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El movimiento contra el feminicidio impacta en las redes sociales



Marisol Chávez

The Prospector

Para el 18 de febrero, tres grupos privados de Facebook que pretenden apoyar y proteger a las mujeres ante desapariciones y feminicidios en Ciudad Juárez, México, ya habían sido creados.

Los grupos "Mujeres cuidando Mujeres - Cd. Juárez, Chih.," "Stronger Together" y "Ni una más" son exclusivos para usuarios del sexo femenino y buscan generar vínculos de sororidad y amistad.

"Este grupo se trata de unirnos y cuidarnos entre todas", se puede leer en la descripción del grupo Stronger Together.

A pesar de tener tan solo dos semanas de haber sido creados, el grupo más pequeño, Ni una más, cuenta con más de 23,000 miembros. Este es seguido por Mujeres cuidando Mujeres - Cd Juárez, que cuenta con más de 27,000 miembros. El grupo más

see FEMINICIDIO on page 6



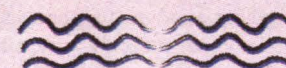
Siempre que me metía a Facebook lo único que me aparecía eran muertes de chicas, muchas desaparecidas, 'violaron a tal chica' y me harté.



- ALI CERVANTES

creadora y administradora del grupo de Facebook, Stronger Together

Women's ISSUE



Contacts

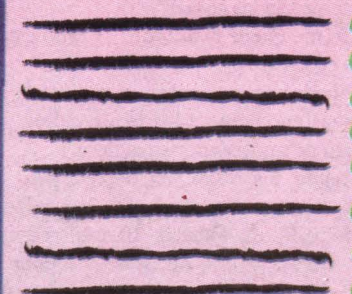


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'¿Qué no ves cómo están las cosas?'

Maria Ramos

The Prospector

El fin de semana pasado viajé a visitar a mi familia en Chihuahua, México. Crucé la frontera y tomé un carro colectivo que me llevó hasta mi casa. Después de haber tenido una semana muy larga, me quedé dormida todo el camino, con mi teléfono en silencio.

Desperté casi llegando a Chihuahua y vi que tenía mensajes y llamadas perdidas de mis familiares. Le llamé a mi mamá y estaba en un llanto incontrolable, "¿Dónde estás? ¿Estás bien?"

Luego me llamó mi hermano y agresivamente me reclamó por no contestar el teléfono, ya que estaba preocupado porque mi mamá le había llamado muchas veces.

Yo simplemente respondí diciendo, "Me quedé dormida todo el camino".

Después, cuando llegué a mi casa, mi mamá me abrazó, "Me preocupaste mucho, estaba muy asustada. No vuelvas a hacer eso. ¿Qué no ves cómo están las cosas?"

Yo me quedé pensando, "¿Cómo están las cosas en México?"

México se encuentra en un estado de emergencia en cuanto a los feminicidios — el asesinato de mujeres por su género.

Según los datos del Secretariado Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública (SESNSP) de México, 10 mujeres al día son asesinadas y una de ellas es menor de edad. En el primer mes de este año, se registraron 73 feminicidios.

En febrero, estos números siguieron aumentando y ocurrió el caso de la niña menor de siete años, Fátima Cecilia Aldrighett Antón. Según el reporte de BBC News, la menor desapareció el 11 de febrero afuera de su escuela. El 15 de febrero su cuerpo sin vida apareció con huellas de violación y tortura dentro de un cos-



tal envuelto con una bolsa de plástico, a menos de cinco kilómetros de su escuela.

Otro caso que se dio a conocer e indignó al pueblo mexicano fue el de Ingrid Escamilla, una joven de 25 años que perdió la vida en manos de con quien sostenía una relación sentimental. Acorde a reportes de Los Angeles Times, Escamilla fue encontrada muerta en su apartamento, aparentemente apuñalada hasta la muerte. Su cuerpo había sido parcialmente despellejado y algunos órganos removidos.

Estos dos casos dieron pie a que el problema que se está viviendo en México se diera a conocer nacional e internacionalmente. Las redes sociales se llenaron de publicaciones, fotos y comentarios, creando varios hashtags como, #NiUnaMas, #YoSiTeCreo, #JusticiaParaIngrid, #JusticiaParaFatima y #JusticiaParaTodas.

De la misma forma creando un movimiento feminista en las calles de México que demanda justicia por estas dos muertes y las miles más que se suman a los números rojos del país.

Mis respetos a todas esas personas que deciden salir a las calles a exigir justicia para las

mujeres. Tal vez no es la mejor solución y posiblemente no va a cambiar nada, pero el pueblo y las mujeres tienen derecho a ser escuchados.

Se invitó al pueblo mexicano al movimiento #UnDiaSinMujeres y #ElNueveNadieSeMueve, que se llevará a cabo el 9 de marzo, llamando a las mujeres a no participar en ninguna actividad ese día. La protesta tiene el fin de demostrar el impacto económico y social que tiene la pérdida de mujeres en México. Si mujeres no pueden participar, pueden usar una prenda morada para demostrar su apoyo al movimiento. Me partió el corazón y me enojó ver cómo contactos que tenía en redes sociales justificaban estas atrocidades. Por ejemplo, en el caso de Escamilla, con frases como, "Tal vez ella se lo buscó".

¿Quién se busca una muerte tan horrible? Nada justifica lo que ella y miles de mujeres han sufrido por el hecho de ser mujeres.

México es un país con una cultura machista muy marcada. No podemos negarlo, crecimos así. Este es un problema que está muy adentro en la cultura mexicana, desgraciadamente. En algún momento, todos, incluyendo hombres y LGBTQ+, hemos sufrido por este sistema.

En una sociedad opresora todos corremos riesgo. Todos tenemos que poner de nuestra parte para ir cambiando esa cultura y cambiar la historia de un país tan bello como es mi México, nuestro México.

