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El Paso reacts to New Mexico’s legalization of marijuana

Nicole Lopez
The Prospector

With New Mexico and Mexico set to legalize the recreational use of marijuana, UTEP staff and students discuss the effects it may pose on El Paso residents living in the middle of the two.

New Mexico is the 16th state in the United States to legalize marijuana for recreational use and sales, after Gov. Michelle Lujan Grisham signed legislation Monday, April 12. According to the bill, adults 21 and over will be permitted to purchase and possess up to 2 ounces of marijuana outside their home starting April 1, 2022.

Lawmakers in Mexico also passed a bill March 10, that legalizes the recreational use of marijuana in a 316-to-129 vote, according to a news release by the country’s Chamber of Deputies. The measure is expected to be approved by the Senate before being sent to President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, who has expressed support for legalization.

Alison Alber, a multimedia journalism student at UTEP, finds the legalization of marijuana from both New Mexico and Mexico could influence Texas’ reconsideration of marijuana regulation.

“When we look at the map, Arizona already legalized it and I’m sure people on the border of New Mexico and Arizona are just waiting for us (Texas) to do the same,” Alber said.

Alber acknowledges it can take Texas, a predominantly red state, a long time to even consider legalizing marijuana for recreational use.

“Texas is always doing its own thing,” Alber said. “Texas is still predominantly conservative so it will take a while before the state realizes what they can do with new legislation on marijuana.”

According to an article published by Harvard Medical School, marijuana is found to have health benefits when it comes to treating certain conditions, such as nerve pain, arthritis, PTSD, Parkinson’s Disease, among many others, a healthy use of marijuana Alber advocates for.

“I am all for the healing power of plants and marijuana does exactly that,” Alber said. “In a regulated environment, it does more good than harm.”

Regarding how the Mexican legislation of marijuana could affect El Paso, it could play out in several ways.

Armando Gonzalez-Stuart, a researcher in Herbal Safety at UTEP’s School of Pharmacy, finds marijuana legislation on the Mexico border may decrease activity of illegal crossing of marijuana to either side.

“Importing or exporting into the United States is not going to be that much of a priority anymore,” Gonzalez-Stuart said.

As for how Texans may react to the legislation in New Mexico, Gonzalez-Stuart believes the legalization of the recreational use of marijuana will not lead to an increase in the use of marijuana in the state of Texas.

“I don’t really think there’s going to be that much of a problem for Texas just because New Mexico legalizes it,” Gonzalez-Stuart said.

According to the group Stop AAPI Hate, nearly 3,800 hate incidents against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders have been reported nationwide since March of 2020. Between March 19 and July 1, 2020, 63 incident reports of anti-Asian hate were made in Texas.

“Technology in anti-Asian discrimination is definitely real. After reading all those news, Asian people have fears, insecure feelings in general,” said Chuan (River) Xiao, Ph.D., UTEP professor of chemistry. “I remembered when the Walmart shooting happened at El Paso on Aug. 3, 2019, parents of my Mexican summer intern student from Juárez contacted me, asking their child to go back (to Juárez). This is the same feeling we, as Asians, have now.”

According to UTEP’s “Bhutan on the Border,” the university is the only institution in the U.S. whose architecture is inspired by Bhutan’s Kingdom in South Asia. All of UTEP’s 97 buildings with you and understand this has frightened and shocked and to prevent any discrimination incidents.”

Alison Alber, a multimedia journalism student at UTEP, finds the legalization of marijuana from both New Mexico and Mexico could influence Texas’ reconsideration of marijuana regulation.

“Importing or exporting into the United States is not going to be that much of a problem for Texas just because New Mexico legalizes it,” Gonzalez-Stuart said.
Getting the COVID-19 vaccine to help end this pandemic

Lennon Romo

The air was cold on the morning of Thursday, Jan. 14, and there I stood in line silently among hundreds of fellow El Pasoans, all of us waiting to get our first dose of the COVID-19 Moderna vaccine into our bodies.

