campus.

"I believe the university has the resources, they could do more, they can be more active and be more accessible to students," Luykx said. "For example, we don't even have feminine products machines in the women's bathrooms."

The organization Frontera Folx shares similar ideas. The student organization was born with the goal to promote sex education for youth on campus and around El Paso.

Alexandria Hernandez, a junior majoring in marketing at UTEP, is the president of Frontera Folx. This spring marks the second semester since they created the organization, which has 15 members.

"We know that college life is hard and especially the sex life, but that's why we want to be a

resource for other students like us," Hernandez said.

The organization offers free condoms around campus. They even have a system coined "condom plugs" in which each Frontera Folx member carries around condoms to distribute among students.

"We call our members condom plugs," Hernandez said. "If anyone needs a condom or multiple condoms, they can send us a message to our Facebook page and we will set them up."

The organization invites anyone who is interested in sex education and reproductive rights to attend one of their meetings at 5 p.m. every Wednesday in UTEP's Old Main Building room 115.

"When you use a condom, you are not only protecting yourself, you are also protecting others," Hernandez said. "We need to learn to be sexually responsible."

If students are looking for a birth control method and are not sure which one is right for them, Planned Parenthood offers a free online quiz, which can help them figure out which would be a good option for them before consulting a doctor.

Students also have access to free feminine products at the office of Women and Gender Studies at UTEP's Liberal Arts Building room 233.

Maria Ramos may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)

## MASTURBATION from front page

health benefits, mental health benefits, but none of the misconceptions ... are real at all."

Some of the benefits that come with masturbation include better sleep, a better understanding of one's sexual wants and needs, relief of stress and cramps, and even boosting one's mood, according to a Healthline article. However, Healthline also warns against addiction to masturbation, suggesting therapy if it is affecting one's life negatively.

Still, the subject of female masturbation and self-pleasure continues to be shrouded with stigma, especially when compared to how normalized it is among men.

This way of treating female sexuality as a taboo throughout history, has served as a way of exerting control over women, taking advantage of the way they are alienated and even ashamed from their own bodies, Khatib said.

"(It) takes away a lot of self-power. (It makes women more) easily accepting to be controlled and dominated by others," Khatib said. "Think of abortion issue in the U.S. Women's right to choose is not guaranteed; it depends on which political party is in power. Controlling women's

bodies and choices is taking away their freedom and voice."

Marquis de Sade, a French philosopher and writer born in 1740, best known for his works portraying sexual sadism, makes a mention on the repression of sexuality as a form of control in his work, "Juliette," when Mother Delbéne says, "Throughout history, monarchs and despots have always opposed sexual liberty because they have always known that it is never easier to oppress than when the people suffer repression." The excerpt is translated from Spanish.

One case Khatib mentioned as an example of the way masturbation in general is treated as a taboo is that of Joycelyn Elders, a surgeon general who lost her job after proposing the encouragement of masturbation among high school students as a way to reduce sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and teen pregnancies.

According to a 1994 article by the New York Times, controversy rose after Elders advocated for sexual education in a United Nations conference on AIDS, especially from people with more conservative views, until she resigned. She was actually forced to resign as Leon E. Panetta, Bill Clinton's chief of staff, declared if she didn't

resign, she would have been fired, according to the article.

"She lost her job just by saying and providing scientific facts about ... sex education in high school, especially on masturbation," Khatib said.

Still today, even with the fruits of the women's rights movement in the country as part of female liberation from the control exerted over them, there is still work to be done, especially to end the misconceptions regarding masturbation, according to Khatib.

"Yes, over the decades, women's movements have accomplished a lot but we still have a long way. Women in the U.S., the most powerful country, are still suffering gender inequity, the wage gap, lack of representation in certain sectors in society and lack of freedom when it comes to women's sexuality," Khatib said. "There is still an enduring taboo surrounding masturbation and a long history of discomfort to talk about sexuality in general."

To end this taboo, Khatib proposes a public health campaign aiming to change the current sex education curriculum to be more "multifaceted" and based on research and to deliver more "edutainment" material, which is defined in the Merriam-Webster dictionary as "entertainment

(as by games, films, or shows) that is designed to be educational," for people of all ages with media that is appropriate for each age group.

