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Women in Journalism

From left to right, Rachel Phillips, reporter and anchor for KVIA Channel-7; Martha Pskowski, environmental reporter at the El Paso Times; Gabriela Velasquez, photojournalist at the El Paso Times; Brianna Chavez, reporter, anchor, and producer at KVA-TV; and Vania Castillo, CBS and KFOX reporter and weather forecaster speaks on the challenges in the industry. Courtesy of Phillips, Pskowski, Velasquez, Chavez, and Castillo.

Neema Soratgar is visiting Afghan researcher housed in the Women’s and Gender Studies Department. Photo by Carolina Uribarri/The Prospector

Neema Soratgar is an Afghan refugee who has been hired by UTEP as a visiting global scholar, housed in the Women’s and Gender Studies Department as a research assistant to Director Gina Núñez-McHirtt, Ph.D. In 1996, the capital of Afghanistan, Kabul underwent a radical change that has affected the lives of its citizens to an extreme degree. The Taliban regime took over, and the country’s people—especially women—encountered days of horror. From 1996 to 2001, the Taliban ideology of the extremist Sharia Law was imposed in what is today known as a war-torn country. This extremist view restricted women from education and work and confined them under the shadow of a man, a bride, and their homes.

For Soratgar, this invasion meant rebellion. She dedicated years of her life to secretly instilling women with courage to break the shackles of the patriarchy.

Soratgar says, “I was a trait I could’ve built up on my younger self. “I’m a little more self-aware now and so I wish that was a trait I could’ve built up on more in college and even in high school.”

Chavez, who at times can be second-guessed by others in newsrooms and areas of work, it’s important to have other women support you especially when faced with hardships. For Phillips, her former co-worker and founder of "Mija, Yes You Can," Iris Lopez, has been a great support system since day one.

"I think we’re lucky at Channel 7 with someone like Iris Lopez," Phillips said. "She started (supporting women) because she didn’t have that when she started, and she wanted to make sure that other women had that."

Though support from fellow women in the same field is key to a better environment, and the support from men who dominate those areas of work can be critical to lasting a healthier workplace.

BY ITZEL GIRON
The Prospector

Women have graced the world of journalism with intellectually written news pieces, beautiful photography, and stunning production in broadcast, through one might not think about the amazing journalists here in the borderland.

Rachel Phillips, Brianna Chavez, Vania Castillo, Gabriela Velasquez, and Martha Pskowski are a few women journalists who cover the city of El Paso through multiple media.

However, the journey to get to where they stand now was not a simple task. Becoming a journalist in any medium is difficult, but as women, problems tend to begin with self-confidence and mental blocks.

For KVIA Channel 7 reporter and anchor Brianna Chavez, it is a problem she has faced then and even now. "I could have been a little more confident and I could have been bit kinder to myself because that goes a long way," Chavez said regarding her younger self. "I’m a little more self-aware now and so I wish that was a trait I could’ve built up on more in college and even in high school.”

Chavez, who at times can be second-guessed by others in newsrooms, has dealt with first-hand. "It’s just a matter of believing in your abilities and just being a little kinder. If you mess up it’s okay!" Chavez said. "It’s finding little ways to learn from your mistakes or learn from the things you’ve done and taking that and giving yourself a little more compassion and moving on.”

Along with Brianna, CBS and KFOX reporter and weather forecaster Vania Castillo says she can sometimes find herself in the same predicament. "Go for what you want. I think a lot of the times, especially as a woman journalist, there’s like extra precautions you have to take when you’re out on the field," Castillo said. "I’ve been grabbed. I’ve been hassled and stuff like that.”

"It’s just a matter of believing in your abilities and just being a little kinder. If you mess up it’s okay!" Chavez said. "I think it’s important to acknowledge where you’re at and how far you’ve come and all the work that has gone into that." Aside from the mental blocks someone might face, it can be a challenge when wanting to prove yourself as a woman to others, not only in the newsroom but in public.

For Vania, it can sometimes be a dangerous situation. Harassments, assaults and bullying towards women journalists both online and in-person are on the rise, according to a report done by the International Women’s Media Foundation. It is something that happens often in this field of work and something Vania has dealt with first-hand. "I think there’s always challenges when working in journalism especially (as a woman journalist), there’s like extra precautions you have to take when you’re out on the field.”

Phillips said there is a lot of adversity for female journalists, and she works to educate men that women can report on sports and other topics just as well as men.

"I mean really there should be no competition between the genders, just be like ‘yeah, a woman is doing it, cool, oh a man is doing it, cool,” she said.