After months of controversy, debate, and human trial and error, the vaccine finally made its way to my hometown of El Paso, Texas. In a city of about 800,000 people, only a few hundred were made available for the health impaired, including individuals like myself in Phase 1C, and there I was, awaiting my turn. A sort of tension seemed to wash over us all. A haunting stillness and unnerving silence fell upon the lines of people snaking about the lot.

There were several white tents set up in a parking lot outside of University Medical Center of El Paso. Behind pine-covered hedges and covered walkways, people would go through the process of signing disclosures, getting their vaccine, and waiting 15 minutes to be observed for any immediate side-effects. Due to the number of people as well as the length of time it took to go through each step, I was prepared to spend over three hours before my family and I were able to receive our vaccines. It was a scary, trying time for me to see.

Just as many others, rumors of reactions to the vaccine ranging from fever to even death haunted my mind. To date, the CDC’s Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System, or VAERS, has noted that there have been over 472 deaths following the Moderna vaccine, and 489 following the Pfizer vaccine. The vaccine laid out for me beyond the curtain felt like I was taking part in a game of Russian roulette. Could the unknown forces at play end up being more lethal than the virus itself?

The virus has proven to be almost impossible to predict. It didn’t just appear out of nowhere and become fully vaccinated. I can say this was also scared as of how taking the vaccine would affect my family and me. I became more interested in what lasting impacts this might turn out to have in the long run. In the end, however, my fear of contracting the virus itself outweighed those concerns.

For your consideration, these are the experiences I had with each respective dose of the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine.

The possibility of lesser side effects and saving lives over months known as the epicenter of Texas and the United States, we have clung our way out from under this shadow; now we must continue to make strides in finding a way off that of its caucasian counterparts. Our minority group is 1.3 times more likely to become infected by COVID-19.

Additionally, the likelihood of hospitalization is 3.1 times higher, and chance of succumbing to the virus rests at 2.3 times more likely.

There are a variety of reasons why many remain reluctant to offer their arms to the needle; these can include the fear of the unknown, concern over the rush to mass produce a vaccine, and the rare risk of death should your body reject the foreign substance. Though hesitancy is understandable, it is becoming even more dangerous as we seek to vaccinate an unvaccinated population.

The term “COVID fatigue” has been used for individuals seeking to get back to a “pre-pandemic” state. If this is ever to be achieved, a larger percentage of the population must progress towards becoming fully vaccinated.

The possibility for lesser side effects and giving rise to those of normalcy should be another driving force for individuals to consider.

The rise of new and more infectious variants of COVID-19, like the California variant that makes up 50% of cases in 44 of the state’s counties, bring about an even greater cause for concern. For a city that was in recent months known as the epicenter of Texas and the United States, we have clung our way out from under this shadow; now we must continue to make strides in finding a way off that of its caucasian counterparts. Our minority group is 1.3 times more likely to become infected by COVID-19.

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The Prospector

Victoria Rivas

Utepit administers over 12k COVID-19 vaccines

According to a news release sent on March 25, UTEP administers over 12,225 doses as of March 25. Those who have already received a vaccine somewhere else, can email covid19vaccination@ute.edu to ensure appointments are given to those who need them.

"The U.S. is lagging behind because for so many years it's been so difficult to do research," Gonzalez-Stuart said.

"The impact, more than physical and economical, is going to be psychological," Gonzalez-Stuart said. Researchers may also go through the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the Drug Enforcement Administration to ensure that marijuana products are not laced with harmful products. Dispensaries must have special permission from the Food and Drug Administration and the Drug Enforcement Administration to conduct research on marijuana to ensure that marijuana products are not laced with harmful products.

Researchers must also go through the National Institute of Drug Abuse and the Drug Enforcement Administration to ensure that marijuana products are not laced with harmful products.

According to Gonzalez-Stuart, the solution to safely consume marijuana in states that have yet to legalize its recreational use is simple: educating people.

"We need to educate the physicians and the pharmacists and the nurses because here in the United States, most are not," Gonzalez-Stuart said.