Siempre escuchamos la frase, "La educación comienza en casa". Y es muy cierta, pero si crecimos en una casa donde el machismo es visto sin problema alguno, ¿Cómo vamos a actuar cuando una situación se presente? No creo que esto ayude mucho. Hay dos opciones, ser la víctima o el victimario.

Claro que los mexicanos debemos demandar a nuestro gobierno que proteja al pueblo. Que se le dé seguimiento a los casos abiertos, que los agresores sean procesados con todo el peso de la ley.

Sin embargo, hay que hacer conciencia que esta no es una lucha de mujeres en contra de los hombres. Esto es una lucha por cambiar estereotipos, por erradicar las tradiciones machistas, por darle valor a las personas sin importar su sexo o género.

Espero que las personas entiendan que el feminismo es un movimiento que nos involucra a todos. Que cada persona tiene que poner de su parte. Que tenemos que aprender a convivir como sociedad y respetarnos unos a los otros. No es una cosa que vamos a cambiar de un día a otro, menos cuando por siglos se nos ha inculcado una cultura machista.



Me identifico como una mujer feminista, no puedo hablar por ninguna otra mujer porque cada persona ha vivido experiencias diferentes. No odio a los hombres, al contrario, me hace feliz tenerlos en mi vida. Lo que sí odio y trabajo día a día por eliminar son las ideas y cultura en la que hemos sido sometidos todos — la que presenta a la mujer como una figura frágil, sin empoderamiento y libertad.

Tenemos que aprender, poner de nuestra parte y respetar a los demás para seguir avanzando y así crear una sociedad donde todos seamos valorados.

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THE PROSPECTOR

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SPEAK YOUR MIND

Former student tried to launch impeachment investigation against sitting SGA president

Bryan Mena

The Prospector

A former student unsuccessfully attempted to file articles of impeachment against incumbent Student Government Association (SGA) President Jessica Martinez last semester on the grounds that she was drunk during a general meeting.

The impeachment allegation and its fate

In a weekslong investigation, The Prospector investigated an email sent to three university officials Dec. 13 alleging that Martinez was “publicly intoxicated” during SGA’s Dec. 5 meeting.

The email was sent by Omar Eduardo Barriga, a recent UTEP graduate, to Dean of Students and SGA adviser Catherine McCorry-Andalis, Administrative Services Coordinator Maggie Espinoza-Ortega and Assistant Dean of Students Matthew Crouse.

Barriga provided The Prospector a copy of this email and it reveals that he sought an impeachment case against Martinez because she “appeared drunk” during the Dec. 5 meeting and that he saw “a video where she appeared taking shots.”

Barriga also provided The Prospector screenshots of a conversation he had with Martinez shortly after the Dec. 5 meeting which show that he asked her if she was drunk at the meeting.

In that conversation, Martinez told Barriga that she had a drink when she went out to eat before the meeting and that the food did not sit well with her.

“Jessica confessed she drank before the meeting,” Barriga said. “Several senators can testify that she stuttered several times during the meeting and that her voice sounded messy, like a drunk person.”

Priscilla Gallegos, the collegiate senator of business, recalled Martinez’s behavior at the meeting.

“I do remember that when she got up to say her report, she had to stand with two legs open because, I don’t know, maybe she couldn’t handle her balance,” Gallegos said. “And then she also said the name wrong of one of the execs. It’s Varela, not Valencia, and you can hear that in the Facebook live if you pay close attention to it.”

Gallegos also heard that Martinez stepped out of the meeting to vomit in a nearby trash can.

“You can kind of connect the dots and think, ‘Oh, maybe she drank a little bit too much,’ because the video shows that they were taking shots,” Gallegos said.



Photo courtesy of UTEP

Last semester, a former student attempted to file articles of impeachment against Student Government Association (SGA) President Jessica Martinez.

Barriga and Gallegos referred to a Snapchat video taken by Senate Secretary Alexis Padron that shows a handful of individuals taking shots in what looks like a bar.

The impeachment process did not go forward because Barriga failed to properly file the articles of impeachment by sending the charges to the vice president of internal affairs, McCorry-Andalis said.

“One of the key parts of that is that he, or any student, frankly, has to file those in addition to the advisor of student government with the vice president of internal affairs and he failed to do that,” McCorry-Andalis said. “There were attempts made to get ahold of him and that just didn’t go anywhere.”

However, Barriga told The Prospector that he never heard back from neither McCorry-Andalis, Espinoza-Ortega nor Crouse after he sent his initial email to them.

“Nobody reached out, nor cared to even send me an email to let me know they received the email,” Barriga said. “I didn’t go through the entire process because I graduated from UTEP.”

According to McCorry-Andalis, she responded to Barriga’s request herself via email “prior to the holiday break” and attempted to call the student twice, leaving a voicemail after the first attempt. She said that Barriga still did not respond.

Martinez was not aware that a student tried to file articles of impeachment against her until The Prospector began to investigate.

The president’s response

Martinez said that she felt sick at the beginning of December, but that she continued to go to her classes and attend the SGA meetings.

She explained that on Dec. 5, she and a few senators went to Fool’s Gold, a bar on Cincinnati Avenue, before their meeting to enjoy a dollar taco special.

“We did go there, and I did have one drink, but the food wasn’t settling; I was just not having it,” Martinez said. “And then I came back to Senate and I was still not feeling really well. I talked to Dr. McCorry earlier too and I told her, ‘Dr. McCorry, I’m not feeling well.’ I knew if I didn’t go, I would have to get a doctor’s note and I am not going to the doctor just for a stomachache.”

Martinez said that McCorry-Andalis advised her to stay for the meeting.

The SGA president said that she was surprised that anyone would doubt her character.