"(We need a) public health campaign that will really address these misconceptions, have intervention that will be targeting all (people)," Khatib said. "A public health approach ... should be wide and should be targeting ... all of us, men and women who are sexually active in a sexually active age."

Khatib also proposes for the campaign to encourage parents to look for accurate information about female masturbation and even offer training that emphasizes the importance of this topic so they can talk about it with their daughters.

"Currently, there are two good resources that I recommend: OMGYES, an award-winning interactive site where real women demonstrate, on themselves, various paths to orgasm (and) "Sticky: A (Self) Love Story," a documentary that takes the revolutionary stance that touching yourself is not a cause for moral repulsion," Khatib said. "Female masturbation has not only health benefits, but it also empowers women to better understand their sexuality."

Alexia X. Nava Carmona may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)

# Federal grand jury indicts El Paso shooter on 90 counts

Bryan Mena, Paulina Astrid Spencer

The Prospector

U.S. Attorney John F. Bash, Assistant Attorney of the Department of Justice's (DOJ) Civil Rights Division Eric Dreiband and Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Special Agent Luis M. Quesada held a news conference Thursday to inform the public on the indictment of Patrick Wood Crusius, 21, in relation to the Aug. 3 Walmart mass shooting.

According to a release by the DOJ, a federal grand jury in El Paso indicted Crusius on hate crime and firearm charges in connection with the murder of 22 people and the attempted murder of 23 others at a Walmart.

"Today marks a significant step in fulfilling that commitment. (A) few hours ago, a federal grand jury sitting here in El Paso returned a 90-count indictment against the Walmart shooter," Bash said. "That's two counts for each of the 44 innocent victims who were shot by the attacker. Both those who survived and those who did not. As well as two additional accounts for one of the other people he attempted to kill."

The indictment alleges that on the day of the shooting, Crusius "willfully caused bodily harm" by opening fire with an assault rifle to shoot multiple people in and around the Cielo Vista Walmart.

Crusius is presumed to have bought the weapon he used for the shooting off and 1,000 rounds of ammunition off the internet.

"As the grand jury alleges, the defendant tried to terrorize an entire community," Dreiband said. "This will not stand. The Department of Justice will continue to fight these acts of hatred both here in El Paso and across our entire country."



Bryan Mena / The Prospector

U.S. Attorney John F. Bash announced to the public on Feb. 6 that a federal grand jury indicted Patrick Wood Crusius on 90 counts of hate crime and firearm charges in relation to the Aug. 3 shooting that left 22 dead and 23 others injured.

Crusius was indicted on a total of 90 counts for hate crimes resulting in death, the use of a firearm to commit murder, hate crime involving attempt to kill and the use of a firearm in relation to a crime of violence.

The indictment further alleges that on the day of the shooting, Crusius uploaded to the internet a document he had drafted entitled "The Inconvenient Truth."

"In that manifesto, he called the attack a response to 'the Hispanic invasion of Texas,'" Bash said. "He claimed to be defending the United States from 'cultural and ethnic replacement brought on by the invasion.' As I'm sure

all of you know, the attack deeply scarred this community."

The federal indictment is on a "parallel track" with a state investigation that has already delivered an indictment, in which El Paso County District Attorney Jaime Esparza announced he would seek the death penalty last September.

Bash gave kudos to law enforcement personnel on the local, statewide and federal level for effective cooperation in this case. Quesada illustrated how the FBI contributed to this cooperation.

"Notably, more than 130 FBI personnel coming from our FBI headquarters and other field offices throughout the nation directly supported

“  
As the grand jury alleges, the defendant tried to terrorize an entire community. This will not stand.  
”

- ERIC DREIBAND  
assistant attorney of the  
Department of Justice's  
Civil Rights Division

this investigation, in addition to over 250 personnel from the El Paso FBI office," Quesada said. "Our victim services unit, whereas we like to refer to them our 'angels on the ground,' immediately deployed the full range of their expertise with those of their partners to meet the direct needs of the victims, families and witnesses, and more importantly, they continue to do so today."

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# Broken heart? Forget your ex this Valentine's Day weekend

Sasha Minjarez

The Prospector

Valentine's Day may be a day to celebrate all things love, but for those who just went through a breakup, the thought of anything lovey dovey feels like a stab in the heart by cupid's arrow. Here are a few things you can do this weekend to mend that aching soul.