"The same thing can happen here in Texas. It would be good for people because then they know that the companies that they’re purchasing is the true thing."
SGA hosts first meeting with Texas Legislators

Julian Herrera
The Prospector

UTEP Student Government Association (SGA) hosted its first meeting with Texas Legislators on April 14.

The panel hosted Texas Senate Representative, Cesar Blanco, and House Speaker Pro Tempore Joe Moody, to educate and inform the UTEP student body of current legislative action being debated during the Texas Legislative session. Both representatives were actively on the floor debating significant and controversial bills, taking time between debates to speak with members of SGA.

“This is the place where politics begins, when you're in college, with our eyes opening and realizing some of the disparities and things that are unfair in life or in our system,” Blanco said. “I'm really proud that you all have taken that step to run for something and to improve the quality of life for students at UTEP.”

Blanco is appointed to various committees, including Veteran Affairs, transportation, higher education, and community health and human services. Currently, COVID-19 recovery concerns are taking the priority.

“My priorities for this session have really been centered around COVID-19 relief and recovery,” Blanco said. “On higher education, that committee has allowed me to continue to fight for keeping top college within reach for working students.”

Other higher education bills Blanco filed include one he authored to ensure college students who dropped classes during the pandemic are not penalized to reduce the impact on their GPA, the Senate passed.

Blanco addressed student concerns regarding the lack of access to ADA parking, filing a bill to exempt disabled college students and staff from any kind of parking fees. Blanco then spoke about the implications of recent bills such as SB7, a recent bill relating to election integrity and security.

“The Senate passed SB7, which is really just a voter suppression bill that's going to disenfranchise voters,” Blanco said. “It's going to open up the risk to voter intimidation and suppress turnout. Quite frankly, there is no election security problem in the state of Texas. We should be making it easier to vote, not harder.”

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“On higher education, that committee has allowed me to continue to fight for keeping top college within reach for working students.”

Blanco then began by expressing his pride in the UTEP student body and SGA for remaining active in the community and in-touch with current legislative processes.

“They (SGA) care, they want to be engaged, they want to be involved, so I certainly appreciate the opportunity to be here with you,” Moody said.

Legislation Sessions are important, according to Moody, because institutions such as UTEP are funded through the state. Sessions also determine what types of grants, curriculum, training, and other factors are available to the university, as well as funding for other external and community things such as public education, healthcare, and the state park system.

On the topic of higher education, Moody expressed a cautious optimism, as the federal funds UTEP received as COVID-19 relief did not pass through the state and instead went directly to the institution, which ensured the maximum amount of support.

The sessions also pertain to the El Paso community, as Moody addressed a current proposition he referred to as “permit-less carry,” which would allow individuals to carry a weapon without having to obtain a permit, the first time such proposition will be debated on the House floor.

“After what we experienced on August 3, 2019, I think it's offensive,” Moody said. “We have done nothing to address the issue of people who shouldn’t have weapons in their possession... one of the first bills we plan to take up on Apr. 15 is that bill, and we plan to make sure El Paso is well remembered in that conversation.”

Moody promoted public engagement with all bills to be debated by Congress, stating anyone can participate and voice their concerns to their representatives, whether it be in-person, by mail, or virtually.

“Stay engaged, stay involved,” Moody said.

A full recording of Wednesday's conversation may be found through SGA's Facebook page.

Hate Crime from cover page are characterized by the classic Bhutanese design.

Many UTEP's Asian professors agree that both Asian and Hispanic communities share many similar values and cultures.

“For example, both Asian and Hispanic people appreciate the value and importance of family relationships and cherish the close connections across different generations in a family,” Hsu said. “Thus, as an Asian, I feel connected and welcomed in a Hispanic community.”

Despite hosting its Bhutan Days celebration earlier in April, UTEP President Heather Wilson has yet to release a statement regarding the recent anti-Asian violence in the country.

Xiao and Hsu believe the university could provide more resources to the Asian community to maintain an inclusive and diverse culture.

“With the increasing numbers of hate crimes in the U.S., UTEP may consider offering special support for Asian faculty, staff, and students. Asian people are normally shy for asking help, especially as a minority who can be extremely vulnerable,” Hsu said. “Particularly, I worry about our UTEP Asian students who might encounter hate crimes during this difficult time and might not know where or how to get help or support.”

