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The Prospector, February 25, 2020

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THE PROSPECTOR

ASSAYER OF STUDENT OPINION

VOL. 106, NO. 20
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THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT EL PASO
WWW.THEPROSPECTORDAILY.COM

Brewing up a business

Local entrepreneur to open El Paso Draft House in East El Paso within a month

Bryan Mena

The Prospector

Tucked in the suburban corner of George Dieter and Trawood drives is the construction site of a future beer joint that's expected to grace East El Paso with a wide variety of brew — a future microbrewery dubbed El Paso Draft House.

Located on 1798 George Dieter Dr., El Paso Draft House is expected to officially open its doors in early to mid-March.

"The vision behind El Paso Draft House is to continue to bring something new to El Paso. My team and I aim at putting El Paso on the map," said owner Justin Kaufman. "We will make our

own beer, serve local beer and ultimately have 36 beers on tap."

This new venue is distinct due to its modern exterior and a brilliantly colorful mural of people enjoying beer painted on the building's left side.

The microbrewery will have a large screen television on display, provide a golf simulator for entertainment, have a small kitchen to serve food and give customers access to a beer terrace to unwind outdoors.

El Paso Draft House is only one of Kaufman's several business ventures within the city — ultimately why Kaufman describes himself as a "serial entrepreneur."

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ARTS AND
ENTERTAINMENT
ISSUE



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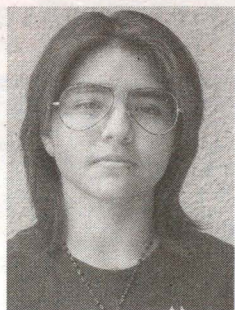
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Fragile Flower immortalized through her art



Theodore Baylón
The Prospector

Art has been part of my life ever since I could pick up a pencil. It's as if the different media to create art runs through my veins, firing synapses throughout

my body. I find beauty within every glimpse of the world I take, whether it is good or bad.

Whether it may be the various radiant and vibrant colors of a sunset that offer a peaceful settling in one's chest, or the mournful face of a cancer patient who had four open heart surgeries and still has the eyes of determination to keep creating.

Such person would be Qing Han, also known as Qinni on social media, a young aspiring artist who was diagnosed with stage four fibrosis sarcoma cancer and had always stayed positive and tried her best to keep her content flowing for all her fans around the world. Even if she didn't have much motivation, let alone the energy to pick up as little as a piece of paper, she continued to create.

Qinni was a coffee fanatic; she even started a Patreon, a "subscription-style payment model (in which) fans pay their favorite creators a monthly amount of their choice in exchange for exclusive access, extra content, or a closer look into their creative journey," according to its website, in order to buy coffee, rather than trying to raise money in exchange for her artwork. I found this side of her quite silly and pure. She just wanted some coffee to get through the day.

I stumbled upon Qinni's work a few years back on Instagram and have been infatuated by her talent ever since. Every chance I had, I

would check out her page for new posts. The way she used color to give off this sort of cosmic vibe in her pieces astonishes me. One of the most enthralling aspects about these pieces was the way she used this illuminating hue of yellow in different ways. She didn't always use this style in her pieces but some of my favorites are "Trapped" and "Flowering Hair." Qinni also did a few short animations in her older days such as "Nigh Light." In February of 2017, Qinni the DeviantArt Deviousness Award, which recognizes "exemplary membership and an outstanding spirit of helpfulness and mentoring within the DeviantArt community," according to the website.

I truly appreciate Qinni's work. There were days when I would have a hard time with artist block, so I'd check out her page to admire and gather inspiration from her pieces.

I didn't know about her death until a friend of mine informed me. I later saw a post about it on my Instagram feed. Unfortunately, after a long-time battling her cancer, Qinni passed away Feb. 8.

I do not think the announcement was the only heartbreaking thing. The photo that was posted along with it was, too — a single, small, yellow fish gleaming through a dark navy blue gradient background. It looks like a small glimpse of light navigating through an abyss. This and Qinni's last creation, "Fragile," are the last posts on her page for now.

"Her journey, however, has not ended. We begin a new chapter of continuing her legacy and her memory. There will be more to come on this page," Ze Han, Qinni's brother, said.

Curious. I wonder what will become of her page.

Teddy Baylón may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Photos courtesy of @qinniart on Instagram

The illustration, titled "Fragile," is Qinni's last post on Instagram. About a week later, Ze Han, her brother, posted an image with a caption that reads, "Qinni (Qing Han) has passed away suddenly on 8 Feb., 2020. Her journey, however, has not ended. We begin a new chapter of continuing her legacy and her memory. There will be more to come on this page. As a reminder, and as a member of family, please be respectful of our privacy at this time. Thank you for being part of this journey. She will forever remain living through her artwork."

THE PROSPECTOR

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Study: Nearly half of adults don't discuss politics

Paulina Astrid Spencer

The Prospector

With the current political climate and the 2020 election just around the corner, many have turned away from having political conversations with someone, according to an analysis of data from the Pew Research Center's Election News Pathways (PRCENP) project.