## Quit bugging me

The El Paso Zoo is hosting its second annual "Quit Bugging Me" event on Valentine's Day weekend where you can submit the name of your ex to be assigned to a cockroach that'll be fed to a meerkat.

This year, other animals, such as monkeys and birds, are also joining in on the cockroach-eating fun. The names of these bygones taking on the form of bugs will adorn the animals' exhibits this weekend and all of it will be live streamed.

"We kicked this off last year and it was just a wild idea we thought of," said El Paso Zoo event coordinator Sarah Borrego. "Some other zoos name the cockroaches, but we wanted to do something more gruesome."

Another addition to this event is an especially gut-churning incentive. While having a cockroach named is free of charge, donations are also welcomed and appreciated. To incentivize donations to the zoo, for every \$1,000 raised, Zoo Director Joe Montisano will eat a roach.

Montisano is already going to have to eat five roaches. Borrego says Montisano is not too



Cockroaches will be named after exes and feed to animals at the El Paso Zoo over a three-day anti-Valentine's Day promotion starting Feb. 14.

thrilled about this but is in good spirits for raising awareness.

"We've had a great response. We've gotten names from Australia, the Czech Republic, Thailand, and even Iceland," Borrego said.

Last year, proceeds went to a partner orangutan conservation group, but this year all the money from the donations will go to caring for the animals locally.

Borrego says it will help engage the animals in enrichment activities and with veterinary costs, exhibit maintenance and food.

"We're really excited. Not only is it educational, but we've gotten stories that people have gotten closure from this, even from abusive relationships," Borrego said. "If this helps them move on, then that's great."

Helping animals all while getting rid of that pesky bug problem once and for all; it's a win-win. For more information, visit [elpasozoo.org](http://elpasozoo.org)

## Past flings for hot wings

Take a picture of your ex to be shredded at Hooter's this Feb. 14 and with a dine-in purchase of 10 wings, patrons will receive another 10 free boneless wings.

You can even virtually shred your ex for a digital coupon to redeem the offer. Your ex might've been spineless, but these boneless freebies might just leave you with a better taste in your mouth.

## Target your ex and "Relax"

Take in a physical photo of your ex this Valentine's Day weekend at Relaxe, El Paso's very first axe-throwing venue at 808 Montana Ave., and use it to target any residual emotions by actually using their photo as a target.

## Bars & bitters

Church Bar right next to the downtown San Jacinto Plaza will have an "Anti-Valentine's Day" bartending contest and the "Love Sucks Pub Crawl" featuring stops at 5 Points Bistro, 1/8 Pizza Pub, Coconuts Bar and Grill and Dewey's Corner Pub. All for a good cause, too, since a portion of the proceeds will be going to support the Rescue Mission of El Paso. Partial owner Rico Velez of Dewey's says they'll be throwing a "love sucks party" with a deejay and drink specials.

If maybe a rebound rendezvous is more up your alley, Joe Vinny & Bronsons Bohemian Café will host a speed dating night Feb. 15 for singles ages 28-36.

## Anti-rom.com

Want to let that not-so-special-anymore someone know exactly how you feel about them?

If you want to put a price on revenge, thepayback.com has got you covered with the option of sending your ex wilted flower assortments, a box of melted chocolates, or even "one dead, smelly fish."

Shippoker.com will send your ex an endless Valentine's Day card. The melody it plays once opened is set on an infinite loop and will only stop ringing in the ears of your mortal enemy once destroyed. You can even add glitter to the card for that extra petty pizzazz. Shippourenemiesglitter.com will also anonymously bomb he/she who shall not be named with enough glitter to last longer than your relationship.

## Feeling like a real stinker?

Poopsenders.com will anonymously (complete with zero paper trail), send your ex an assortment of excrements to choose from. Their "combo pack" being a foul medley of cow, elephant and gorilla feces. Let them know they're not number one in your heart anymore with a heaping pile of number two.

Sasha Minjarez may be reached at [prospector@elp.com](mailto:prospector@elp.com)

# No broken heart? Here's how you can celebrate this weekend of romance

Paulina Astrid Spencer

The Prospector

With Valentine's Day just around the corner, you might be in a panic trying to decide how to spend the day with your special someone or your best friends. The good news is that there are plenty of things to do on this romantic day throughout the city. Whether you are spending the day with your soulmate or your pals, you are sure to find the perfect event to attend.