“I think it’s all a matter of knowing that I’m responsible and that I really do take my position as the president seriously. I wouldn’t show up to any meeting being impaired, drunk, anything,” Martinez said. “I mean, it’s a genuine concern but I don’t think it was proper to jump straight to that conclusion.”

Martinez said that she actually set an example by doing her duties, despite feeling sick.

“That’s also the expectation, the role model, that I put out. I was able to come when I was not feeling so well, and I did my job; I did my due diligence and then went home after that.”

“

I wouldn’t show up to any meeting being impaired, drunk, anything.

”

- JESSICA MARTINEZ
UTEP SGA president

When asked about the video of Martinez taking a shot, McCorry-Andalis said that that still doesn’t mean Martinez went drunk to the meeting.

“There’s absolutely no evidence on that recording that she’s drunk at all. I actually met with her right before that meeting and I talked to her later on that evening. There was no evidence of that and she did a variety of things that needed to get done,” McCorry-Andalis said. “People can make those decisions. It doesn’t mean they’re drunk. There’s a big difference.”

Alireza Mohammadi, senator-at-large, still thought that drinking alcohol right before a meeting was inappropriate.

“If you go on the street and you’re drunk and if a cop pulls you over, you can’t tell them ‘Okay, I did it like an hour ago, it was on my own time, now I’m driving.’ It doesn’t make any sense.”

Bryan Mena may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

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Juliette Caire pulls \$13 million grant, invests in youth

Exodis Ward

The Prospector

There is an assortment of knick knacks in Juliette Caire's office. In her 20 years as executive director of Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs (GEAR UP) partnerships at UTEP, she's collected quite a few. The Frida Kahlo statuette is a reminder of what a strong Latina is. The Don Quixote statue that holds her business cards is a hand-carved gift from a Bowie parent who she helped. The plate with faces represents her identity and the multicultural background of El Paso. She says she would display more but wants to avoid clutter.

There are also many plaques and certificates on her office walls. One of her favorites is her distinguished achievements certificate from Dr. Natalicio for her work at UTEP. The blue plaque praises her GEAR UP program in El Paso, which is a model nationwide. GEAR UP is a government program designed to increase the number of low-income students pursuing post-secondary education. Their main goals are to enrich academic preparedness and increase access to college while engaging parents throughout the process.

She has three million-dollar club plaques hanging that she received for spending millions of dollars on programs for students. Her earliest is from the year 2011 and some of her more recent ones she hasn't even had the chance to hang up yet.

"I think that being able to run a program that's respected in the community and I think growing the program from 300 to 3,000, I'm proud of that," Caire said. "We want to make it (high) quality and we tried to try to give students enrichment where they might not otherwise get. I know we're touching students out there and I think that's what I'm proudest of, just being able to do my job well."

Last year, Caire was recognized for her previous research expenditures reaching \$2.4 million from a single grant from the U.S. Department of Education for GEAR UP partnership.

Her most recent grant is for \$13 million.

"Our grants are awarded for six-year periods and we're partnering with the Ysleta Independent School District," Caire said. "That's another thing about GEAR UP, we help schools develop strategic plans, so that when we leave, they have something to sustain our efforts while we were there."

The program's success is shown with their last batch of students, who it guided from 2011 to 2017. When compared with the class of 2012, the class of 2017's high school graduation rate was 98.4 and there was a 23.1 percent increase in post-secondary enrollment rates. For students at UTEP, the freshman year retention rates were 73 percent.

"We were very purposeful in doing the activities we did with the kids," Caire said. "We did a lot of the TSI camps ... We want to have them have fun, but we want to make it meaningful and just kind of keep trying to connect as they grow, you have to grow with them."

Caire says her mentors gave her the stepping-stones that led to her current success.

Caire began work at Job Corps in 1986. She worked closely with kids to teach them life skills to apply to the workforce. There, she learned how to work with a government entity and how to do paperwork properly. Though she loved what she did, there was no room for growth, so she moved to work with Region 19 Head Start.

In 1996, Caire became the mental health coordinator for all Head Starts in the West-Texas region and oversaw the mental health care of more than 3,000 preschool-aged students. Caire

was mentored by Teresa Pena, the first female associate superintendent in EPISD, and built the program from the ground up. Eventually, Caire was able to include infants in the program.

"These women believed in having a good work ethic. They're very detailed people and wanted you to do well. I think that was the most important part in helping me to succeed," Caire said. "Teresa Pena has been one of the people who influenced me most in building up confidence, just letting me be independent and giving oversight."

Caire's long-term goals for herself are to continue teaching the youth about college and guide them on their college journeys.

While she sifts through informative postcards she plans to send to parents, she discusses what she hopes to do in the future.

"I look forward to growing our community here in the city as far as helping them and just increasing the quality of life for the youth here," she said. "I want my legacy to be that I worked to impact change to promote equal educational enrichment opportunities for all students regardless of socio-economic status."

Exodis Ward may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



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For four local businesswomen, it all started with a peach tree

Maria Salette Ontiveros

The Prospector

Durazno Claro, a local nail salon in Ciudad Juárez, México, has been booming for the past eight months with constant booking requests through Instagram. The business is run by young women who had a minimalistic aesthetic in mind for it.

Marla Briceño, Priscila Briceño, Natalia Briceño and Daniela Alonso are the four cousins responsible for opening Durazno Claro, which means "Light Peach" in Spanish, a business dedicated to women, along with the help of their aunt Patricia Alonso.

The girls all collaborated to make their vision a reality.

Marla, a graphic designer and photographer who also works at two different churches, is the one in charge of social media for Durazno Claro. Priscila, an interior designer who works independently, designed the business' interior. Natalia is a visual arts student specializing in sculptures and Daniela studies accounting and is passionate about the visual arts.

"My cousin Daniela and I have always had little businesses since we were younger," Marla said. "One day she told me to open a nail salon and, with the help of our aunt, Priscila and Natalia, we started to create the logo and (decide) what we wanted to do differently from other nail salons."