Women in Journalism panel showcases feminist trailblazers

Local female journalists talk challenges in news industry
BY KRISTEN SCHAFFER

Pornography and the harmful effects it has on women

Pornography and the harmful effects it has on women. The porn industry is a breeding ground for causing poor mental health in women and depicting unrealistic body standards. According to a scholarly article “Women’s Problematic Pornography Viewing Related to Body Image or Relationship Satisfaction, Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity” by Nicholas C. Borgogna, Emma C. Lathan & Ariana Mitchell found that women who watch porn are more likely to feel dissatisfied with their body image. Almost every female porn star is seen with big breasts, voluminous butt, full lips and a small waist. This standard of beauty is impossible for some women to achieve naturally, making it difficult and unfair for women to see these videos and feel they are not pretty or sexy enough. Each woman is beautiful in her own unique way, but porn pushes the idea that there is only one kind of beauty.

Thus, women who view pornography may experience feelings of dissatisfaction about their own bodies, which can in turn lead to additional life problems, such as low self-esteem, depression, feelings of shame, decreases in overall life quality, and issues related to sexual functioning people whose partners watch porn, the study read. There are substantial issues pornography has on a young girl’s view on sex.

In the US 62% of girls before the ages of 18 are exposed to porn, Bevill & Associates Professional Forensic Counseling reported. In the study “The Impact of Internet Pornography on Adolescents: A Review of the Research, Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity” by Eric W. Owens, Richard J. Behun, Jill C. Manning & Roxy C. Reid found that young adolescents who watch porn develop unrealistic attitudes about sex and misleading attitudes towards relationships. The article showed adolescents who watch porn view sex as something casual rather than something serious and relational.

Sex means something different for every young woman. Women should be able to decide for themselves what sex means to them instead of lower income, especially during a time of inflation and economic strife. And last, and definitely not least, this does not prevent nine to 10 months of trauma from accumulating (yes, for some women this is true).

However, there are women whose lives are being put at risk due to pregnancy complications. Complications that could be remedied by emergency abortions. One of the questions raised by a story covered on NPR’s “Consider This” is “how many women can make the trip out of state for those medical needs? My question is this, if there are able-bodied cars that can restrict abortion then why are these able-bodied cars not signing bills to prevent doctors from refusing hysterectomies to women who simply cannot aff ord the cost of having an abortion? Where are the able-bodied cars that can prevent contraception to the communities short on resources? Why’s there not a better sex education system than “Don’t have sex”?

Those in positions of power want to put these restrictions on people, and yet don’t give any options to substitute our rights. Yes, a woman should have a right to her body, especially in circumstances of trauma, like rape and incest.

What does this mean for women going forward? Unfortunately, there are no answers yet. We sit and wait, however there are some women who simply cannot wait. Kristen Scheaffer is a staff reporter and may be reached at kmichael@miners.utep.edu.

BY JULIA LUCERO

The effects of overturning Roe V. Wade

“Women’s Problematic Pornography Viewing Related to Body Image or Relationship Satisfaction, Sexual Addiction & Compulsivity” by Nicholas C. Borgogna, Emma C. Lathan & Ariana Mitchell found that women who watch porn are more likely to feel dissatisfied with their body image. Almost every female porn star is seen with big breasts, voluminous butt, full lips and a small waist. This standard of beauty is impossible for some women to achieve naturally, making it difficult and unfair for women to see these videos and feel they are not pretty or sexy enough. Each woman is beautiful in her own unique way, but porn pushes the idea that there is only one kind of beauty.

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UT Promise Plus reduces tuition fee for students

By Kristen Scheaffer

The UT System Board of Regents created a $300 million endowment as a means to reduce the cost of higher education for undergraduates at seven UT institutions, including UTEP.

The UT system and UTEP leaders along with elected officials met with the community and UTEP students to announce details behind the Promise Plus program.

The Promise Plus program is a means to provide tuition assistance to qualifying students among the seven UT schools: UT Arlington, UT Dallas, UT El Paso, UT Permian Basin, UT Rio Grande Valley, UT San Antonio, and UT Tyler.

The funding came from several investments coming in from UT system financial officers where their returns produced more than anticipated in the previous fiscal year. This led to the Board of Regents approving the endowment, according to the University of Texas System. During the announcement, UTEP was met by their own President Heather Wilson, along with El Paso Mayor Oscar Leeser, UT System Chancellor James Milliken, UT Permian Basin President David Elizondo, UT Rio Grande Valley Chancellor Francisco Rodriguez, UT San Antonio President Jacob Wong, and UT Tyler President Candace McQueen.