According to UTEP, the Campus Advocacy, Resources and Education (CARE) office seeks to empower students who have been impacted by any crime by providing private advocacy, resources and supportive services.

UTEP's Counseling and Psychological Services encourages all those traumatized by ongoing news reports of violence toward others to call the Minors Talk Crisis Line at 915-747-0291.

“Today, they can devilize Asians; tomorrow, all the minority will suffer if we don't speak out for each other,” Xiao said. “Although we might not have anti-Asian events at UTEP; as an institution with strong impact to the whole city of El Paso, UTEP should lead and stand strongly against any discrimination of any minority groups.”

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APRIL 20, 2021

EDITOR EXODIS WARD, 747-5161

UPE theater students advance to national festival

Katrina Villarreal
The Prospector

Three UTEP theater students finished at the top at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Regional Festival, which was held virtually February 19-28. Isabelle Rivera, Sarah Curtis, and Kalina Gallardo, and Sarah Curtis are all advancing in competition to the recent Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival. They will be participating at the finals on April 2021.

"There are some pretty important people we get to meet, and I am super excited about," Rivera said. "For the Excellence in Directing a 10-Minute Play award, Rivera was one of four students awarded with an award with Kalina Gallardo, where she directed her play called "The Mystic."

"I love working with Kalina so much, she is so talented and such an amazing writer. I was so lucky to be able to Direct into the Mystic," Rivera said.

Rivera explains that the playwright, actors, and herself only had about three days to prepare, which required them to put a lot of their time aside to rehearse. Lastly, Rivera won the Red Dedication award for her hard work, where she helped some directors in charge of Red spread the word about events they will be holding and assisted them whenever they needed.

Kalina Gallardo is a sophomore creative writing major with a minor in Theatre.

In the future, Gallardo said she will continue writing. She explained that she admires multi-genre writers, when writing when she is inclined to theater writing, poetry, essay, memoir, and more. She imagines her future involving an array of praxis which includes mutual aid, community organizing, activism and making art. "It is a beautiful person, my entire existence is an act of resistance and that is reflected in my writing," Gallardo said.

Gallardo won the Jim Anderson Outlaw Playwright Award. This award honors a playwright that is fearless and passionate, with a humor that defies the laws of the land. "I didn't know there was an award as such," Gallardo said.

Gallardo explains that she wrote her play, into the Mystic, in Georgia Escobar's playwriting two class at UTEP, where she and her peers were encouraged to submit their work to the festival. After incorporating some rewrite suggestion from her peers and Escobar, she decided to submit her play.

"Upon learning that my play had been accepted as a regional finalist, I felt affirmed in my creative practice and was thrilled to work with Angela Aronek who read for Maxine, Caroline Flores who read for Jaana, and Isabelle Rivera the director, all UTEP students," Gallardo said. "It's them who brought the play to life with their energy and commitment to the characters."

"I love how theatre and education come together in that profession," Curtis said. "It will give me an opportunity to teach and be able to explore any professional theatre goals for the future."

Curtis was awarded the Kennedy Center Student Directing Initiative Regional Festival Scholarship, where she prepared a director's prompt book (plan of production) from a list of selected plays.

Curtis explained that her prompt book included research, concept statements, script analysis, blocking plans, and videos that detail her hopes for the production and emotional response for the play. "At the festival I participated in round robin interviews and presentations of my book and directing philosophy," Curtis said. "It was daunting, but one of the best creative experiences I've ever been a part of."

Curtis directed a play called Old Flame by Mira Gibson. The play is about a woman who runs into an ex-boyfriend at a grocery store. It's all about challenging cycles in people's lives and reviving the dreams they're used to so that they can become the happiest versions of themselves. Curtis talked about this piece during interviews. "We're all going to be reevaluating the situations we're in as things open back up," Curtis said. "This festival was an amazing way to get that started for me, both artistically and personally."

Curtis explained that there are guest artists set to work with her and the group of sponsors from each region, along with the mentors from the festival.