If you have stopped having conversations of political substance with certain people in your life, you are not alone. According to a survey conducted by the PRCENP, almost half of U.S. adults confess they have stopped talking about politics and election news with someone altogether.

The PRCENP conducted a survey to include 12,043 U.S. adults who are members of the Center's American Trends panel from Oct. 29 through Nov. 11 of last year. In the data collected, they discovered that 45% of the adults say they have stopped talking to someone as a result of what the other person said or posted online.

In recent years, with the rise of political news and discourse on social media, many people get their news from Twitter, Facebook or other social media. Theory suggests that social media may play a significant role in the learning of political information within the modern media environment, according to *Political News in the News Feed: Learning Politics from Social Media*, a scholarly journal.

It is not unusual to witness online arguments on social media. Even President Donald J. Trump engages in political "beef" with other politicians on Twitter. In a recent Tweet, he accuses CNN of being "fake news" and Democrat-

ic nominee hopeful Bernie Sanders of being a "Russian sympathizer."

Eduardo Ovalle, 24, a communication studies student at UTEP, said he has witnessed many political arguments on social media platforms.

"I see it all the time," Ovalle said. "Just look into the news pages on Facebook and you can see people having irrelevant fights about topics that may not have to do with the original article."

In examining which types of people are likely to stop talking to someone about political news, four characteristics stand out: party and ideology, race, ethnicity and the medium relied on most for political news and engagement with political news, according to the results of the survey.

Democrats, leaning more toward liberal ideology are more likely to stop political conversations with someone at 60%, as opposed to a 45% of Republicans or conservatives.

When asked if politics has made him lose friendships due to different political views, Ovalle, who did not disclose his political affiliation, said yes.

"I can bring up a certain topic, like abortion, immigration or gun control policies, and people will assume I'm taking or siding with a specific political ideology," Ovalle said.

On the flip side, a slim majority of American adults, at 54%, say they have not cut off political conversations with someone because of something they said.

Andrea Chacon, 22, a business management student, says she enjoys engaging in political debates and is not one to quickly unfriend someone based on political differences. However, she has noticed that the recent political climate has

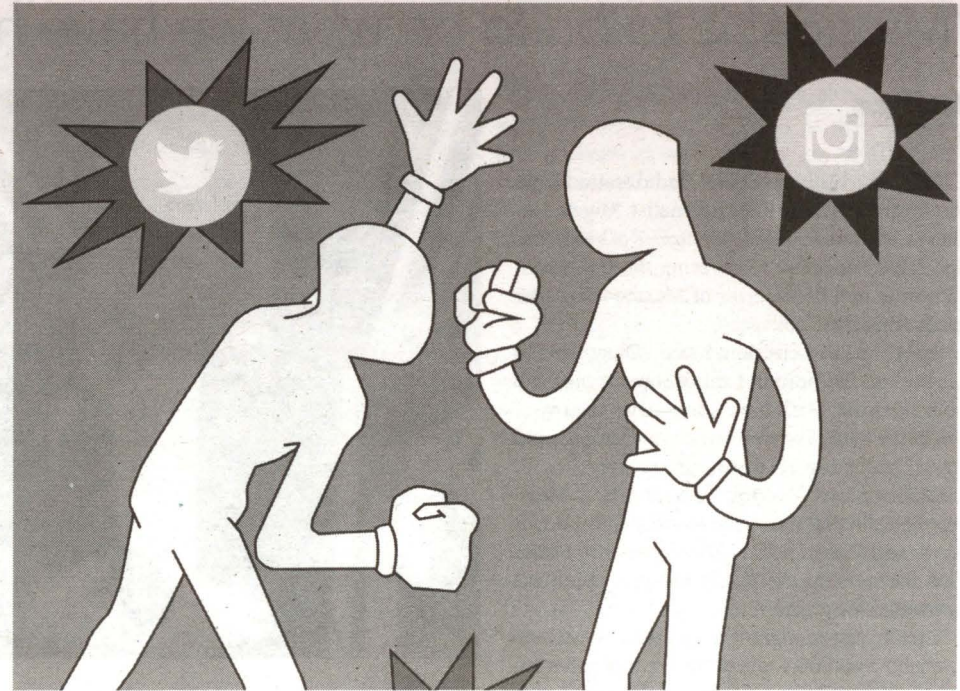


Illustration by Theodore "Teddy" Baylón

According to a survey conducted by the Pew Research Center's Election News Pathways, almost half of U.S. adults confess they have stopped talking about politics and election news with someone altogether. The 2020 United States presidential election is scheduled for Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

pushed her away from keeping up with political news.

"I think the issue right now is that voters are angrier than ever at politicians, compromisers and the establishment," Chacon said. "That has definitely pushed me away from politics."

All things considered, those whose ideological pillars aligned with those of Democratic or

liberal candidates, are involved in politics and keep up with political news, are more likely to cut certain people out of their lives based on something they have said or shared on social media; while the less engaged are less likely to restrict these conversations.