“Students came to me, when I was an undergraduate advisor, you know, Dr. Gladstein, I’m interested in this. Still, my parents think if I want to be an accountant or I should be the lawyer, if I want a career, I should be an accountant,” said Gladstein.

Deutsch is known for her involvement with the College of Liberal Arts and her activism towards women’s opportunities in education. She is known for being former chair of the English Department, former chair of the Theater, Dance and Film Department, and the first director of the Women’s and Gender Studies Department.

Gladstein is known among her students and colleagues as a leader, who always strives to bring out the potential of the UTEP community.

One of her biggest accomplishments in education was to achieve equal pay rates at the university back in the 1980s. She used the University for discriminatory employment practices based upon sex, resulting in women getting paid less than men in similar positions.

With her involvement in the UTEP community, she aims to set a goal of hers to perform research and teach in Latin America, where she sees women’s opportunities in education, but to be in love with what they do, and fight for what they stand for. "I have always encouraged the department of (history) to really look closely at the women candidates, because unfortunately in the past and even now we have been a majority male department, and that does not reflect the percentage of men and women who get history Ph.D. degrees," said Deutsch.

Chavez Leyva serves as the director of the Institute of Oral History, director of the Borderlands Public History Lab, and associate professor of the History Department. Aside from her work at UTEP, she has her website Fierce Fronteriza, in which she shares her work showcasing women and the borderland area.

“Dee has been at KTEP for many years, so much that when she was away during the pandemic, listeners called during my shift asking for her,” said former KTEP intern Victoria Almaguer. “Her resilience and strength continuing to work for KTEP no matter what life throws at her inspires me.”

To learn more about the Institute of Oral History and access these recordings, visit https://www.utep.edu/liberalarts/oral-history/.

Marta L. Guerero Duran is an historian, working in archives and libraries. But most meaningfully I have listened to the stories of border people, of fronteros. I have shared these histories through history projects ranging from museum exhibits to dialogues to podcasts,” wrote Leyva on her blog.

She has 14 publications, in which she compiled research from women, immigrants at the borderland and native culture. She also has blog entries, in which she discusses the struggles people have in the area, such as the 2019 Walmart Shooting.

Woo has worked at KTEP’s operations director and has been in the broadcasting business for over three decades. Graduating from UTEP with a degree in mass communication, she went on to work for Channel 4 in El Paso and radio stations in Arizona, according to the KTEP website, she has worked for Channel 4 and in El Paso, and radio stations in Arizona according to KTEP.

Despite her not being a professor, she has impacted UTEP students and KTEP listeners in a big way. “Dee has been at KTEP for many years, so much that when she was away during the pandemic, listeners called during my shift asking for her,” said former KTEP intern Victoria Almaguer. “Her resilience and strength continuing to work for KTEP no matter what life throws at her inspires me.”

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Marta L. Guerero Duran learned the past and stories told and may be reached at marla.guereroduran@utep.edu; @bymariaguerrero on Instagram; @malysaguerrero on Twitter.
A primer on UTEP Student Government Association

BY EDUARDO A. FLORES

The Prospector

Over the years, the Student Government Association (SGA) mission has been to represent all UTEP students by providing an official voice.

By working together with the administration for the advancement of the University community, SGA has also ensured student participation in decision-making processes and helped defend the rights of each student.

The UTEP SGA is organized into three separate but equal branches: the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial.

The Executive Branch oversees the Legislative Branch and administers the daily functions of the organization. In this branch, there are three officials: a president, a vice president for internal affairs, a vice president for external affairs, and an assistant to serve as executive assistant.

Some of the powers of the president include acting as the chief executive officer of the SGA, nominating or appointing student(s) to serve on Faculty Senate committees or boards, and serving as the UTEP SGA representative at the University of Texas System Student Advisory Council (UT SAAC).

The vice president for internal affairs also holds several powers, including presiding over Senate sessions, advising the president in cases where the president's office is vacant, and calling special Senate sessions with 48 hours' notice.

The vice president for external affairs acts as a liaison between the SGA and local, state, and national governments, as a coordinator to outside organizations seeking the support of SGA, and approves any publicity such as advertisements, flyers, banners, etc. for any project of SGA.

The executive assistant serves as the chief of staff and performs the duties as directed by the President.

