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Izel Giron
The Prospector

Growing up, I have always been intrigued by the world of fashion, whether it be dressing up my Barbie or watching my grandmother sew wedding and Quinceañera dresses. I found myself being immersed in all of it. From the sequins, the beading, the final product, the moment the customer puts on the finished product, I was entranced by what my grandma Leticia Giron could do in a matter of hours, let alone what she could do in a matter of months.

As a young girl, I never imagined myself doing what my grandma did, but I would rather be dressed in the way my grandma did than dress myself even if I do not like what they say. My grandma finds her passion in creating special moments for her family and for herself and her mother. She would put me and my older sister in the same dress for special moments. The idea of being a seamstress was not the plan my grandma had for herself, but when her mother could no longer work as much as she did, she had to learn to take on the work. For more than 50 years, my grandmother took on the role as the local seamstress.

From creating clothes for her son and two daughters, my grandma grew so much she now had a list of clients. Eventually, my grandma became well known amongst neighbors and people across the city, allowing her to be a part of so many special moments. However, there are some dresses for special moments she did have hardships. The hardest thing for me was having to let people down or making sure they were satisfied, Giron said. "I had to learn what they want and what they are as a person to make sure they are satisfied with what they walk away with."

Just like most jobs, dealing with difficult customers and strong personalities tends to happen a lot more than you would think, causing workers to cope with negative energy and creating problems. For my grandmother, she could not afford to be rude to even one person or it can ruin all the work that she has done for so many years.

Itzel Giron wears the dress her mother made for her Quinceañera in 2016. Photo courtesy of Itzel Giron.

For my grandmother, she could not afford to be rude to even one person or it can ruin all the work that she has done for so many years.

"Itzel Giron wears the dress her mother made for her Quinceañera in 2016. Photo courtesy of Itzel Giron.

Filling with tears, I knew exactly what made my grandma referred to. My quince dress was a dress she spent months working on, and I could not be happier with how it turned out. "It was a dress I knew I wanted to make and when I finished it, it was worth the sleepless nights to see you that day," Giron said. "I do everything for my family, so seeing you wear it made it all worthwhile." The dress was not just a part of my personal life, putting into that dress and every dress she has ever made for me is countess, but I am so appreciative of all. I only wish she would realize her talents and appreciate how amazing her work is. Getting older is inevitable, yet she pushes herself to still make dresses, including now and then she and her cousins' Quincieñeras, dresses which are only months apart.

Even if she hates to admit it or agree with me, she is one of my heroes and I am honored to see her work and I am grateful to learn small pieces of knowledge from her. E-mail or DM Giron on Instagram; @itzel_anahi_16 on Twitter.

Opinion

Pushing the boundaries of fashion

BY IZEL GIRON
The Prospector

In recent years, people from celebrities to everyday people have pushed the boundaries of fashion, and it is the perfect time. The world of fashion is and what it can mean. The world of fashion is constantly changing, and it is important to stay current with the latest trends. One of the most significant trends in recent years has been the movement towards inclusivity and diversity in the fashion industry. Fashion should be a form of self-expression, and it is important to support designers and brands that promote this message.

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The influential role of the markets in El Paso

BY KRISTEN SCHEAFFER

The Prospector

Art and farmer’s markets provide non-commercial options to El Paso residents while providing revenue to pop-up business owners. Every weekend in El Paso, residents can attend the markets downtown and in the Upper Valley to browse the selections of small business owners from around the city. Due to these markets, business owners have an opportunity to promote their product to the community and get their name out there.

“Since moving here, I feel like El Paso is supportive of small businesses,” said Shianne Brown, vendor for the Butterfly Effect businesses, “said Shianne Brown, vendor for the Butterfly Effect businesses, “said Shianne Brown, vendor for the Butterfly Effect businesses. “Since moving here, I feel like El Paso is supportive of small businesses.”

Businesses range from handmade soaps and jewelry to local honey and healing crystals, providing a little bit of everything for everyone. For some it’s a time to connect with one another.