Paulina Astrid Spencer may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

UTEP ant exhibit sparks memories of the defunct Insights El Paso Science Center

Margaret Cataldi

The Prospector

"Tiny Tunnels, Big Connections: Ant Relationships Shape the World" is the latest installment at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) Centennial Museum and the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens. It was created thanks to a \$166,000 grant that the UTEP Biodiversity Collections received from the National Science Foundation in 2017.

The project doubled as a way to archive hundreds of thousands of ant specimens for scientific research while also educating the public about the contributions that ants and their surrounding ecosystems make to our environment as a whole.

Tasked with counting, mapping, and inputting data for nearly 230,000 ants, Vicky Zhuang, exhibit curator and collections manager at UTEP Biodiversity Collections, along with her students were able to input the data into a larger database known as the Symbiota Collections of Arthropods Network (SCAN), which allows museums across North America to keep record of all the taxonomic specimens that they currently have, as well as the information associated with each individual specimen.

"It's important because we're making all this data public to scientists, educators and anyone who's interested in the ants," Zhuang said. "Now they can look online and see what kind of ants

we have in our museum, where they come from and their locality, so they can see it on a map."

The ant specimens were courtesy of William Mackay, a former UTEP professor of biological sciences and the curator of insects at the UTEP Biodiversity Collections. A portion of his collection — an estimated 500,000 ant specimens thanks to over half a century's work — has now been incorporated into the exhibit.

The exhibit on display involves multiple collaborations. It includes enlarged 3D models of popular ant species in the region, courtesy of the El Paso Community College (EPCC) 3D print center and the W. M. Keck Center of 3D Innovation. The 3D models were sculpted directly from the likeness of the ants themselves via MicroCT

scans from Economo Lab in Okinawa, Japan, and the Lucky Lab at the University of Florida. The museum also commissioned Augment El Paso, a digital art company that incorporates augmented reality into traditional printed media and text. Through the Augment El Paso app, the viewer can scan a specific area of the exhibit and watch text and images come to life in real-time on their cell phone or tablet screen.

"It was an interesting element to include because it lends a layer of interactivity to the exhibit," Centennial Museum Curatorial Assistant Amy Briones said.

To read Cataldi's full story, visit TheProspectorDaily.com

Margaret Cataldi may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

KTEP welcomes Angela Kocherga as its latest news director

'My goal is to build on what we have here at UTEP'

Maria Ramos

The Prospector

KTEP, the National Public Radio station from the southwest, welcomes journalist Angela Kocherga aboard as news director. Kocherga has dedicated her career to covering the U.S.-Mexico border and the interior of Mexico soon after graduating from college.

"After the 2016 election, I said, 'Okay, time to get back to the border. I think some things will be happening. We'll have some news to cover,'" Kocherga said. "I came back very happily and started reporting. It's just been nonstop."

Kocherga was covering Texas and New Mexico when she first started to co-host with KTEP's News and Public Affairs Director Louie Saenz. This partnership eventually brought about the news director position for Kocherga.

"I really just thought that I'd love to be able to contribute and do some of these newsmaker interviews as we were seeing all of this happening last year with migration," Kocherga said.

Kocherga was born in Mexico and raised between Mexico and the U.S. border in the Rio Grande Valley. She remembers how her mother planted on her the importance of reading, writing and to be informed about current events.

It was in high school that she decided to follow the path of journalism.

"(I worked at the) newspaper in high school, which I loved. By the time I got to the University of Texas at Austin, it kind of opened the door to look into broadcasting both television and radio, which I've really loved," Kocherga said.

After graduating from UT, her first job was at a community radio station in El Paso that no



Maria Ramos / The Prospector

Emmy-winning multimedia journalist Angela Kocherga joins KTEP as its latest news director. Kocherga is no stranger to the border as she boasts a career covering the U.S.-Mexico border and the interior of Mexico.

longer exists. She was recruited by a local television channel and later reported out from Dallas for Belo Broadcasting.

Kocherga served in the Mexico bureau chief position for The Dallas Morning News, where she had the opportunity to cover central Mexico, Guatemala and Cuba.

As news director for KTEP, Kocherga wants to bring her experience to the studio and do more reporting on the field for the southwest NPR station listeners.

"My goal is to build on what we have here at UTEP, not duplicate the public affairs in studio reporting, but go out into the field. So, listeners will start to get stories from inside," Kocherga said. "I mean, not just inside the station with people coming to us, but me going out into the field. I will be in the field reporting and interviewing and taking people to the places where the news is happening."

Kocherga also wants to teach and train UTEP students about broadcasting, which aligns with the KTEP mission statement.

She plans to collaborate with the journalism professors at UTEP. She believes that the work that has been done by Kate Gannon, Zita Arocha and Dino Chiecchi has been incredible and crucial for the journalism program at the university.