The name Durazno Claro comes from a childhood experience they all share.

"When we were little girls, we had a peach tree, and that was something that marked our childhoods," Priscila said. "That's why we decided to choose that name."

One of the goals of the business is to transmit and make the customer feel welcome by receiv-

ing them as if they were old friends, alongside with professional service that will keep customers coming back.

"Durazno is a place where we want to make the customer feel warm and welcomed," Marla said. "Durazno is not a factory — one client after the other — we like to ask about the day of the customer, their life — it's a very personal service. It's quality in all the aspects, from the customer service to the designs we do. We care that the customers have a happy moment during the day."

The cousins' talent is displayed for customers to see on their Instagram page, where simple gel colors and intricate designs fight for attention.

"What differentiates us from other nail salons is the personal service we offer," Natalia said. "We were able to establish a connection with the people not only as customers, but as human beings. None of us thought that it would have the impact that it has today, but we mainly want to expand the services of Durazno, not staying only as a nail salon, but a beauty salon, and give this special identity for women of our city."

Another thing that defines the business is that it mainly books clients through Instagram's direct messages. Due to the high demand from their more than 4,600 followers, the business does not even have a sign outside because they cannot take unexpected walk-ins. To find them, however, one needs to simply find the colorful designs along the bottom of their building.

One of their short-term goals is to open Durazno Claro in Monterrey, Mexico. This is the ideal city for them because they have family there and they want to maintain the business within their family.

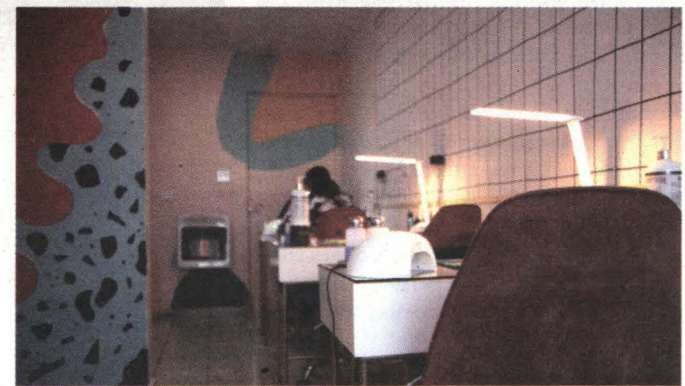
People can find Durazno Claro on Instagram as @DuraznoClaro.

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



Photo courtesy of Durazno Claro
Durazno Claro, "Light Peach" in English, is a local nail salon found in Ciudad Juárez. Four businesswomen and entrepreneurs, who happen to also be cousins, developed the business by collaborating in order to produce their vision.

Photo courtesy of Durazno Claro
"Durazno is not a factory — one client after the other — we like to ask about the day of the customer, their life — it's a very personal service. It's quality in all the aspects, from the customer service to the designs we do. We care that the customers have a happy moment during the day," Marla Briceño said.



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FEMINICIDIO from front page

grande, Stronger Together, cuenta con más de 46,000 miembros.

"La verdad no esperaba que hubiera tanto crecimiento, creímos que iban a ser pocas", dijo Nohemi Miranda, administradora del grupo Ni una menos.

La creación de los grupos llega como respuesta a la inseguridad que enfrentan las mujeres en México. Según el Secretariado Ejecutivo del Sistema Nacional de Seguridad Pública (SESNSP), en el 2019 se registraron un total de 980 feminicidios en el país y 72 en el mes de enero del presente año.

El artículo 325 del Código Penal Federal tipifica como feminicidio todo aquel que "prive de la vida a una mujer por razones de género". Las razones de género deben concurrir con algunos signos de violencia sexual, amenazas, acoso, entre otras.

"Siempre que me metía a Facebook lo único que me aparecía eran muertes de chicas, muchas desaparecidas, 'violaron a tal chica' y me harté," dijo Ali Cervantes, creadora y administradora de Stronger Together.

La red de apoyo fomenta las conexiones entre mujeres no solo en un nivel personal, sino también para la obtención de servicios, como el de transporte compartido.



La red de apoyo fomenta las conexiones entre mujeres no solo en un nivel personal, sino también para la obtención de servicios, como el de transporte compartido.

Cervantes comenta que en el grupo se encuentran muchas mujeres que trabajan para compañías como Uber y que hacen disponibles sus servicios para todas aquellas que no se sienten en confianza con los conductores hombres.

Las reglas varían dependiendo del grupo, pero las más generales incluyen el respeto, no tomar capturas de pantalla de las publicaciones y la conservación de la anonimidad de aquellas que deciden dar su testimonio con respecto a agresiones, maltratos o violaciones.

“La verdad no esperaba que hubiera tanto crecimiento, creímos que iban a ser pocas.”

- NOHEMI MIRANDA
administradora del grupo "Ni una menos"

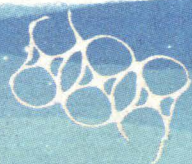
"Así las chicas pueden desahogarse, aunque sea en un anónimo", dijo Miranda.

El impacto de estos grupos busca ir más allá de un grupo de Facebook o del internet, al invitar a sus integrantes a ser aliadas de la causa en la vida real también, cuando miembros del grupo se sientan o encuentren en peligro al estar en las calles de la ciudad.

"Usamos listón morado por si alguna chica del grupo está en peligro y ve a otra chica con un listón morado, con confianza (pueda) tomarla de la mano", dijo Cervantes.

Marisol Chávez puede ser contactada a través de prospector@utep.edu

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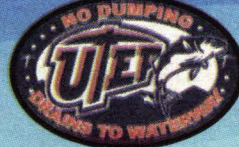
Do not dump waste, chemicals, paint, custodial waste, and general rubbish items (tires, old car parts, shopping carts, etc.) into storm drains, channels, or ditches.