“El Paso for me is more of a big town than it is a big city, and I say that with love, and there’s a lot of families if you look around, there’s people doing things together as a family and groups of friends. And that just contributes to another opportunity to get together,” said Adrian Aragones, owner of The Inked Family. Some vendors mentioned participating in the Downtown Art and Farmers Market, the Upper Valley Artists and Farmers Market, Country Club Farmers Market, and the Punk Rock Flea Market. Market day is important for a lot of vendors, spending most of their time preparing products for markets. Melissa Escobar of Paw Bakery said her week consists of preparing treats for her business for the weekends in the Downtown market and the Upper Valley market. “I do get orders during the week, which is when I don’t do markets, but it is more on the weekends when we do participate in markets,” Escobar said.

El Paso residents attend the markets; many stating it gives small businesses an opportunity to grow in the city. “I think it’s great because it supports, you know, small family-owned businesses versus large corporate chains and so, it’s an opportunity for people to get their product out there and in front of the local population,” said Marcus Williams. “I think it’s bringing a lot more opportunity to people who are, you know, trying to start smaller businesses. I think it’s also giving a better opportunity to people looking to buy locally, keep our economy local,” said Breanna Noriega, resident.

“Thank you to people who support the local artists, local entrepreneur, and for folks who haven’t checked out any of the markets, come and check it out. You know, you’re missing out. It’s a good time if you just to get some fresh air considering all that we’ve been through, and still going through,” Aragones said. Kristen Scheaffer is a staff reporter and may be reached at kmscheaffer@miners.utep.edu.

According to UN Environment Programme, fast fashion produces between 8 and 10% of carbon emissions globally and subjects approximately 160 million children to child labor. Photo by Annabella Mireles/ The Prospector

The environmental impact of fast fashion

BY KRISTEN SCHEAFFER

The Prospector

Fast fashion has grown in popularity over the last couple of decades, leading to a decrease in price but an increase in controversial labor while negatively impacting the environment.

It is the process of a speedy turnover of affordable, trendy clothing to meet consumer demand, according to Good on You. Along with these various clothing chains’ physical locations, online shopping has appealed to consumers through the convenience of a couple of clicks.

What makes it detrimental is the amount of waste produced due to this process. The fashion industry has the second largest water consumption and produces between 8 and 10% of carbon emissions globally, according to UN Environment Programme. Economically, fast fashion is beneficial to consumers, however, most clothes produced this way end up in landfills after they break down within a few washes due to the cheap quality. The synthetic material used for the clothes contains plastic microfibers, contributing to the 35% that wind up polluting oceans, according to a study made at Princeton University.

While it’s starting to come to light how much the impact can cost, the transition to thrifting or buying environmentally conscious is still difficult for some.

“My thing is that going to thrift shops, it always seems to be not well taken care of. The clothes are very dingy, the clothes are very old, and they’ve been used like, obviously. But you can tell, and it doesn’t look as nice as if you were to buy it new,” said Frankie Rivera, a UTEP psychology major.

“When I lived in California, the thrift shops were more, like, things were more taken care of. And, like, people had the ability to be pickier about what they put out on the floor and there was like vintage stuff and things, and it was actually nice,” said Raven Wargoquiers, a UTEP creative writing major.

However, the alternative is sustainable clothing, which is much more expensive, resulting in a shirt ranging between $30 and $80. With fast fashion, costs are cut due to cutting out the cost of quality work and not paying a sustainable wage. This can be due to an assembly line-type production in factories or some companies utilizing the use of child labor in other countries, according to UNICEF. In 2021, the number of children worldwide subjected to child labor is 160 million, the number reaching 8.4 million more within the previous four years, according to UNICEF. Countries like Cambodia, China, Pakistan, Ukraine, Brazil, and Myanmar fall on the list of countries where child labor has been found, according to the Bureau of International Labor Affairs. Some students find their own way of cutting down and making the most of the clothes they have.

“I wear them until there’s holes, but then I sleep in them,” Rivera said. “I have like some shirts that I’ve had since high school definitely and like, these are like my sleeping shirts and stuff,” said Wargoquiers. “I dress grunge sometimes too, so like some holes in my things are the like the biggest appeals. Any student looking to be more conscious of where they shop can check out Fashion Checker, an organization dedicated to provide transparent information.