## Classic dinner and dance

If you are the classic dinner-and-dance type of person, there are several of these events guaranteed to make your significant other swoon.

'70s Valentine's Party — The dinner and dance featuring '70s disco Motown, soul and more is from 6:30-11 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 at El Maida Shrine, 6331 Alabama St. For information, visit [the70sreunion.com](http://the70sreunion.com).

Valentine's Day at the Crossing — Ardovino's Desert Crossing in Sunland Park will host a five-course Valentine's Day meal with live music by music artist Baku from 5-10 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 at 1 Ardovinos Dr. For information visit [ardovinos.com](http://ardovinos.com).

Valentine's Day Dinner — Sombra Antigua Vineyard and Winery in Chamberino, New Mexico will host a fine dining experience with dinner, wine, live music by Julio Ortiz and dancing in a heated venue Friday, Feb. 14 at 430 La Viña Road (off NM 28 between markers 8 and 9). For information visit [sombraantigua.com](http://sombraantigua.com).

Valentine's Dinner and Dance — Catholic Daughters of the Americas #1581 will host a fundraising dinner and dance with prize giveaways and music by Starliners Band and mariachis from 6 p.m. to midnight Friday, Feb. 14 at 801 Magoffin Ave. For information contact Barbie, the event's organizer, at 915-240-5959.

## For something artistic

If you and your significant other (or friend) are more artistic, there are many events for you around town. From art at the museum to live music at an art gallery, you are bound to have some fun! Here are a couple (no pun intended!)

'Love is in the Air' — The Bert Saldana Gallery will present live music by artist "After Dark" 7-9 p.m. Friday, Feb. 14 at Golden Eagle Gallery, 1501 Main St. in San Elizario, Texas. The San Elizario Players present the skit "Cupid's Arrow" at 8 p.m. For information, call 915-479-2926.

'Amor' art event — El Paso Museum of Art will host this event Friday and Saturday, Feb. 14-15 as part of its "Art Getaways" weekend series centered around blockbuster exhibitions at the museum. For information, visit [epma.art](http://epma.art).

## For a movie date

If you want to have a more low-key and relaxed Valentine's Day, going to the movies could

be the perfect date for you and your significant other. Going to the movie theatre is also a great choice for you and your girlfriends to spend "Galentine's Day" together. Here are a few movies premiering Feb. 14.

Blumhouse's Fantasy Island — Starring Maggie Q, Michael Peña and Lucy Hale. Directed by Jeff Wadlow.

Ordinary Love — Starring Liam Neeson, Lesley Manville and Amit Shah. Directed by Lisa Barros D'Sa & Glenn Leyburn.

What About Love — Starring Sharon Stone, Andy Garcia and Iain Glen. Directed by Klaus Menzel.

Sonic, the Hedgehog — Live Action & CG Animation. Starring Jim Carrey, Adam Pally and James Marsden. Directed by Jeff Fowler.

To read Spencer's full story, visit [TheProspectorDaily.com](http://TheProspectorDaily.com)

Paulina Spencer may be reached at [prospector@elp.com](mailto:prospector@elp.com)

# 'Monsters We Create'

Play co-produced by students focuses on border, climate change, mental illness

## Exodis Ward

The Prospector

"Monsters We Create" is a new play about political chaos and one girl's tale of resilience written by playwright Georgina Escobar in collaboration with student playwrights.

Its set to premiere at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Studio Theatre in the Fox Fine Arts Center.

The play is a once-in-a-lifetime event for theatre students because it falls under the new work development genre where writers are engaged throughout the development of the play from the beginning of production meetings to the rehearsal process.

"Having the writer in the room allows for us to manipulate the text to fit the actual circumstances that we have, which is a rare opportunity that students rarely get unless they have a playwright in-house," said Escobar, who is also a playwright visiting professor of practice. "The writer is not creating in a void, but taking ideas from designers, being influenced by the cast and taking those to the surface of the story therefore,

making the play a uniquely UTEP production. It can't ever be replicated in this exact way because it was crafted and shaped to, for and by UTEP students."

The play takes place in a dystopian borderland, 10 years into the future, overrun with refugees due to climatic disasters. The government, dealing with the refugees, becomes a police state and puts refugees in sterilization camps.