No tirar basura, aparatos electrodomésticos, muebles, llantas, y chatarra a canales y acequias del sistema de drenaje pluvial.



Properly dispose of hazardous wastes, pesticides, and fertilizers. Call UTEP EH&S to schedule waste pickups.

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



Storm drains are easily identified with "NO DUMPING" decals at stormwater inlets.

Alcantarillado de aguas pluviales es identificado con anuncios de "NO REVERTIR DESECHOS AQUI"



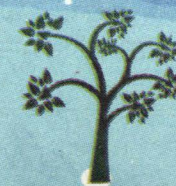
Keep material out of the stormwater conveyance system (curbs, gutters, sidewalks, streets, drains, culverts, and arroyos). Dispose of grass, leaves, yard waste, and construction debris properly.

No tapar el flujo pluvial a canales, alcantarillas y arroyos con basura. Disponga correctamente de basura vegetal (césped, ramas, y hojas) así como basura de construcción.



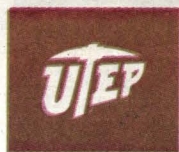
Recycle oil, antifreeze, and other vehicle fluids, or dispose of them properly to prevent the pollution of stormwater, groundwater and the Rio Grande.

Recicle aceite, anti-congelante y lubricantes o disponga propiamente de ellos para prevenir contaminación del sistema de drenaje pluvial, mantos acuíferos y el Río Bravo.



Leave natural vegetation in place where possible to prevent erosion.

Si es posible, deje crecer la vegetación en forma natural para evitar la erosión.



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Feminists fight for change through 'artivism'

From anti-femicide murals in Ciudad Juárez to feminist art exhibits in New York City

Jaqueline Martinez

The Prospector

Feminists throughout the world have been fighting for change through "artivism," an increasingly popular portmanteau that means addressing injustices and raising awareness through creative expression.

"Artivism is a combination of art surveying an activist type of role, where instead of maybe working alone in their studios, they may be thinking how their work impacts the world outside of their studio," said Vincent Burke, a ceramics professor at UTEP. "It's making work directly in response to political concerns, personal concerns, but basically (it's) an art that impacts and tackles broad and cultural issues."

In the aftermath of the femicide of Isabel Cabanillas De La Torre in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico in late January, many artists have spoken out against the injustice through graffiti murals that depict her name next to phrases such as "Pinto por las que ya no están" which is Spanish for "I paint for the women who are no longer here."

Many of Burke's ceramics students created bones honoring Cabanillas and women that have fallen victims of feminicide.

"Artists sometimes take an interventionist approach where they'll go to important or significant sites and either place their work there in almost a 'guerilla' type tactic," Burke said. "Sometimes they can be testing the laws and putting their works out in public spaces and other times, they're invited to do so, frankly because artists are seen as agents of change."

The Guerilla Girls is a New York City-based group that was founded in 1985 and is amongst many feminist activist groups in the country that have created a voice for themselves through humorous visuals, facts and works that include books, videos and posters, in which they address gender and ethnic bias and corruption in politics, art, film and pop culture.

The group's members are known for wearing gorilla masks in public to keep their identity anonymous.

The Guerilla Girls also hold interventions and have held exhibitions at museums where they express their dedication to fight sexism and racial inequality in the art world.

El Paso has also seen an increase in activists like the local art collective "Los Dos" who work in collaboration with visual artists that go by Maintain Studios.

Their artwork can be seen through murals in the El Paso streets of Durangito and Segundo