"To incorporate some of the students, the stories that are being created through Borderzine, the capstone class, I'm working with great professors, Kate Gannon and Dino Chiecchi and, of course, ... Zita Arocha," Kocherga said. "Taking some of the stories that the students are working on and helping bring those to the air and let people hear those voices."

Kocherga also wants to emphasize the importance of being a journalist, especially in the border and during the 2020 election year.

"We've got an election year, so we need to do our responsibility to inform our voters and bring them the best information possible, so they can make their decisions this year," Kocherga said.

Kocherga said the rhetoric surrounding the border needs to be presented realistically so that people can base their decisions off of factual information.

Besides her new job as news director, Kocherga enjoys family-owned, local restaurants in El Paso and hiking in the Franklin Mountains and in Las Cruces area. Kocherga owns three dogs, a rescue horse and a rooster that wakes her up early every morning.

Maria Ramos may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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The history, background behind UTEP's public artwork

Jaqueline Martinez

The Prospector

UTEP's campus aesthetic is not only defined by its signature Bhutanese architecture but also by its vast array of artworks and sculptures scattered throughout campus, both indoors and outdoors, including sculptures, drawings, paintings and Bhutanese tapestries.

Some of these works were either gifted to the university or done on commission by well-known artists specifically for UTEP. The university also periodically offers guided tours dubbed "Art on Campus" where officials discuss the university's historical background and artwork.

Here are a few public artworks you've probably seen on campus:

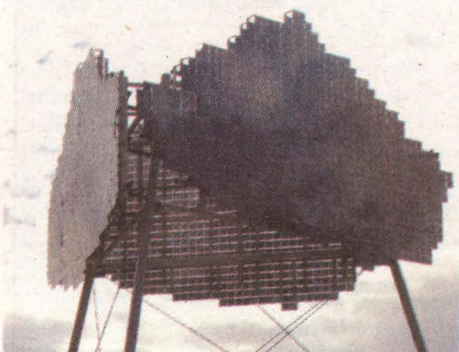
The Cloud

Award-winning New York-based artist, Donald Lipski, paid El Paso a visit before he conceptualized UTEP's iconic sculpture at the Schuster roundabout — the trip that ultimately inspired the sculpture's design.

Taking inspiration from UTEP's Bhutanese architecture, the Chihuahuan Desert Gardens and specifically El Paso's cloud formations, the artist conjured up a design to depict the changing cycles of nature.

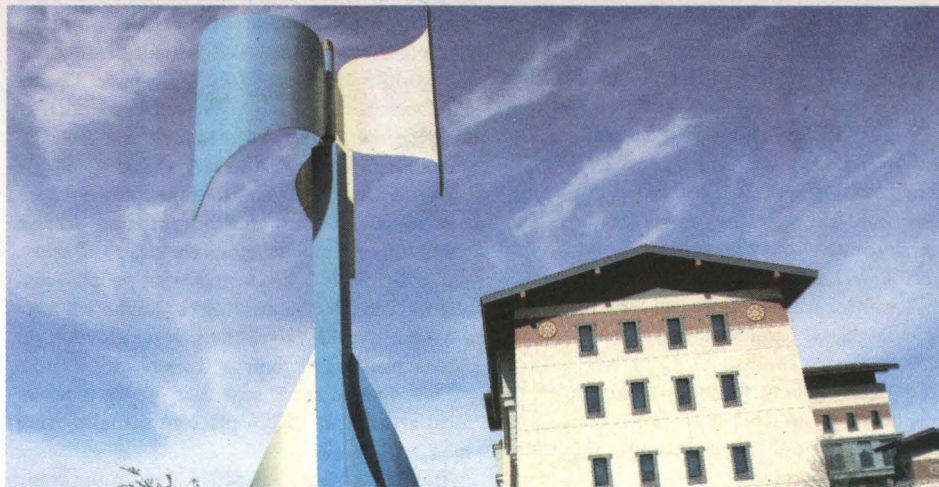
"The Cloud," which took about two years to make, is composed of thousands of multicolored steel panels, designed to flow with the wind. The artist added an aspect of humor to the piece by creating pixelated clouds inspired by Super Mario Brothers video games.

The visual effect of the sculpture is meant to be interactive by representing the weather, depending on the time of the day and the viewpoint of the observer, which is constantly changing. The project was unveiled Feb. 2, 2016, during a ribbon-cutting ceremony with city and university officials.



Jaqueline Martinez / The Prospector

In creating "The Cloud," New York-based artist Donald Lipski used thousands of multicolored steel panels, designed to flow with the wind.



"Millennium Marker," a windmill-like sculpture by Willie Ray Parish, was installed in 2015 and is located outside the Health Sciences and Nursing building.

Some of Lipski's artist friends traveled to El Paso from Pennsylvania to attend the dedication ceremony along with other artists from the region. Kerry Doyle, director of the Stanlee and Gerald Rubin Center of the Visual Arts, was also present and said "The Cloud is a playful public artwork that depicts a historical and contemporary conceptualization of the Bhutanese aesthetic.