The story follows a young Mexican girl who is a writer in a sterilization camp. She escapes and remembers that she had a plan with her friends, a "call to action." They then get together to unify the voices of the oppressed.

"Monsters shines light on what it means to connect or disconnect with friends and family when the planet and political landscape are crumbling around you," Kimberly McKean, assistant professor of performance and director of the play said. "Some of our characters fight for change and resist, while others sit in complacency like 'boiling frogs,' numb to the damage."

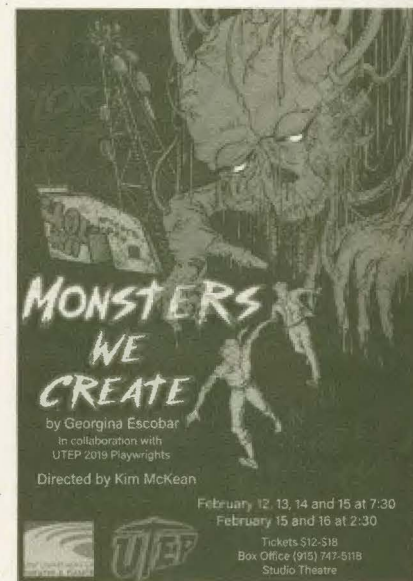
The play was created through a collaborative playwrighting course led by Escobar and a special topic acting course led by McKean.

Escobar graduated from UTEP with a degree in traditional playwrighting and has trailblazed a road in Latinx futurity and a new genre she calls "frontera-funk." Escobar hopes to connect professional and student playwrights.

"One of the big reasons I came back to serve in this position this year was to look for ways to bring in my network of national theatre-makers and sort of break that notion that the people who have made it are on another level or they're untouchable," Escobar said. "I'm a steering member of the advisory committee of the Latinx Theatre Commons and we function on four tenants that are very important: advocacy, art-making, scholarship and networking. They function in a balanced way and that's what I'm hoping to bring."

To read Ward's full story, visit [TheProspectorDaily.com](http://TheProspectorDaily.com)

Exodis Ward may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)



Poster art by Brian Ceely

"Monsters We Create" is an original piece written in collaboration between Georgina Escobar and 2019 UTEP Playwrights.

## UTEP ATHLETICS UPCOMING EVENTS

**MEN**  
**FEB. 1**

UNIVERSITY OF  
ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM @7PM

**FEB. 15**

MARSHALL @2PM

**WOMEN**  
**FEB. 6**

CHARLOTTE @7PM

**FEB. 22**

MIDDLE  
TENNESSEE @1PM

**FEB. 13**

WESTERN  
KENTUCKY @7PM

**FEB. 13**

OLD  
DOMINION @1PM

**FEB. 29**

SOUTHERN  
MISS @1PM

**UTEP**

**SOFTBALL**

**FEB. 21**

IUPUI @3:30PM  
DOUBLE HEADER OMAHA @6PM  
**UTEP TOURNAMENT**

**FEB. 22**

IUPUI @4:30PM

**FEB. 23**

OMAHA @12:30PM

**UTEP**

**TENNIS**

**FEB. 1**

ABILENE  
CHRISTIAN @12PM

**FEB. 2**

UNIVERSITY OF  
NEW MEXICO @12PM

**FEB. 20**

MONTANA STATE @12PM

FOR TICKETS: 915-747-5234

UTEPMINERS.COM

# UTEP men's basketball drops third straight to ODU

Michael CuvIELLO

The Prospector

UTEP (13-12, 4-8) lost its third consecutive game to the Old Dominion Monarchs (10-15, 6-6) 72-53 with an uninspiring performance. Falling to a disappointing 11th place in Conference USA (C-USA).

With two games left before bonus play, the Miners will need a lot of help from other teams to make it into the top two group brackets of the 10 best teams in the conference. If relegated to the third group, the Miners could be in danger of not making the tournament as the bottom four teams will play each other in the final bracket of bonus play.

After scoring the first basket of the game, UTEP quickly found itself down by 9 points, after a 9 point run from the Monarchs. Responding with a run of its own, the Miners took a 1 point lead off a 3-pointer by sophomore Efe Odigie with nine minutes remaining in the first half.