The legislative branch is composed of a senate that consists of 25 senators and a Senate majority leader: 17 senators-at-large representing 1,000 students each and eight collegiate senators representing the eight colleges of UTEP.

The Senate passes bills and allocates funds to students and student organizations for university-related projects, events, or travels. Senators also launch initiatives called “Special Projects” to resolve problems that students have experienced on campus. Legislative tasks are divided among many committees, which represent the concerns of the student body.

Aside from special projects, senators are also to be active in the ad-hoc and standing committees established by the Student Government Association, including appropriations funding, student application review committee (SARC), document review committee (DRC) EXCEL, outreach, and sustainability.

The judicial branch is the portion of the Student Government Association that decides cases arising from the student community. Under the supervision of the attorney general, this branch is divided into two subparts: the supreme court justices and the traffic court justices.

Justices of the SGA Supreme Court moderate the balance between the executive and legislative branches while also administering hearings concerning elections during campaign weeks.

The traffic court provides students with the opportunity to appeal their parking ticket citations in an organized and moderated environment. The traffic court is composed of public defenders, prosecutors, a judicial assistant, and five justices that issue verdicts on student appeals.

Students also can join the EXCEL program to learn about the operations of SGA. EXCEL is a one-semester program that provides leadership and social skills to advance in their academic careers.

SGA general election will be held on April 11–14 where the President, Vice President of Internal and External, 16 Senator at Large, and 8 Collegiate Senator positions will be up for election.

For more information about the UTEP Student Government Association, email sgarep@utep.edu, call 915-747-5584, or visit utep.edu/sga.

SORATGAR from page 1

structing young women in English and sports at her house, despite the imminent risk of being discovered by the Taliban. One of her remarkable accomplishments and proof of womanhood spirit was teaching women how to run, despite the Taliban's ban, during her after-hours fitness classes.

“On the first day of our exercise, when I asked them to run, they couldn’t; I realized that they did not know how to run; they grew up in the streets; they didn’t know how to run,” Soratgar said.

The day eventually came when Taliban gunmen forced their way into her house. Despite the alarming situation she was in, Soratgar continued to speak. She explained that life under the Taliban was unbearable, especially for children.

“I have some friends out of Afghanistan, and one of them called me and asked about the situation in Afghanistan, and she campaigned for me in the United States, in Washington. Then, I fortunately received a job offer from UTEP,” she said.

UTEP has given Soratgar the opportunity to do research with the Department of Women’s and Gender Studies and decide whether she wants to pursue a Ph.D. or if she wants to become a lecturer for the department. Not only has Soratgar found comfort under the wings of the university, but of the community and the city of El Paso as well, she said.

“Don’t ever doubt that you can’t do it, because you 100% can,” Phillips said.

For more information about the UTEP Student Government Association, visit utep.edu/sga or call 915-747-5584.

Senator at Large Enika Lopez (left) and Senator at Large Cira Vera (right) oversee SGA’s weekly meeting on March 3, 2022. Photo by Alberto Silva Fernandez/The Prospector

To see in the above image, visit utep.edu/sga.

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El Paso nail technician creatively connects with customers

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL

Ivane Muñoz, owner of A’Dior Nail Company, says she enjoys building a relationship with her clients and creating a new look for them. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

Ivane Muñoz, owner of A’Dior Nail Company, has won the Best Nail Company in El Paso award back-to-back for 2020 and 2021. Muñoz takes pride in the work she does on her clients and the services she provides as a friend.

Muñoz has been doing nails since she was 25 years old for more than six years, three years at her salon and more than three years at her old apartment. She realized she wanted to pursue this as a career when she was 18 and her cosmetology class started to learn about nails, she began to enjoy the art, but it ended shortly after. She was later contacted by her school to finish her education and gave her the chance to solely pursue nails; she was the first in her class to do that just.

“I didn’t think that working outside of the house was going to blow up as much as it did,” Muñoz said. “She ended up telling me that I was going to be the first of their class, if I was interested, for a manicurist program.”

Doing nails was not always something Muñoz wanted to do; she wanted to be an actress on Broadway. Despite not pursuing acting, she explains how changing her

“Circe” by Madeleine Miller

March is Women’s History Month and commemorates the accomplishments and sacrifices of female icons throughout history. Female authors, civil rights activists, philosophers, engineers, and many more are celebrated during this month. For this article, we will be listing a couple of reading essentials that reflect the essence of what it means to be female and the history behind various female figures from history.