End of the Trail

Located in the Chemistry and Computer Science building across from Starbucks on the second floor, there is a colorful sculpture of a horseback rider with lightbulbs underneath the horse, titled, "End of Trail (with Electric Sunrise)" by acclaimed Mexican American artist and El Paso native, Luis Jimenez.

This glossy sculpture was created in 1971 and the lightbulbs represent sunrise. Jimenez studied art and architecture, receiving a bachelor's degree in 1964, and soon became an accomplished artist and professor at the University of Arizona and at the University of Houston.

Jimenez became known for his large, glossy, pigmented-fiber glass works and Southwestern themes. Another of his works includes, "Vaquero," Spanish for cowboy, which is a Mexican cowboy riding a bucking blue horse that became part of the Smithsonian Museum's collection. Collections of his work can also be found at the El Paso Museum of Art.

Jimenez passed away in an accident in his studio at Hondo, New Mexico where the 9,000 pound, 32-foot-tall sculpture, "Blue Mustang," fell on the artist, severing an artery on his leg.

Blue Mustang is currently on display at Denver International Airport.

Esfera Cuántica Tlahtolli

In honor of UTEP's 100th anniversary dubbed the "Centennial Celebration," Enrique Carbajal, who goes by Sebastian, designed a moquette of the project title, "Tlahtolli," a Nahuatl word for language or communication, which was gifted by the artists' foundation and is now displayed outside the Chemistry and Computer Science building.



Jaqueline Martinez / The Prospector

Some of these works were either gifted to the university or done on commission by well-known artists specifically for UTEP.

The project was also given to the university as a gift of friendship from the people of Mexico. The red-orange sphere was completed in 2014 and is made of steel.

The sculpture is interactive as people can rotate it. The design symbolizes the historical bonds between Mexico and UTEP.

Carbajal's abstract-style public artworks are depicted throughout the binational region like the "X" shaped massive sculpture in Ciudad

Juárez, which stands for the letters in the names Texas and Mexico.

"As good neighbors standing side by side, we will continue to work together to improve the lives of people in our locations, our hemisphere and the world," said UTEP President Emerita Diana Natalicio in a 2014 article by The Art Avenue titled, "Sebastian's Sphere."

Mandala Sunrise

UTEP is known to celebrate its cultural bond with Mexico through its public artwork but the university also celebrates its unique, blending culture and relationship with the Kingdom of Bhutan through the "Mandala Sunrise."

Mandala Sunrise is permanently installed in honor of UTEP's Centennial Celebration after being commissioned by the university. The artist is Koryn Rolstad, who says the Mandala represents sand.

The artwork is inspired by El Paso's colorful Latino culture and Southwest landscapes, "with all the colors picked up by the wind into the sky, carrying their wishes and dreams, and turning into a 'sunrise,'" according to its overview.

The sculpture consists of colorful translucent wings that are meant to blend out with the landscape and contains in-ground night lighting through LED that is programmed to change colors. The Mandala is located at the Sun Bowl roundabout by the mountain, allowing ambient light to refract on the surface as a surrounding theme that connects nature and culture to UTEP landscapes.

Untitled & Millennium Marker

Nearby the Don Haskins Center is a peculiar sculpture by retired artist Willie Ray Parish that depicts a set of trees intertwined together, causing an eccentric formation.

Parish is a Mississippi native who graduated in 1970 with a bachelor's degree in sculpture, then he went on to teach sculpture at UTEP from 1984 to 2013, where he also became chairman of the Department of Art.

The piece is untitled, and many of his works are placed throughout UTEP's campus, such as his sculpture "Millennium Marker," which is a windmill-like, blue and white sculpture with wings that spin with the breeze.

Millennium Marker was installed in 2015 and is located outside the Health Sciences and Nursing building on the intersection of Wiggins and Rim roads.

Four of the artists' pieces are located inside the Wise Family Theatre and his works are also featured in collections throughout the country including at the El Paso Museum of Art.

Jaqueline Martinez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

DRAFT HOUSE from cover

Kaufman is also the owner of Back Nine Bar & Lounge, El Rey Muerto Bar & Grill, Ratio 1.61 Gym and a 24/7 Fitness gym.

"I'm a serial entrepreneur. I do not think El Paso has taken a notice of me yet, but I've been sacrificing to get to this point for more than eight years now," Kaufman said. "I'll make El Paso proud."

El Paso is home to more than 20 beer gardens scattered across the city, from Aceitunas Beer Garden in far West El Paso to Steve O's Beer Garden on Tierra Este Road in far East El Paso.

El Paso Draft House is expected to make its debut in an area of the city that's east but not too east, right next to residential houses on Glen Campbell Drive and Molly Marie Court.

"East side is where I grew up and I have four businesses I live five minutes from," Kaufman said. "79936 is the best ZIP code in the country and I want to prove that it is."

Kat Ziffer and Obed Soto are Kaufman's business partners in this latest venture of his.

"At the moment, this draft house is just the next move that makes sense to put in my portfolio," Kaufman said.