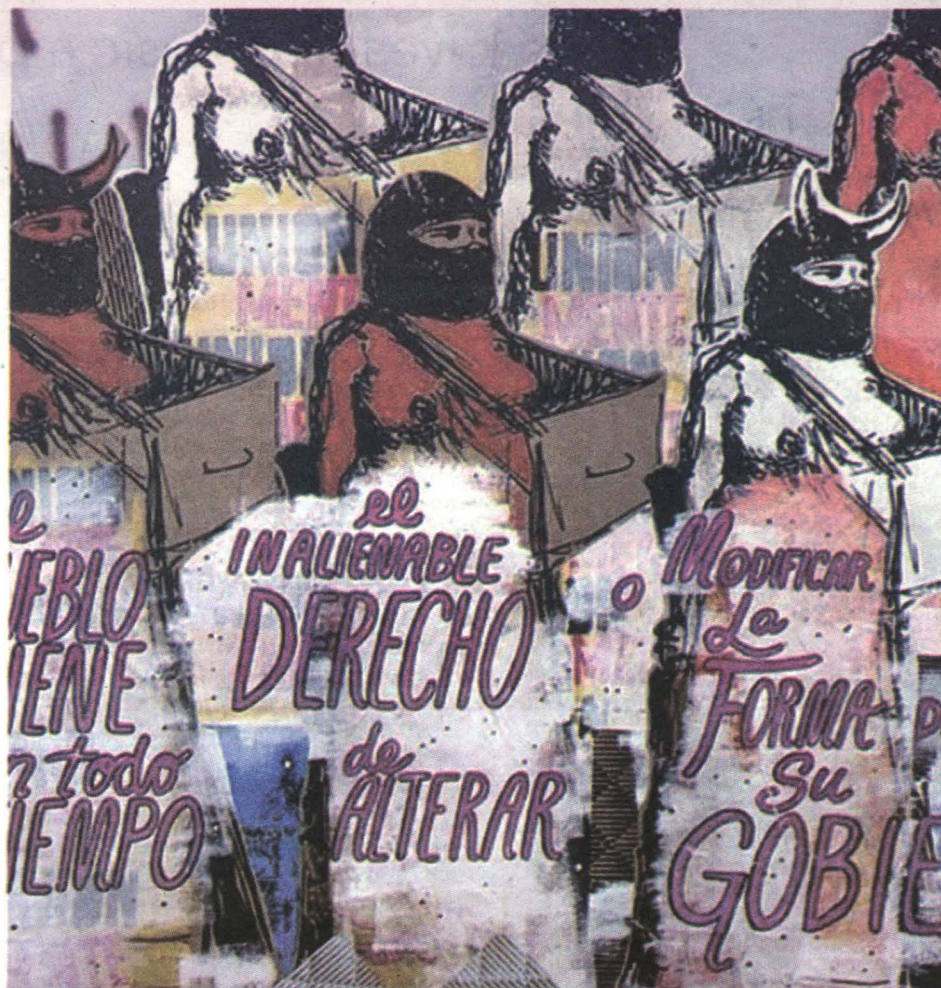


Photo courtesy of Los Dos

Local art collective "Los Dos" in collaboration with Maintain Studios presents mural in Juárez in honor of "día internacional de la lucha." The group's artwork can be seen in the El Paso streets of Durangito and Segundo Barrio and in Juárez, often depicting the bond between both cities and the two countries.

Barrio and in Juárez, often depicting the bond between both cities and the two countries. The collective recently designed a poster for Rage Against the Machine after the band announced its comeback tour.

Rage Against the Machine's poster depicts an original design of a strong, female figure wearing a black mask with horns, carrying her child on her back.

Within her dress, there is an image of the border wall and the train as immigrants are heading towards the border crossing in hope of a better life.

The poster's design is dedicated to the border communities, as the poster also displays the

dates of borderland cities where the band will be performing at.

"Artists can act as bridges between different facets of the community to raise awareness and impact change in their communities," Burke said.

The Art of Revolution is an art collective that initiated a social art project titled "One Million Bones," that took four years to complete and was installed in Washington, D.C. in 2013.

The projects' goal was to attain one million ceramic bones from all over the world and lay them at the Washington Memorial to commemorate victims of genocide in countries such as Sudan, Somalia, Burma, and the Demo-

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Artists can act as bridges between different facets of the community to raise awareness and impact change in their communities.

”

— VINCENT BURKE
associate professor
of ceramics at UTEP

cratic Republic of the Congo, also serving as a "visual petition."

Based on the ongoing project that has now been installed in Silver City, New Mexico, Burke didn't hesitate to share the project with his advanced ceramics class where he had every student conduct research on genocides that have occurred or are currently taking place across the world and create five realistic, human bones commemorating their chosen group of victims.

Burke is planning a one-day trip with his students to Silver City to lay their ceramic bones and become a part of the ongoing movement.

"Part of it was so that they can see that their work can be part of a bigger conversation and help them recontextualize their artworks out of a traditional system and see that art can function in different ways," said Burke. "They will be exposed to it, they're going to participate and they're going to contribute and that's what's important to me that they're contributors, and that they might find that there's something about that in which it really captures their imagination and become a path for some of them to continue this type of work."

Jaqueline Martinez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu



Photo courtesy of Nicole Velarde

TOOTHS recently released her newest single dubbed "friends // lazy" that can be found on your favorite streaming service.

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Border is home to budding female musician TOOTHS

Nicole Velarde says her hometown gives her music a personal taste

Victoria Almaguer

The Prospector

The El Paso-Ciudad Juárez region has produced internationally recognized artists such as Juan Gabriel and Khalid, but the borderland is also home to budding musicians like Nicole Velarde, professionally known as TOOTHS.

Music has always been part of Velarde's life. As an El Paso native, Velarde grew up with the sounds of mariachi music at every celebration. Feeling inspired by El Paso's culture, music and art, Velarde said her home gives her music a more personal taste.

"I absolutely loved growing up on the border. I think about how lucky I am to have grown up with mariachis in my life," says Velarde. "They're a fine example of musicianship and I have so much respect for them — their professionalism, talent, dexterity, their ability to multitask, etcetera. I could go on and on. I hope to embody that same level of grace when I perform."

After learning how to play guitar at age 10, she was inspired to join a choir group. While studying at the El Paso Conservatory of Music in high school, she challenged herself to learn as many instruments as possible like bass and piano.

She continued her musical career by obtaining a vocal performance degree from UTEP after changing her major a few semesters before graduation.

Soon after, she began to play with different local bands such as Hope Riot, Pet People and most recently, with Stay at Home.

She describes her work as "some kind of pop variant."

"I like to play with textures and finding a balance of hard and soft," Velarde said.

Being a female musician from the borderland brings Velarde comfort because she feels liberated every time she performs. However, the artist still describes her experiences as a woman musician as weird.

"In the end, I just hope my defining characteristics as a musician is that I am a musician first, woman second," Velarde said. "For shows I like to play with not only my femininity but my masculinity as well, and all the parts in between."

In terms of music experiences at the border, Velarde appreciates all that she has learned from El Paso artistry.

“

I absolutely loved growing up on the border. I think about how lucky I am to have grown up with mariachis in my life.

”

- TOOTHS

borderland musician
and UTEP alumna

"The music community has been very kind to me," Velarde said. "Over time, the faces at shows have become more and more familiar and it's a great feeling. Not to mention, many of my most treasured friendships came out of the music community and appreciation for the borderland music community and I think it reflects the border community overall."

Her alias, TOOTHS, has offered Velarde an alter ego where she can truly express herself through music. She gave herself the name a few years ago.

"I just like having an alter ego of sorts, although at this point TOOTHS and Nicole is really one in the same," Velarde said.

After recently releasing her new single "friends // lazy," TOOTHS hopes to encourage artists in the city to continue to look for their true calling.

TOOTHS's single can be found on your favorite streaming service and on Bandcamp with tapes and other merch available for purchase.