Kristen Scheaffer is a staff reporter and may be reached at kmscheaffer@miners.utep.edu.
Sneakerheads and their influence on fashion

BY JULIA LUCERO
The Prospector

Clothing and shoes have become more than means of warmth and protection from the sun or cold. From being worn by athletes as a form of apparel to being the top accessory in prominent red carpets, shoes are considered by some people to be a form of art. Sneakers are fashion's latest trend and "sneakerheads" might just be responsible for this rise in popularity.

In a scholarly article "I wear, therefore I am: investigating sneakerhead culture, social identity, and brand preference among men" by Delisio Matthews, Qiana Crey-Coupet and Nimit Deginmen-cigil, "sneakerheads" are people who collect, trade, and/or admire sneakers. The article stated that sneakerheads are also knowledgeable about the history of sneakers, and passionate about sneaker nostalgia. This subculture came from the early 1980's and the introduction of the hip-hop era. As streetwear became trendy during the '80s so did sneakers. Brands such as Puma Clydes, Adidas Shell Toes, and Converse Chuck Taylor's have been the fan favorite brands since the '80s, and established their residency in the market, as it became popular not only within the sneakerhead community, but for the general public. The top-selling shoe in 2021 was Nike Air Force 1's according to Hypebeast. Some sneakers have seen an increase in price. In an article by Complex magazine "The Forgotten History of the White on White Air Force 1, Nike's Perfect Sneaker" Nike Air Force 1's original price of $60 in 1997 according to Complex magazine. Now Nike Air Force 1 retail for $100 as seen on their website. In 2019 according to the Adi-das website the price for a pair of "YEEZY BOOST 350 V2 BLACK" adult sizes at retail recommend price was $220. Now, 2022 resale prices are around $400 to $500 dollars. In today's light, sneakers are a means of bringing people together. In an article by Joseph H. Hancock, "Fashion, style, and global culture with sneakers uniting us" Hancock states that sneakers are important in our cultural and social landscape.

Sneakers emphasize the need for more minorities and women to become involved in the sneaker industry as it is still dominated by Caucasian men, the article reads. The article also states how sneakers are one fashion item almost every person in the world understands or has seen. "Whether high/low culture, urban/country, Western/Eastern, fashion/utility, collector/athletes or just someone who needs a comfortable shoe, it is almost certain that most people own or wear sneakers," Hancock said.

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Local apparel brand ‘Muchas Flores’ strives to make self-love stick

BY ANAHY DIAZ
The Prospector

Arts & Culture Victoria Rivas, editor

Vigil strives to make self-love stick

Art is often defined as the expression or application of human creative skill and imagination, typically in a visual form such as painting or sculpture. For Jacqueline Vigil, 27, creator of Muchas Flores Studio, art means being able to spread self-love and positivity through her clothing and sticker brand.

From a young age, Vigil loved art. It was that love that led the El Pasoan to attend El Paso Community College, where she pursued a degree in graphic design and later inspired her to move to Los Angeles, where she graduated from Otis College of Art and Design in May 2020.

“My first thought was ‘graphic design is logos, business.’ But I mean, after going to school for the years I did graphic design is so much more than that,” Vigil said. “It’s design and art that’s functional. And it can translate to so many different mediums, which is amazing.”

While in Los Angeles, Vigil collaborated with fellow students to sell self-made products at local markets. Vigil recalls not making much money during the first market; however, it was that same $12 she made that day that later inspired her to create Muchas Flores Studio.

“I was like, ‘I could make a living off of this?’ Vigil said. “That’s when I was like, ‘I want to start my own brand, where I can make designs that are positive and colorful.’”

Muchas Flores Studio sells an array of stickers, tote bags, apparel, and keychains, all with positive phrases or images like “let yourself flourish,” “you’ve always been enough,” and “trust your intuition.”

“I wanted to use my designs platform for something positive,” Vigil said. “I think mental health is very important, and self-love. So that’s where a lot of my inspiration for my quotes and designs come from. And sometimes these are messages that I tell myself.”