"We'll be working together a couple of hours a day and learning from professionals in our field," Curtis said. "I'm so grateful for the opportunity to learn from and create with these artists!"

Nations for the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival will take place virtually in mid-April 2021.

"I love how theatre and education come together in that profession," Curtis said. "It will give me an opportunity to teach and be able to explore any professional theatre goals for the future."

Godzilla vs. Kong doesn't stand up to its predecessor

Sven Kline
The Prospector

The infamous titans of Toho and Hollywood, Godzilla and King Kong, returned to the big screen April 1, a clash one after once again the original predecessor film was released in 1962.

It has been seven years since Godzilla last appeared in theatres with "Godzilla: King of the Monsters." Since its release, it has teased audience members with minor hints of future rivalries, with plans to arrive to the series, most notably King Kong.

The oversized gorilla king, King Kong, was spotted at the end credits of "Godzilla" (2014). Since its release, it has teased audience members with minor hints of future rivalries, with plans to arrive to the series, most notably King Kong.

The oversized gorilla king, King Kong, was spotted at the end credits of "Godzilla" (2014), foreshadowing "Kong: Skull Island," released in 2017. A confrontational film starring the two giants was just on the horizon, but not before a second Godzilla entry, with the atomic lizard facing off against the three-headed dragon, King Ghidorah, in "Godzilla: King of the Monsters" in 2019.

Released during a global pandemic, "Godzilla vs. Kong" is playing not only in theaters. It is available to stream on HBO Max for thirty days after release, which begs the question: "Is it worth the watch?"

This review will contain spoilers: The action sequences are phenominal overall. I usually am an advocate for practical effects, but the editing crew did a splendid job with the CGI. The monsters look fluid and detailed to a point, but this can be overlooked as the monsters are seen in any short, unlike the other films that had longer shots of the monsters. Other aspects that are done incredibly well, such as the plot and visual effects.

"Godzilla" was featured in this film. In my eyes, a high point was that Mechagodzilla was engineered using a remnant skull of Ghidorah. It held the credit scene from "Godzilla: King of the Monsters," making this a truly fascinating in narrative. That is where the positives end.

Looking back at the plot, it's solid, but there are three subplots occurring at the same time. They could have gotten away with the one subplot surrounding Millie Bobby Brown's character (not her character per se, but the characters she is accompanied by). She is only there for comedic relief.

One character the series has followed since the film was released, is Dr. Serizawa, the Monarch scientist who had given insight to the monsters. Other aspects that are done incredibly well, such as the plot and visual effects.

Godzilla and King Kong return to the big screen on April 1, 2021. Godzilla vs. King Kong is now available in theaters.
Trans Day of Visibility hosted virtually

Sven Kline

A UTEP Student Engagement and Leadership Center member hosted a virtual and all-inclusive Trans Day of Visibility discussion in celebration of International Transgender Day of Visibility.

Dominique Huerta, inclusion and advocacy intern for SELC, hosted a virtual discussion that she hoped would amplify the voices and experiences of transgender individuals on the eve of International Transgender Day of Visibility. Trans Day of Visibility is an annual event that occurs March 31 and is dedicated to celebrating the lives of trans people, raising awareness of discrimination faced worldwide, and acknowledging their contributions to society.

She prepared and actively conducted the discussion, as the event featured two transgender guest speakers to hold an open discussion with the audience about life as a trans individual.

“Transgender people are brave and safe space for everyone, we want you to feel comfortable as well as brave enough to speak up,” Huerta said. “I encouraged everyone on the meeting to include their personal pronouns in their speech, to be respectful to everyone who was participating and addressed properly.”

Alondra Tiscareno, a senior majoring in English and American literature, was the first to speak. A member of the Alpha Gamma Alpha Panhellenic sorority and the board of director of the Borderland Rainbow Center, Tiscareno stated that the “visibility” of trans people is of utmost importance.