“Circe” from the perspective of Circe, an enchantress and minor “Odyssey” from the perspective of Homer’s “Odyssey.” The book presents the audience with a coming-of-age story based on the author herself, Louise May Alcott. The book is classified as an autobiographical or semi-autobiographical novel, since it is based on Alcott’s experiences with her sisters. This novel digs deep into Alcott’s experiences on becoming a woman, while integrating messages of domesticity, work and true love. First published in 1868, “Little Women” has been acknowledged as an early example of strong female presence in literature.

Top books for Women’s History Month

BY ELSA NUNEZ

“The Feminine Mystique” by Betty Friedan

For this entry in our list, we will be taking it back in time, 59 years to be exact. “The Feminine Mystique” is a book written by Betty Friedan, and is recognized for being the beginning-second-wave feminism in the late 20th Century. The book was first published in February 1963, and sold over a million copies. Friedan wrote “The Feminine Mystique” to draw attention to women who lived as housewives, and to describe the absurdity of how “feminine” women should not want a career, an education, and should not be allowed to have a political opinion.

“Little Women” by Louise May Alcott

Another icon in American literature, “Little Women,” presents the audience with a coming-of-age story based on the author herself, Louise May Alcott. The book is classified as an autobiographical or semi-autobiographical novel, since it is based on Alcott’s experiences with her sisters. This novel digs deep into Alcott’s experiences on becoming a woman, while integrating messages of domesticity, work and true love. First published in 1868, “Little Women” has been acknowledged as an early example of strong female presence in literature.

“I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter” by Erika Sanchez

“I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter” brings Latina struggles to the forefront including, stereotypes of growing up in a Mexican-American household. Published in 2017 and written by Erika Sanchez, this book follows Julia, a young Mexican-American woman whose sister, Olga, just passed away in an accident. Instead of acknowledging her pain and fighting to save the family together, Julia’s mother continues to point out every one of her mistakes while demeaning her as an imperfect Mexican daughter, unlike her sister. This book is definitively one to read for young Latinas who struggle to keep up with family issues.

“Hidden Figures” by Margot Lee Shetterly

Our last entry on the list presents the shaky and conflict-filled past of the United States’ fight in The Cold War. “Hidden Figures: The American Dream and the Untold Story of the Black Women Who Helped Win the Space Race” recounts the story of three black female mathematicians, who faced plenty of discrimination in their road to becoming some of the most renowned women in the world. Written by Margot Lee Shetterly, this book provides insight on the behind-the-scenes of NASA during the space race, and documents these women’s journey from unnoticed to famous in a matter of years.

“Hidden Figures” is a combination and may be reached at kawillarreal1@miners.utep.edu.

BY ELISHA NUNEZ

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL

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Among the many products sold at Love Alumni Boutique include candles created by Plumcandles. Photo by Annabella Mireles/The Prospector

ELPASO'S BRIDGE PUPS RESCUE FOUNDATION

BY ELISHA NUNEZ

The Prospector

Ruby Montana is the founder of Bridge Pups Rescue, which rescues animals over the years, it is amazing how much Bridge Pups Rescue has done. However, it seems that the rescue is struggling with a lack of immediate resources, which has taken a toll on Montana. “It’s a priority, you know, even though you don’t get paid or anything,” said Montana. “You know, there are often times where it is really frustrating, and it is really hard, and there are times where I just break down crying because I don’t have enough help, or I don’t have enough funds or I don’t have a foster, but all those times just don’t even matter when I see the dogs get their happy ending, that’s what makes it all worth it for me.”

Montana plans to make the rescue a completely non-profit organization, and knows that it will require the help of the community to make it possible. “Right now, we just rely on the kindness of strangers to help us as fosterers, that’s probably the biggest challenge aside from getting donations,” said Montana. “Unfortunately, we don’t have any immediate plans for the rescue, my brother obviously has a career with CBP, and I have my own career, you know as a teacher, but we’ll never not do this. We plan to continue with the Bridge Pups Rescue for as long as we live, as long as we can.”

The most popular methods of helping the rescue consist of volunteering, donating or by fostering stray cats or dogs. “Volunteers would do things such as picking up the dogs from the bridges, or taking the dogs to their foster homes and delivering supplies to the fosters, taking the dogs to their vet appointments or even just being fosters themselves,” Montana said. “So that’s really what we need the most help with from our volunteers and if they can’t foster that’s fine. Any of those other things are really helpful because, with our busy work schedule and my brother’s busy work schedule, we just can’t do it all. We do have another team member, Justin Hamill, but he is leaving the country for two months, which makes our need for another team member all the more imminent, I suppose.”