Vigil’s designs also include graphics inspired by the Sun City, such as cactus keychains and stickers with the words El Paso written on them. The process of these creations starts through Vigil’s own imagination and creativity as she is inspired by the color palettes she creates on her computer.

“When I pick a font I like and play around with the design. Then from there, I can pretty much just make stickers right away,” Vigil said. “I print them, laminate them, my Cricut cuts them, and then I just package them. And for the tote bags, I screen print them on my kitchen table.”

Muchas Flores Studio houses its products at Love Alumni Boutique, alongside other small businesses. This business move, and its participation at local markets like the El Paso Art and Farmers Market and the Upper Valley Market, has led Vigil to personally connect with her customers.

“I really do love going to-in-person markets because I get to see my customers and their reactions,” Vigil said. “I always love when I am in person and a customer will be like, ‘oh, I gave this to my sister, and it really brightened her day.’ Or they’ll be like, ‘do you have anything new?’ So it’s nice to see regulars too, or people who have seen me on social media.”

Vigil hopes to continue offering new products to these customers by creating stationary items in the near future, like planners and notepads, with her continued message of spreading positivity.

“Of course, it’s so easy to say ‘love yourself more,’ but what else can I do to help people even start that journey?” Vigil said. “There’s no right or wrong way of a self-love journey, so I think I would want to sell maybe a nice notebook or stationary item where people could reflect and start that self-love and healing journey.”

Although the process of single handedly creating, packaging, selling, and promoting one’s business may be overwhelming, Vigil credits her hard work to those who support her. This includes her grandparents, whose last name Flores inspired Vigil’s business name.

“The name Muchas Flores Studio actually is dedicated to my grandparents, because they’ve always been my biggest support system. They still are,” Vigil said. “Having the support from them and my parents, my family and friends has been awesome. That’s what keeps me going.”

Although Muchas Flores Studio has been around since May 2020, this is only the beginning for Vigil, as she hopes to introduce her products to markets outside of El Paso. She hopes to apply to markets in Los Angeles and sell her products in more boutiques and retail spaces.

“I don’t want to use my talent to be slaving away at a computer making someone else’s dream come true,” Vigil said. “I’d rather put all that time and effort into making my dreams come true. And I hope along the way, I can help others.”

For information on how to purchase Muchas Flores Studio items or view its market participation schedule, one can visit its Instagram @muchasflores_studio.
El Paso boutiques inspire fashion creativity

BY VICTORIA RIVAS
The Prospector

Fashion is a form of self-expression and is part of everyone’s lives. Hair accessories, bags, earrings, hats, shoes, and clothing are all used to enhance one style. Many El Pasoans visit locally owned and operated boutiques to find unique and fashionable items. El Paso is home to several hidden gems, including boutiques that empower women, sell hand-crafted items and enhance the fashion on the streets.

Dos Femmes

This local boutique, located at 5034 Doniphan Drive, was created by sisters Cassie and Lexi Johnson. The goal of the partners was to provide the community with loving collections that represent both of their styles. Dos Femmes is a creation of both their adventures in the border region and their love for fashion.

The boutique provides customers with free-spirited to classically chic items and brings love to the unexpected. Dos Femmes sells clothing, handbags, jewelry, headbands, hair accessories, and shoes for every occasion. All items are handmade and inspired by El Paso. They also offer special collections unique to the style of Cassie and Lexi and even sell a unique jewelry collection in which the production created numerous jobs for women and men in rural villages outside of Jaipur, India.

“Right now, I love bold anything, like Versus by Versace, Equipment, and inspired by El Paso. I like to use enhance one style. Many unexpected.”

Dos Femmes is currently selling their Spring collection, which includes pastel colored items with floral prints, western themed earrings such as cowboys boots and hats, and flower scented candles. GAL Fashion

GAL Fashion is located at 5860 N. Mesa St. and is a local high-end contemporary boutique. Stylist Gali Sugisaka Legaspy founded it, and they offer a large selection of modern designer clothing and accessories. Visitors can find designer clothing such as Vero Moda by Versace, Equipment, Frame, RTA, Mason by Michelle Mason, Veronica Beard and IRO.