Bryan Mena may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

A list of trendy, artsy bars in El Paso

Carolina Alvarez

The Prospector

El Velvet Elvis

Located at The Heart of Five Points, inside of the historical Pershing Inn on 2909 Pershing Dr., is El Velvet Elvis, known for its custom craft cocktails that customers enjoy every day.

This bar's aesthetic is a combination of Elvis Presley and the Chicano movement with the walls decorated with Elvis portraits and Chicano art. El Velvet Elvis is also a strong supporter of El Paso's local art scene because the venue periodically allows local artists to showcase their works on the bar's walls.

"The walls belong to the artists," said Seth Paris, beverage director of El Velvet Elvis. "The bar belongs not only to my customers, but also to artist interpretations."

The bar plays indie, blue rock and mellow electronic music, among other genres.

Mona Bar of Modern Art

Inspired by famous paintings like the Mona Lisa, the Mona Bar of Modern Art is a truly unique and aesthetically pleasing bar to experience on the weekends.

"Me and my brother, we've traveled all over the world and we've noticed that for the most part, a lot of people enjoy art. We decided to bring some of that art that we've seen all throughout the world to our hometown," said Javier Garza, chief executive of Mona. "We put in pieces that we've seen around the world for the most part. Our signature piece is the Mona Lisa."

The bar features a comfortable lounge where customers can enjoy music from local deejays while sipping on a delicious cocktail. The selection of drinks is "a mixture of what people actually want to taste," according to Garza.

Mona, like El Velvet Elvis, also allows local artists to showcase their artwork.

"We want to make sure that people who are local artists can have a place to actually bring their art," Garza said.

The bar is located at 410 E. San Antonio St., open from 11 a.m. to 2 a.m. from Monday through Saturday.

Monarch

Located at 204 E. Rio Grande Ave., this vintage bar has been around for more than seven years and is known for karaoke Mondays, the local bands that do occasional live performanc-

es and a vegan food truck — once Lick It Up, but now Moon's Café.

Monarch offers customers craft beer, India pale ale and even martini espressos.

Prickly Elder

Missing grandma's house? Prickly Elder will take you back in time to granny's cozy home the moment you walk through its doors, except this time with sick beats, neon lights and alcohol. With retro decorations giving the place its signature look, the bar offers a truly drunken "hipster" experience. The bar occasionally hosts local deejays that play techno, electronic or psychedelic music. Prickly Elder also offers a decent variety of drinks to choose from.

Located at 916 N. Mesa St., Prickly Elder is open from 2 p.m. to 2 a.m. every day of the week.

Love Buzz

Famously known for its "Emo Night" event, Love Buzz is a dive bar for young people that's been in business for five years now.

To read Alvarez's full story, visit TheProspectorDaily.com

Carolina Alvarez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

UTEP ATHLETICS

UPCOMING EVENTS

UTEP BASKETBALL		UTEP WOMEN	
MEN	FEB. 1	FEB. 6	FEB. 22
	UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA BIRMINGHAM @7PM	CHARLOTTE @7PM	MIDDLE TENNESSEE @1PM
	FEB. 13	FEB. 13	FEB. 29
	WESTERN KENTUCKY @7PM	OLD DOMINION @1PM	SOUTHERN MISS @1PM
UTEP SOFTBALL			
	FEB. 21	FEB. 22	FEB. 23
	IUPUI @3:30PM DOUBLE HEADER OMAHA @6PM UTEP TOURNAMENT	IUPUI @4:30PM	OMAHA @12:30PM
UTEP TENNIS			
	FEB. 1	FEB. 2	FEB. 28
	ABILENE CHRISTIAN @12PM	UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO @12PM	MONTANA STATE @12PM

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Opinion: 1966 NCAA Championship shaped UTEP's legacy

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

As Black History Month rolls into its final week, UTEP students should be aware of the legacy that their University has on college basketball.

On March 19, 1966, the Miners became the first NCAA team to have a starting lineup consisting of all African Americans to play in a championship game.

UTEP also became the first team with an all-black starting five to win a championship as they beat a segregated all-white Kentucky team. There was a grand total of seven African American athletes on the team. The coach of the team was Don Haskins, who went on to coach the university for a total of 38 years with 719 wins.