Battling back and forth for the next few minutes, ODU would take the lead and never relinquish it with about four minutes left in the first half. A 9-point Monarch run would close the half with ODU leading 34-25. The Miners went scoreless during these final four minutes of the half.

With 12 turnovers the Miners had twice the number of the Monarchs but somehow held a slim 23-22 halftime rebound advantage. Getting to the foul line in the first half was also an advantage for the Monarchs with an eight shot advantage.



Michael CuvIELLO / The Prospector

Graduate transfer senior guard Darryl Edwards shoots a contested jumper over two Blazer defenders versus UAB Feb. 4.

Sophomore guard Souley Boum in his second consecutive start was limited to seven minutes and only one shot in the first half while Senior Darryl Edwards led the team at halftime with 8 points off 3-11 shooting. Sophomore Efe Odigie added 7 points in 14 minutes but did not score the rest of the game.

After almost two minutes of a defensive stand-off, the Miners closed to within 7 points early in the second half off a layup from Eric Vila. From that point on, the Miners would get no closer than 9 points. A 3 pointer from ODU's Joe Reece

at the 12-minute mark pushed the deficit to double digits.

In the final 11 minutes of the game, the Miners would be outscored 21-12 and end up losing by 19 points.

"We have to take care of the basketball," Head Coach Rodney Terry said. "We had 12 turnovers at halftime and that was really the difference in the game. We let the half get away from us."

While shooting a blistering 50% from the field, the Monarchs were able to capitalize on the Miners' poor 3-point shooting to increase its

lead. In a battle of the two worst 3-point shooting teams in the conference, both teams lived up to expectations from that range shooting a combined 28%.

UTEP was dominated on the boards in the second half losing the rebound battle 41-34. ODU had a very balanced attack with five players scoring in double figures. The Monarchs got unexpected scoring outputs from a pair of sophomores Joe Reece with 10 points and a career high 15 points from Kalu Ezikpe.

Leading the Miners were the duo of junior Bryson Williams and Edwards with 16 points total. No other Miner player had more than 7 points. For the season Boum is averaging more than 12 points a game but only had 4 total points versus ODU.

Sophomore Jordan Lathon making his second start since returning to the team, led the team in rebounds with 11 while only scoring 2 points. Sophomore Nigel Hawkins starting at guard most of the new year did not play at all versus ODU due to sustaining an injury in pre-game warmups.

With one more win than a loss, the Miners are in danger of falling to .500 as it faces one of the best teams in C-USA in its next matchup with the Western Kentucky University (WKU) Hilltoppers (16-8, 9-3).

The Miners play 7 p.m. Feb. 13 versus the second place Hilltoppers at the Don Haskins Center.

Reminder: Students get into all UTEP sporting events for free, as covered by tuition costs.

Michael CuvIELLO may be reached at [prospector.utep.edu](mailto:prospector.utep.edu)

# UTEP track team performs well, personal records set

Michael CuvIELLO

The Prospector

Senior Shakeem Smith broke his own school record for UTEP in the Corky Classic in Albuquerque, New Mexico, this past weekend, shaving another 0.01 off his record with a time of 7.89. Unfortunately, that only resulted in a fourth-place finish in the 60m hurdles. Smith has the second and third fastest times in C-USA this season.

Overall, more 20 personal bests were set for the UTEP track team.

Rising star and freshman sensation Titus Cheruiyot won his third 3000m run of the year with a close victory at 8:09.57 Cheruiyot won the race by one-fifth of a second of the runner-up. Cheruiyot is considered a strong contender for the

conference championship in the event with the second-best time in Conference USA (C-USA) this season.

Sophomore Chantoba Bright won her second event of the season with a 12.98 triple jump to edge out the field. Bright had previously won the long jump at the Martin Luther King (MLK) Invitational.

Coming within 0.07 of the 39-year-old school record in the 400m dash, senior Sean Bailey won the gold with a personal record time of 46.37. Bailey has the top two times in C-USA this season and has two more chances to break the UTEP record set in 1981.

Freshman Jevaughn Powell finished third about a second behind with his second top four finish of the year in track. Powell is also developing into a contender for the conference championships.

Finishing in third just a little over a second behind the winner, Carolyne Chepkosegei finished the mile in 4:59.08. Just over two weeks ago, Chepkosegei ran 10 seconds faster at the MLK Invitational. Currently, Chepkosegei has the third best time in C-USA this season.