Victoria Almaguer may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

UTEP women's basketball defeats Southern Miss 80-72 on Senior Day

Isaiah Ramirez

The Prospector

In the final home game at the Don Haskins Center of UTEP women's basketball 2019-2020 season, the bittersweet feeling of watching several Miners grace the hardwood for the last time encompassed the building.

Four Miner seniors experienced their last home victory in an 80-72 win over the Southern Mississippi (Southern Miss) Golden Eagles.

Forwards Jade Rochelle and Ariona Gill along with guards Katarina Zec and Neidy Ocuane were all honored on Senior Day for their contributions to the Miners. All four seniors left a lasting mark on this up and coming Miner program.

Rochelle and Ocuane contributed to the program with constant effort on both ends of the court, while Gill and Zec provided two reliable scorers this season and throughout their respective careers as Miners.

Rochelle was a reliable player for the Miners in the paint and came up big earlier this season in the Miners 67-63 win over North Texas with two big baskets in the closing minutes versus the Mean Green.

Last season Ocuane was second on the squad in free-throw percentage (78%) and third in three's made (23). The veteran point guard was plagued by an injury throughout this season but was able to play in the Miners win versus the Golden Eagles.

Zec recently surpassed the 1,000 career point mark and her game expanded each season as a Miner and has 20 double-digit scoring performances this season.

Gill showcased her talents as a two-way player as a spark on offense and defense and could go out and grab 10 plus rebounds each game leading the team in rebounds with 8 per game.

Although four talented and dedicated players to the program are departing, the future of the Miners is in good hands and that was evident during the game against the Golden Eagles with the exceptional performances by its freshman guards Arina Khlopko, Avery Crouse and Katia Gallegos. Khlopko and Crouse combined for 35 points with 14 and 21 respectively while Gallegos dished out a career-high 12 assists, one shy of tying the program record for most assists in a game, set by former Miner Jareica Hughes Jan. 5, 2010 versus Southern Methodist University.

Gallegos needs four assists to break former Miner Shalana Taylor's freshman record, 142

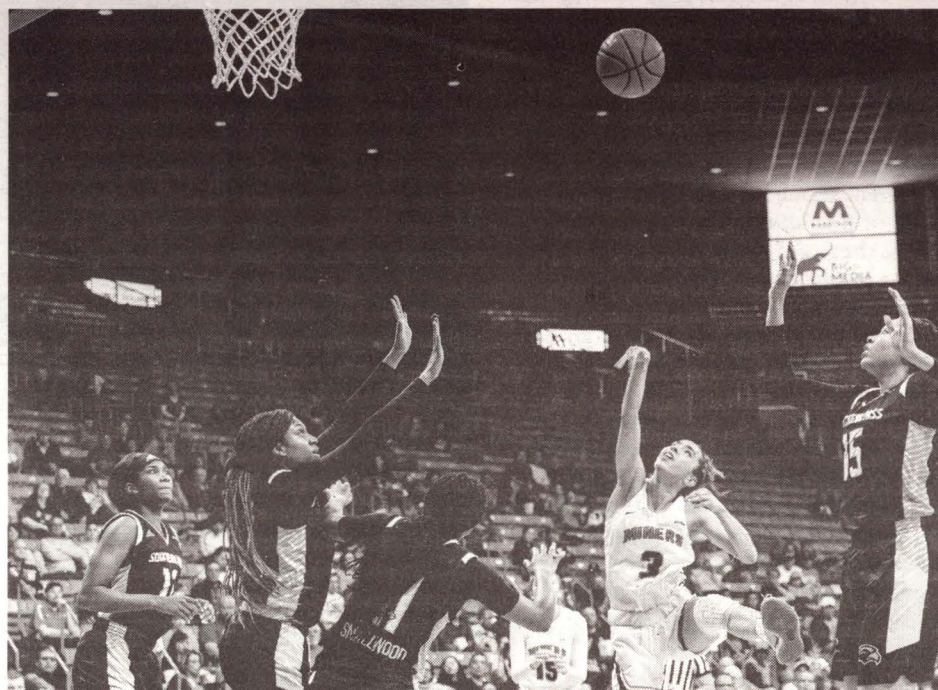


Photo courtesy of Isaac Uribe

Freshman point guard Katia Gallegos takes shot surrounded by four Southern Miss defenders Saturday Feb. 29.

assists from 2004 to 2005, for most assists in a season.

"When a team like our team shoots the ball the way we do, I can't hesitate but to pass them the ball if they're wide-open," Gallegos said.

"All four seniors are outstanding, and I couldn't have asked for a better senior class my freshman year," Crouse said.

The Miners displayed its talents from downtown going 8-of-19 from three and provided pressure on the defensive side of the ball, forcing 23 Southern Miss turnovers.

Southern Miss battled and won buckets inside the paint outscoring the Miners 46-34 for the game and were led by freshman guard Liz Gibbs with 21 points and senior forward Respect Leaphart's 17 points.

"Hats off to Southern Miss, they played a really good ballgame," Head Coach Kevin Baker said. "That was a terrific college basketball game today."

Katarina Zec put up 17 points in her final game at the Don and shot 75% from downtown (3-for-4) and now sits at eighth all-time in career points in program history with 1,092.

"I thought our seniors played well and did what they needed to do to send themselves out

the right way and this team is a great team and a special team," Baker said.

Things turned a bit troubling for UTEP in the fourth with Southern Miss taking its first lead of the game (57-56) since the first half with a 3-pointer by redshirt sophomore Imani Carter.

The Miners bounced back and went on a 7-0 run en route to halting the Golden Eagles and earning its eighth victory in Conference-USA (C-USA) and sits in seventh place in Conference.

UTEP's average of 71 points per game and 40 rebounds is third best in C-USA and momentum is brewing at the right time for the Miners with two regular season games remaining in the season.