Tiscareno has been openly transgender for over five years. “I think it is important to always be as essentially an opportunity to educate,” Tiscareno said. “Whenever I meet a stranger who either finds out that I’m trans or the opportunity comes up to identify myself as trans, I always try to be proud of who I am and to whatever curiosity people have.

Tiscareno explained that, while she is comfortable discussing most topics related to her identity, she does not have the bravery to openly discuss personal pronouns in their speech, to be respectful to everyone who was participating and addressed properly.

“Trying to discover your gender identity after having grown up in another identity is different and scary: It is a big change and it is not necessarily something you can get away from,” Tiscareno said. “You have individuals who don’t transition until later in life, so it is still a wonderful moment to be who you really are.”

Tiscareno has just recently joined the Borderland Rainbow Center, a huge honor for her because of the support the center provided her over the course of her journey and transition.

“The more visible you are, the more ‘you’ are, and the more impact on the world, society (there is) that show that we are here and human,” Tiscareno said.

The second speaker introduced herself as Isa. A graduate student attending the University of Texas at San Antonio and secretary for the Trans Youth Coalition in El Paso, Isa spoke about the various ways that transgender individuals continue to fight against the harmful narratives and legislation imposed against them and how the community can provide support.

“People in El Paso recognize that we need to support trans people and I think the TYC has helped me to see that. It makes me feel better as a trans person, seeing that people actually want to support us,” Isa said. Isa also explained the political landscape surrounding transgender rights bills and the societal rejection of the LGBTQ community for some time due to the emotional and psychological stress it brought on individuals.

“We must fight for the Trans Day of Visibility to be recognized as a celebration of visibility and life, in contrast to previously only recognizing the Trans Day of Remembrance. They initially believed those identities were a trans individual to be something they did not need to discuss with anyone, but the support of the TYC gave them both the resources and the inspiration to be visible and open about their identity.

“TYC holds as many fundraisers as possible, we want to raise as much money as possible so all that we can put it towards giving free transitional products to youth that don’t have access.

Fred Hypolite/ The Prospector

either due to a financial problem, they are not supported, or they don’t even know where to look,” Isa said. While it is reported that the trans community makes up less than one percent of the U.S. population, Isa believes that number seems unreasonable low, and could possibly be contributed to only a small number of individuals actually being comfortable enough to identify themselves as trans.

Isa says that they would love to see a world where everyone feels safe and comfortable enough to simply say they are trans and not feel overwhelmed by the obstacles of being made to feel strange by societal pressure. Isa stated that one of the best ways to support the LGBTQ community and combat the oppressive bills without delegitimizing the experiences of transgender people is to listen and treat the bill as a threat to the rights of everyone. Being empathetic and openly discussing trans rights and topics can help stop the stigma and raise awareness to many who may otherwise not even realize the scope of discriminatory and derogatory acts trying to pass.

Tiscareno said that treating the topics as normal will help normalize them and integrate the discussions into the social conscience.

“Trans day of visibility is a time where I can actively see support, but we should be visible every single day of the year. You don’t have to be an advocate to be an ally,” Tiscareno said.

Joshua Ceolero plays the trumpet with the UTEP Jazz band at the Music on the Plaza on March 9th 2021 at the UTEP Fox Fine Arts center.

Music on the Plaza kicks off with jazz performances

Julian Herrera

The Prospector

UTEP’s department of music debuted its first Music on the Plaza concert, free to attend the heart of UTEP’s creative center of art, Fox Fine Arts Plaza on April 9.

The event which will take place every Friday in April, at 12 p.m., featured the UTEP Jazz Ensemble, led by Dr. Mark Wilder, the director of Jazz Bands and was hosted by the Student Engagement and Leadership Center (SELC) and Division of Students.

Attendees enjoyed food and activities while strolling around during the two-hour to three-hour music jazz rhythms presented by their very local UTEP music students and artists.

Future Music on the Plaza will feature different UTEP musical groups including the Percussion Ensemble on April 19, the Symphonic Band on April 23, and the Wind Symphony on the 30, giving a fresh sound at each event.

Friday’s performance was a show of talent from the Jazz Ensemble, as students like Johanaht Melender gave an exceptional performance on trumpet and Javier Velasquez on piano.