Junior shot putter and Franklin High grad Benjamin Coronado placed third on the day with a personal best of 17.47m, which also moved him into third place in the conference.

Junior Karol Koncas posted a personal and conference-best this season at 20.03m.

Although sophomore Maribel Caicedo did not make the finals in the 60m hurdles, she still posted the best time in the conference at the meet with a time of 8:37.

"The men's side displayed a very good meet, tons of new personal bests were set on that

side. The team strongly improved their position for the conference meet," said UTEP Head Coach Mika Laaksonen. "The women didn't have a bad meet either as a few individuals stood out races."

UTEP will compete next compete Feb. 13-14 at the Don Kirby Elite Invitational hosted by New Mexico.

The Miners will also send three distance runners Cheruiyot, Korir and Chepkosegei to the Iowa State Classic Feb. 14-15. Cheruiyot and Korir will run in the 5k and Chepkosegei will compete in the 800m. The C-USA Championships will be held Feb. 22-23 in Birmingham, Alabama.

Michael CuvIELLO may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)



# Miner women lose hard-fought game to ODU

**Isaiah Ramirez**

The Prospector

In what shaped up to be a stellar matchup at Don Haskins Center Saturday against the second place Old Dominion (ODU) Monarchs, the game lived up to the hype.

The Miners (13-9, 6-4) came up just short of breaking the Monarchs' (20-3, 10-1) now eight-game winning streak falling 77-69. The Miners split its two-game homestand after defeating Charlotte 82-76 in overtime Thursday.

"I thought we played really well today and I'm really proud of our team," Head Coach Kevin Baker said. "I'm really glad that we put ourselves in position to win the game."

UTEP senior guard Katarina Zec came out of the gates swinging, scoring 16 points in the first quarter which is the second most in a quarter by a Miner history. Both the Miners and ODU showcased a fast-paced style of basketball for the game.

The game was deadlocked at 40 at halftime and the Miners shot 45% from the field while Zec scored 20 points.

After three quarters, ODU led by a point (55-54) and the Miners took the lead off four

straight points by freshman guard Katarina Gallegos and led by three with 7:55 remaining. ODU took the lead off back-to-back shots from downtown by junior guard Victoria Morris. Morris knocked down seven threes, tailing 23 points for the Monarchs.

The Miners closed the gap to a 2-point deficit with less than five minutes remaining. UTEP was held to 4 points for the final four minutes of the matchup by a swarming ODU defense.

Zec was held to two points in the first half as ODU's stifling defense was evident. ODU came into the game with the top scoring defense in Conference-USA.

"They face guarded me so we're trying to put the ball inside more instead of focusing on perimeter shooting," Zec said.

Gallegos provided a solid all-around performance for the Miners tallying 11 points, six rebounds and seven assists. Senior forward Ariana Gill put up a career high 25 points Thursday against Charlotte and recorded a near double-double, posting 13 points and nine boards.

ODU came into Saturday's game with four players scoring in double digits and nearly accomplished just that against the Miners with sophomore forward Amari Young posting 23

points, Morris 23, senior guard Taylor Edwards 13, and sophomore guard Mariah Adams 9.

The Miners have put up good fights against the top two teams in Conference-USA in Rice and ODU, losing by a combined 16 points between the two teams. Having a team that features two freshmen in the starting lineup and two more in the rotation, the experience of nearly defeating tough conference powerhouses will only be beneficial to UTEP moving forward.

"Almost exactly the same situation we were in against Rice, we put ourselves in a position to win that day and the same here," Baker said. "I do think that championship level teams they look at that moment and they just become special. We got some young kids out there that are still learning and once they get it figured out, they're going to be pretty good."

UTEP's next task is a three-game road trip that begins with a matchup against Western



Michael Cuvillo / The Prospector

Freshman guard Avery Crouse pushes the ball up court under heavy pressure from Old Dominion guard Taylor Edwards Saturday Feb. 8.

Kentucky University, then the Miners take on Marshall and conclude the road trip against the University of Texas at San Antonio.

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at [prospector@utep.edu](mailto:prospector@utep.edu)

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*Happy Valentine Day.*  


  
*We love you.*  
*Vladik, Misha, and Thuy*