"At the end of the day I know in my heart that UTEP basketball is in great shape and we're not going anywhere anytime soon," Baker said.

UTEP will make its final road trip of the regular season as it takes on Rice and North Texas. Rice is tied for first in C-USA and was given a true battle by the Miners narrowly besting UTEP (69-61), while North Texas has struggled this season and were defeated by the Miners earlier this season (67-63).

Isaiah Ramirez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu

UTEP leads 'Senior Night'

First back-to-back wins since Weststar Classic

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

Starting its first winning streak of the new year, the UTEP Miners led from start to finish on Senior Night with an easy 75-56 victory over the Southern Mississippi (Southern Miss) Golden Eagles Sunday afternoon.

The last time the Miners had won back-to-back games was in mid-December, playing their home tournament. This game's 19-point win was the team's largest margin of victory for the season versus a Division I opponent.

Right out of the starting gate, the Miners dominated, scoring the first 10 points of the game, with half of those being scored by senior guard Darryl Edwards. Edwards took over early in the game and scored 15 points by halftime on 5-8 shooting. Shooting 4-7 from 3-point line, Edwards set the tone and had Southern Miss struggling on defense, trying to deny them an outside shot.

Leading 31-20 with five minutes left in the first half, the Miners got some surprising offense from freshman Deon Stroud. During those last five minutes of the half Stroud was the only scoring that the Miners had, hitting two 3-pointers while Stroud scored 8 points within seven minutes on the court.

At halftime, the Miners had a 39-29 lead on 50 percent shooting from the field and 47 percent from the 3-point line.

For the first nine minutes of the second half, the Miners and Golden Eagles traded baskets with the margin staying at about 10 points. A 3-pointer from sophomore guard Souley Boum extended the lead to 51-38, followed by a layup from sophomore Kaden Archie.

see SENIOR NIGHT on page 11

Basketball's Ariona Gill a leader by example at UTEP

Michael Cuvillo

The Prospector

After missing multiple games of the 2019 season due to injury, UTEP senior Ariona Gill has displayed a level of perseverance and courage that sets her apart from the average college basketball player. Due to injury, Gill was not expected to be able to start the season and was still in a walking boot just at practice prior to the Miners first game of the season.

Gill, overcoming all odds, has started all but one game for the Miners this season. Standing at a mere six feet, Gill has been a force on the boards for UTEP all season, even though she is constantly battling players of greater size. Currently fifth in conference with 8.8 rebounds a game, Gill has played a huge part in the team's improved rebounding.

As a team, UTEP has improved four rebounds a game from last season, constantly beating opponents on the board with an undersized lineup.

Hailing from Las Vegas, Gill transferred from San Jacinto College where she averaged 11.3 points and 9.5 rebounds a game as a sophomore, leading the team to its first appearance

in National junior College Athletic Association Championship with a 24-9 record.

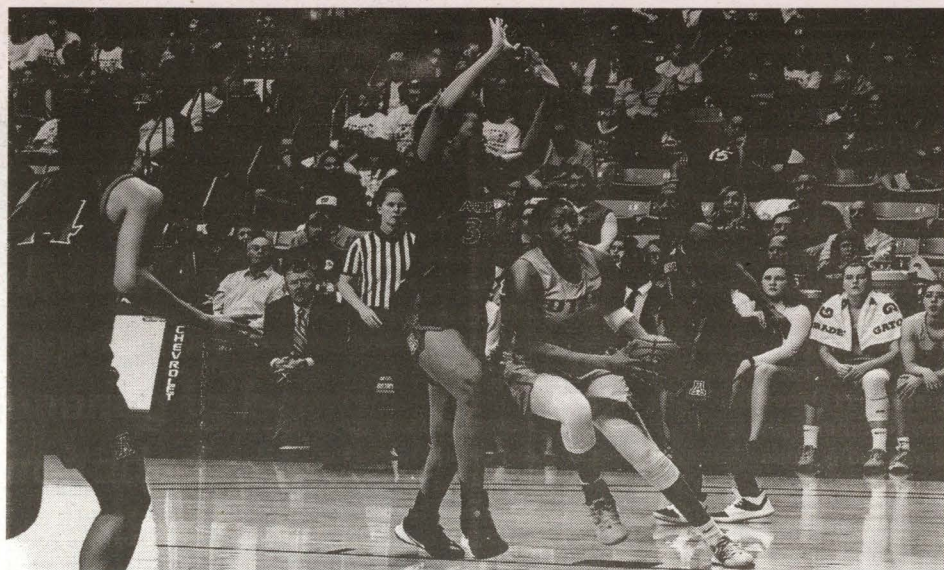
As a junior at UTEP, Gill started the first 12 games of the 2019 season before missing eight consecutive games with an injury then taking on a sixth man role upon her return. For the season, Gill averaged 8.7 points and 4.4 rebounds for the season.

Constantly battling recurring effects from her injury, Gill has been a model of consistency for the current season. In a 82-76 versus the University of Charlotte Feb. 6, Gill took over the game as she scored 25 point and 14 rebounds to lead the team. Gill described this game as her favorite game of her career.

Whenever Gill was called upon to make key plays, she continued to be a leader for the Miners.

While Gill may be considered soft-spoken off the court, her play has spoken loudly to her leadership on the court. Teammates have responded well to her play with a surprising 15-12 record this season, and a tournament berth.

In a recent El Paso Times article Gill said "Leadership can mean talking, playing a role on the court, leading by example. Leadership can mean anything, it just depends on the person. For me I lead on the court."



Michael Cuvillo / The Prospector

Senior forward Ariona Gill drives between two defenders versus Arizona Dec. 7, 2019.

Speaking about what was the best thing about playing for the Miners Gill said "The fans at UTEP make every moment the greatest said Gill

and I am very honored to have been a part of this Miner team."

Michael Cuvillo may be reached at prospector.utep.edu

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