Jazzy and uplifting, the tunes performed at the show bolstered the essence of newly arrived spring weather, as even cheerful laughs between switching conductors, as well as a special surprise guest, Paydirt Pete, who also joined the Plaza during the performances.

Other well-known groups around UTEP, who set up stands for attendees to peruse, included the National Honor Society in International Psychology, the UTEP Bookstore, the Institute of Cardiology El Paso, and SELC among several others.

The Music on the Plaza will continue to run throughout the month of April, with an additional outdoor event for attendees is located on the top floor of the Sun Bowl Parking garage.

Attendees are required to abide by UTEP’s COVID-19 regulations, which include wearing a mask and social distancing.

A full list of UTEP’s upcoming events may be found at https://minetracker.utep.edu/events.

Godzilla from page 5

understandings of why and what the titans were doing. Serizawa was removed from the narrative toward the middle of “Godzilla vs. Kong.” In “Godzilla vs. Kong” we are introduced to another Serizawa character. Where did he come from? Was he the original Serizawa’s son or a relative? The film never explained who he was, leaving questions unanswered. It felt like a cash grab for fans to have a returning character.

As a fan of Godzilla, there is a lot to address in this film, if not the series, thus far. First off, the terrible acting and the repetitive monologues is noticeable. It is an action film, sure, but this poor quality of acting reaches the monstrous titans. We see Godzilla make active expressions of emotion as though he could care less about his surroundings. In most films, we see him displaying only animalistic tendencies such as having a fit or spitting. This time around, however, the characters are very one-dimensional. The film would have benefited from less humankind-screen-time.

Despite that, I would recommend going to theaters to watch this film. It is certainly a film worth enjoying because of its amazing action and cool plot twists. The film has problems, yes, but it’s definitely a fine way of enjoying an afternoon at the theater or evening at home.

This film compared to its predecessors has a solid 3.8 out of 5 stars in my rating. The 2014 film set a high expectation bar that “Godzilla vs. Kong” did not meet.

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Miners swept by Mean Green over weekend

Heriberto Perez, Michael Cuviello

The UTEP softball team (8-20, .286) lost all four games over the weekend against the North Texas Mean Green (24-9, .667), scoring only six runs in four games while giving up 33 to 40 points. The Miners lost games on Friday, April 16, ended up 9-1 for the Mean Green, beating the Miners on fifth-year infielder Bryanna Molina’s senior night. A pair of games were played Saturday, April 17, with the Miners losing both by scores of 4-1 and 11-2, respectively, at Helen of Troy Field. Once again, struggling with its pitching, the Miners allowed 25 hits over both contests. UTEP was anemic on offense, with only eight hits and three runs total in both games.

In game one, senior pitcher Yazlie Calderon recorder four strikeouts and tossed 2.2 innings in her start. Tuesday, DerMargosian once again led off the Mean Green at the fifth inning, scoring a solo homer to the left-center field. Following up the inning, UTEP had back-to-back singles by freshman right fielder Lexi Morales and Santos. Over the last two innings of the game, UTEP had Morales as its only baserunner who recorded her second single of the day for her third multi-hit game of her career. Game two Saturday finished 11-2 for North Texas, as the Mean Green had a 14-hit performance and scored in each of the first three innings right before the day had run six, six-hit fourth inning. For UTEP, it was redshirt sophomore Aludia Mendez who hit the Miners’ only extra-base hit with a double in the bottom of the fourth inning. Freshman outfielder Ashlynn Allen had UTEP’s only runs with a single to the center-field gap, driving in Morales with the Miners’ only two runs of the day. Junior third baseman Kasey Flores hit her sixth home run of the season to drive in the Miners only two runs of the day, driving in Morales with a two-run dinger to center field.

Miners track and field win eight gold medals

Heriberto Perez, Michael Cuviello

The UTEP track and field team made its second trip to season of personal bests from this meet which is always good at the point of the season. I wish there were more teams, since bit a ‘stiffer’ challenge would have brought more out of our best players.”