If El Pasoans wish to apply to be a volunteer or want to make a donation, visit BridgePupsRescue on Facebook and Instagram, or at bridgepups@gmail.com.
Krishna Jayasankar Menon, UTEP track and field thrower, is the first female thrower from India to receive a Division I scholarship, marking only the beginning of her athletic career at UTEP.

Jayasankar, a freshman majoring in kinesiology, was chosen by UTEP to represent the Miners for her outstanding numbers and ranking in Asia and the world. “I got a scholarship opportunity and it’s always been my dream to come to the United States,” Jayasankar said. “UTEPA was the best times and institutions, I said, ‘you know what, let me grab the opportunity.’”

Jayasankar grew up in the world of sports, as her dad is a nation all-star. The same teacher who recruited her was also her coach in high school. “I always believed that my parents didn’t get the recognition and opportunities that come with competing.”

Jayasankar’s journey at UTEP is only the beginning for her, as she hopes to represent India at the 2024 Olympics and medal at the NCAA. “Olympics is always the aim, but I don’t have a particular person who inspires me, I get inspired by everyday like I see I get inspired by Tobi (Amusan),” Jayasankar said. “As you see, Tobi works really hard to be the best and to be what she is. There’s mental toughness. You just have to have faith in yourself, believe in yourself and tell yourself that you can do it.”

Jayasankar enjoys the competitiveness track brings to her life, as an individual sport that piques her interest. Particularly, the interest the sport brings her as she supports her teammates and watches other events.

“I always thank my competitors because if they were not there, if they’re not pushing me then I would not push myself,” Jayasankar said. “I get to see a lot of things, I get to see people run, I get to see people throw. You don’t get to see this in any other sport. You know there’s no repetitiveness in a way.”

Jayasankar’s journey at UTEP is only the beginning for her, as she hopes to represent India at the 2024 Olympics and medal at the NCAA. “Olympics is always the aim,” Jayasankar said. "Jayasankar and UTEP track and field prepare to head to Tempe, Arizona for the Sun Angel Invite from Thursday, April 7 to Saturday, April 9. "

Katrina Villarreal is a staff reporter and may be reached at kvillarreal1@miners.utep.edu.
The challenges of being a woman in sports

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ
The Prospector

While there have been a lot of steps in the right direction for women being accepted into sports, there is still a lot of room for both improvement and change.

Sports journalism is an industry that needs to see more change as it is a male-dominated field. The majority of commentators, writers, and talk show hosts are males, and while there are some women in the field, they do not seem to have the same respect.

The fact that nine times out of 10, when a woman knows sports, it is surprising, shocking, or "great to see," is a problem. Especially considering that when it comes to men, it is expected for them to have a rounded knowledge of sports and never something that people second guess or feel the need to test.

While it is becoming more common to see women in sports, the same level of respect is not there. A lot of people were excited when we finally started to see female officials in sports, but most of the time they are not seen calling the big games like the Super Bowl, they are only allowed the regular season games that do not have as much weight if a mistake is made. Another bothersome thing is you rarely see female commentators for male-dominated sports such as the National Football League or National Basketball Association.

They are usually seen as co-hosts on talk shows or as reporters on the sidelines who do not have any on-camera coverage. Why are women rarely the ones calling the game alongside the other professionals?

We do not talk enough about why men's teams take priority over women's sports. Everyone talks about the NBA games they watched the night before, but no one ever mentions the WNBA games that were on.

Another thing that women struggle within the sports industry is the wage gap. Many female athletes are competing at the same level, putting in the same amount of work, and working just as hard, but the difference in their contracts and pay checks is undeniable.

Athletes get paid a lot of money as it is, but the pay should be fair. The same goes for journalism. Commentators are awarded huge contracts for jobs in which women are not even considered. When there are multiple hosts of a show, the ones who have played the sport are instantly more popular. Even a woman has arguably the same amount, if not more, knowledge on the topic.

From the way the US women's soccer team had to go to receive equal pay comparable to the men's team when the women have been more successful lately, it is not something that should be taken lightly.

The fact that a court had to decide that the women were just as deserving because the league could not do so on their own says a lot to prove that while we have made progress, we have not done enough.

There is room for a lot of things to be changed in the sports industry so women are granted a more comfortable place for involvement in sports, both as athletes, reporters, and commentators. Women need to be able to feel just as welcomed and accepted as their male counterparts.

Emily Autumn Velasquez is the sports editor and may be reached at ejvelasquil@utep.edu.