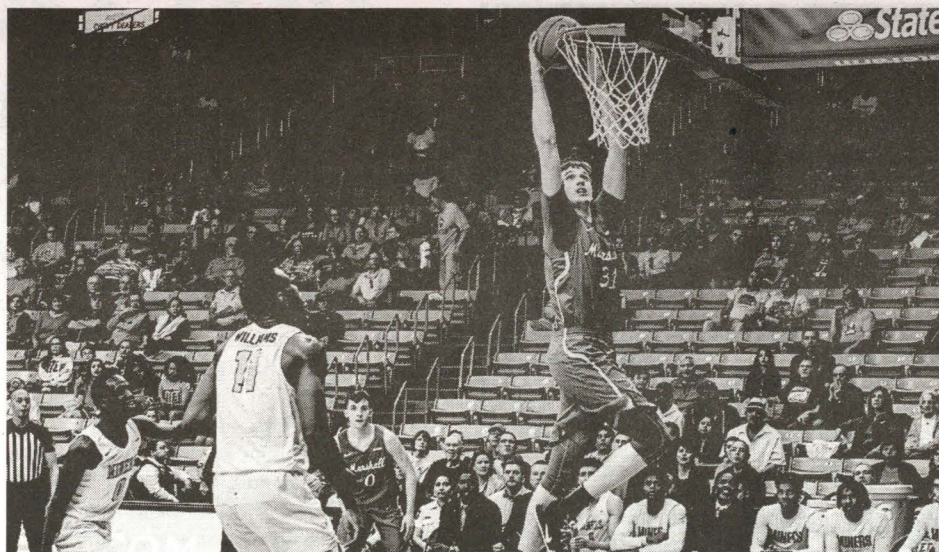
The championship was immortalized by the 2006 film "Glory Road," which explores the discrimination and racism the team had to overcome to make history and forever change the landscape of college basketball.

When asked what he felt UTEP students should know about the championship team, Willie Cager replied: "They should do their due diligence and learn about it."

Cager emphasized that the film on the matter was pure Hollywood, that there was much more to the story than just a glorified depiction. Cager, a member of the championship team, can be seen courtside at almost every Miner basketball game and has for years talked about a book he has written that tells the true story of the championship team.

Coach Don Haskins wrote in his book, "I certainly did not expect to be some racial pioneer or change the world."

Up until 1947, even having a black athlete on a college team was a rarity. The first African



Members of the UTEP NCAA Championship team in locker room after the historic win March 19, 1966.
Photo courtesy of UTEP Athletics/ Special to The Prospector

American college basketball player to be recognized as an All-American in 1931 was George Gregory Jr. from Columbia University.

Most major athletic conferences did not allow African American athletes to compete on their teams and even when they did they had stringent rules of how many black players could start at a time.

One of the most notable early African American college players was Jackie Robinson from UCLA. Robinson played at UCLA from 1939 to 1941, leading the team in scoring twice. In 1947, Robinson would go on to break the color barrier in Major League Baseball.

During the 1960s, the unwritten rule that no more than three black players could be on the

court at a time was finally broken by Loyola University and its coach George Ireland frequently having four African American players on the court. In 1963, Loyola won the national championship, starting four black players in a game that featured seven starters of color.

All these events led up to the inevitability of the UTEP achievement. There may be no event in college basketball that emphasizes a team accomplishment in the same way. In 2007, the Miners became the first college team inducted into the basketball hall of fame for its achievement.

"It took a long time to absorb the impact of that game," said Nevil Shed at the 50th-anniversary event in College Park, Maryland. Shed was

one of the five starters for UTEP on the championship team.

"Glory Road" was so loose with the facts that it trivializes the long road that it took to integrate the game and turns it into a fairy tale," Chicago Sun-Times columnist Ron Rapoport told NPR in 2006.

Regardless of what the complete story of Texas Western's championship is, its impact on the rest of college basketball was immense. Conferences such as the Atlantic Coast Conference and Southeastern Conference started integrating black players onto teams with the landscape changed forever in the NCAA.

In any movement, there are gradual steps that lead up to a defining point, so to ignore the impact of UTEP or Loyola winning championships with majority black starters is a pointless endeavor.

Seven years after Don Haskins retired, UTEP named its first African American basketball coach Tony Barbee in 2006. Barbee went on to an 82-52 record before taking a job with Auburn University. Current coach Rodney Terry is the second black coach in School history.

Even with the impact and the time that has passed for all the progress, there are still deficiencies. Today more than 54% of Division 1 male college basketball players are African American. There are only 29% of Division 1 college coaches that are black and, if you break it down to just the major conferences (the Power Five), then only about 14% are coaches of color.

So obviously, there are still barriers that need to be broken down in the realm of college basketball. UTEP has played a significant part in the history of integration in college basketball and hopefully will add to the team's legacy.

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UTEP softball goes .500 for the weekend, bats come alive

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

Heading into the UTEP Invitational, the Miner softball team (4-10) held a 2-8 record with four of those losses being stopped due to mercy rule. Now the Miners have won back-to-back games and momentum is starting to build for the squad.

The Miners defeated Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (IUPUI) 6-5 in a walk-off win and Omaha 8-5 after falling to both teams in the first two games of the Invitational. Behind solid performances from

two standout utility players, sophomore Kasey Flores and junior Ilena Santos, the Miners were able to bounce back from its rough start.

In the first game of the UTEP Invitational, the Miners fell 8-7 versus IUPUI in an extra-inning game despite putting up four runs in the final inning. The game was tied at 3-3 going into the eighth inning, but IUPUI managed to drive in five runs at the top of the eighth inning to put the Jaguars up 8-3.

Flores earned two homers versus the Jaguars with her solo homer in the bottom of the sixth inning, tying the game up.