The men’s team composed of Sherron Smith, Bailey, Chevannie Hanson, and Dennis Johnson won its first relay of the season and recorded a time of 40.54, beating out Incarnate Word finishing second with a time of 40.75. The women’s 4x100m relay team won its second race of the season, composed of Brune, Caicedo, Chiriqui Brown and Denise McFarlane with 46.32 time beating out Incarnate Word finishing second with a time of 46.73.

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Bailey winning his second 400m dash of the season with a time of 48.14. Joshua Hill was runner-up at the 400m dash with a time of 48.24. Powell placed first in the 200m dash, recording a time of 20.92. Josh Hanson finished third in the 200m dash, clocking in 21.08.

Smith finished second in the 400m hurdles, clocking in 51.51. Titus Cheruiyot competed in his first career 1500m run and placed second.
APRIL 20, 2021

Transfer portal has big impact on UTEP basketball

Since the season ended for both the UTEP mens and women's basketball teams, the university has combined 10 players who have entered the transfer portal. For those not aware, the transfer portal was created by the NCAA during the 2015-16 season in which the NCAA was trying to simplify and bring uniformity to the process for athletes. By midseason, head coach Kevin Baker said, "We have watched Eliana grow into a solid, all-around basketball player. She has the ability to attack the rim off the dribble, can score inside, and has become a great shot blocker from the three-point line. She is very athletic and can defend well." Also joining the Miners will be highly rated recruit Gracelynn Alvez, a point guard from Heights High School in Houston. As a senior, she led Heights to a 24-5 record averaging 15.4 points a game. Cabral, a native of Portugal, is also on the Portuguese national team. "We have been recruiting Cabral for several years now," Baker said. "She will fit in well with our high tempo and fast-paced offense. She has tremendous range from the three-point line."

The men's and women's teams will be busy in the transfer portal to replace critical players and replenish depth. Some players currently in the portal may decide to return to the university for the current academic term ends. If a possible losses to the transfer portal. ways, create scoring opportunities for others and can rebound at a high level. Grace has terrific court awareness and can defend well. Each school had a complicated portal. Taylor had previously been a starter last season, averaging 6.6 points and 2.6 rebounds per game. Pruitt's inside presence leaves the Miners during his time on the team. Previously transferring from Louisiana Tech this past season enters the only able to appear in seven games for the Miners. Miners had its best season since finishing 17-8 before falling to 25 minutes a game after becoming eligible as a transfer from Kansas State. Lopes was UTEP's best outside shooter hitting on 37% of her shots from the arc. Lopes averaged 25 minutes and 9 points per game for this season. It would be the first time starting from last season in sophomores Katia Gallegos and Anaya Cousineau, along with freshman Arina Eljik. Junior Elinna Arike also returns after starting 15 games last season. Two freshman Dapper Aponte and Brenda Fontana, also return for the Miners.

Senior Bryon Williams became the sixth Miner to enter the transfer portal for the men's basketball team. known as a stout defensive presence for the Miners during his time on the team. Previously transferring from Duquesne, this would be Verhoeven's third team if he leaves.

One day after new head coach Joe Golding was announced, sophomore Kristian Sjolund announced his entry into the transfer portal. Sjolund 6-8 forward transfer from Georgia Tech this past season enters the portal for the second time in a year. Last season Sjolund appeared in 24 games, averaging 4.9 points on 64% shooting. As the team's best three-point shooter, the Miners will sorely miss his 47% shooting from the arc on 66 attempts.

Junior Eric Odigie broke onto the UTEP scene with an outstanding freshman season that landed him on the All-C-USA. All-freshman team averaging a double-double on the season with 12.7 points and 10.1 rebounds per game. Odigie was the first UTEP player since the 81-82 season to average double-figures in rebounding and scoring. Unfortunately, since his freshman season, fresh Odigie has fallen out of the starting lineup and seen his minutes cut in half. Over the past two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game. Also in the transfer portal are freshman guard Vuk Vukilic and limited offensively, Verhoeven was two seasons, Odigie has averaged 5.7 points and 2.6 rebounds a game.