The strong tandem of Flores and Santos went a combined 4-6 at the plate and earned three homers. Santos went 2-2 at the plate with four RBIs, a homer and a double.

In game two of the UTEP Invitational, the Miners fell 13-6 against Omaha after striking first with a three-run homer by Santos in the first inning. The Miners' bats then went cold as they would not score a run until the sixth inning. The Miners were outscored by Omaha 13-3 in the final four innings.

Senior utility player Pamala Baber went 2-for-4 at the plate for the Miners with a run scored.

Baber has 60 hits and seven homers during her career thus far as a Miner.

The Miners bounced back in its third game of the Invitational with a 6-5 win from a walk-off sacrifice fly by Santos versus IUPUI. At the bottom of the sixth inning, Santos bombed a three-run homer for the Miners to put her team up 3-0. The Jaguars rebounded and put five runs on the board on four hits to make the score 5-3 at the top of the seventh inning.

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Miners storm back from 19 down vs Rice



Michael CuvIELLO / The Prospector

UTEP senior transfer Darryl Edwards drives to the basket en route to scoring a career high 34 points versus Rice, Saturday, Feb. 22.

Darryl Edwards has career night

Michael CuvIELLO

The Prospector

The UTEP men's basketball team overcame its worst first half of the season, scoring a season low 19 points versus the Rice Owls in the opening round of bonus play to pull out 68-62 victory. Coming into this game as a must win for the Miners, the team played as uninspired a half as fans have seen from this team.

A little more than halfway through the first half, the Miners would be down by double digits – outshot, outrebounded and outthrustled by Rice. For the majority of the first 25 minutes, the Miners were playing with no sense of urgency and little offensive or defensive cohesion.

At this point, senior graduate transfer Darryl Edwards took the game on his back and scored three 3-pointers in a row, cutting the Rice lead to 7 points in a matter of one minute. In a span of one minute and 12 seconds, the Miners hit five 3-pointers in a row en route to erasing a 19-point lead. Four minutes after trailing by 19, the Miners tied the game with another Edwards' three.

With five minutes left in the game, both teams were separated by one point. Edwards hit his sixth consecutive 3-pointer of the game to give the Miners a four-point lead. Sophomore Souley Boum then proceeded to hit his second 3-pointer of the half to take the Miners to a comfortable lead of seven points.

From that point on, the Miners took advantage of being in the bonus because of fouls, scoring its next eight points on free throws. Rice, shooting 31% from three in the first half,

struggled to shoot from anywhere in the second half hitting 29% from the field.

Defensively, the Miners were more aggressive, creating seven turnovers in the second half after only two in the first. With junior Bryson Williams in foul trouble, the Miners went to a smaller lineup creating matchup issues for Rice.

"I thought we did a nice job of getting into a rhythm in the second half," Head Coach Rodney Terry said. "We put some stops together; once you see that ball go through the basket, it gives you a little more energy to want to come down and guard a little harder on defense."

This was the second comeback of 19 points or more this season for the Miners with the last one being the overtime win over the University of Texas at San Antonio.

For the night, Edwards had a career-high 34 points, which was equal to the entire rest of the team. Previously Edwards' high in a game was 24 against Charlotte. Both Edwards and Boum played the entire 40 minutes of the game.

Edwards is enjoying a strong senior season averaging over 11 points a game after transferring from Louisiana State University, where he played two seasons. Edwards leads the team in 3-point shooting with 38%, with 64 made from that range.

"My teammates were coming to me telling me to be more aggressive," Edwards said. "With Bryson out of the game, I felt it was my responsibility to take over the scoring."

Boum ended the game with 16 points and a career high seven assists. Williams, in limited playing time, finished with 10 points along with 5 rebounds.

The Miners (14-14, 5-10) next play at home 2 p.m. March 1, against Southern Mississippi (9-19, 5-10). It will be the final home game of the UTEP season, as well as senior night.

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Flores and redshirt freshman outfielder Idalis Mendez each earned an RBI single to tie the game 5-5 in the bottom of the seventh inning.

Santos came up to the plate and made a shot that had enough distance to send freshman utility player Zaylie Calderon home and give the Miners its third win of the season.

UTEP avenged its earlier loss versus Omaha with an 8-4 win in the final game of the UTEP Invitational behind a two-homer performance by Flores.

The Miners got on the board first in the third inning with an RBI single by junior infielder Ariana Valles, which brought Calderon and Mendez home and put UTEP up 3-0.

Flores hit a two-run homer in the bottom of the fifth and three-run homer in the bottom of the sixth to put the Miners up 8-4 and seal the deal.

Flores, who notched a 2019 C-USA all-freshman team selection, hit four homers, eight RBIs and six hits during the UTEP Invitational.

Santos also had an impressive weekend for the Miners with her four homers, 13 RBIs and six hits. Santos now has 20 RBIs and five homers in her Miner career.

The Miners will grace the field again as it hits the road to battle against Houston at 10 a.m. Feb. 28 in the Boyd Rebel Gaming Classic in Las Vegas, Nevada.

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