Fashion stylists are ready to assist customers as soon as they enter the boutique to help them with their shopping needs based on their preferences, budget and body types. They also offer a to-go service, in which stylists provide a personalized shopping service that is delivered straight to customers’ homes at no charge.

Sugar Skull Fashion Boutique

Sugar Skull Fashion Boutique is a creation of both their special collections like the colorful Frida Kahlo collection, the Mexico Linden collection with items representing Mexico’s culture and the Sugar Skull collection. Currently, the store is selling its Spring 2022 collection, which includes bright colorful and floral pieces to celebrate Spring. El Paso is filled with local boutiques that provide visitors with local fashion items to enhance creativity and style. Each item sold in these boutiques helps customers connect their personal experiences with fashion to represent their history and style.

The Prospector

Alba Garcia was born in Ciudad Juarez, and graduated from UTEP more than a year before traveling in search for the perfect city that suited her talent and desires. After accepting a job in New York, she did not originally plan on starting a clothing brand that incorporates her experience in the border and her family. But life took on a plan of its own. “I’m so proud of growing up on the border. It’s something that I really want to keep with me, that essence of me in the brand,” Garcia said.

As a freelance photographer who also works in e-commerce, Garcia has come a long way since graduating from UTEP but that was not always the case. During and after graduation, Garcia took the opportunity to travel and try and sell for a city she liked. From Monterrey to Mexico City, Garcia lived on the move until she received a job offer in New York, which she decided to take. Seizing and getting used to the city was something she enjoyed, which led her to stay and remain in New York for a couple of years. It was in New York that she, unexpectedly, founded her business.

“I guess I always [liked] fashion, kind of like doing my own stuff,” Alba Garcia said. “I also wanted to be a fashion designer when I was little, but I don’t know how, it never got my attention [as I got older], but I knew that I wanted to learn about it.”

Garcia recounted the experiences she assisted with launching her brand. Garcia took a semester off during college and lived in Monterrey, where her grandma taught her to sew. She learned to sew with her mom’s machine, but since her grandma had no patience for teaching, she said, she took some sewing classes.

The founding of her clothing brand, “Mariana,” was not planned in advance. During the Covid-19 pandemic, Garcia spontaneously decided to start making clothes. Before, Garcia only used her sewing skills to fix clothes and make some pieces for herself. “With the pandemic came a pause in life, but also a new idea. It was there that Garcia decided to begin selling handmade pieces simply because she could.”

Garcia said, “I really wanted to do it because I literally wasn’t doing anything.”

Sugar Skull Fashion Boutique

Based in New York, Garcia’s clothing brand “Mariana” started during the COVID-19 pandemic and sold handmade pieces. Photo courtesy of Alba Garcia

Not only does she make sure to work hard on these pieces, she is sure to infuse some of her influences into her clothing and brand. The brand’s name, Mariana, is Garcia’s second name. Some of the pieces from the brand are named after the women in her life that have impact ed her, such as her grandmother and mother. As Garcia progresses to make a bigger impact on her brand by including some elements of her personal life, she also has big plans for the brand’s future.

“I just got to New York, so the first thing for me is to settle in and just set up my machine [for the] fabric and to start sourcing where I can buy the fabric. I also want to start producing and start creating and [getting into] e-commerce, just like setting up everything online just so I can get more people,” said Garcia. “I’ve always been interested in performance art, so like having a bubble shop and having collaborations with different artists [are on my mind].”

To see the pieces made by Garcia, or would like to order one, visit their business’s Instagram @marit-ana-yalbal.

El Pasoan is a contributing editor and may be reached at eprospectormexico@gmail.com.
Fashion forward on a dime: Showcasing thrift shops

BY ALYSON RODRIGUEZ
The Prospector

Local thrift stores’ main goal is to make fashion easily accessible and affordable, which is perfect for college students on a budget.

“There are a billion reasons to thrift. If you are looking for big brand names like Gucci, Louis Vuitton, American Eagle, and Hollister you can find them in good condition and sometimes brand new with tags at a fraction of the price. You can also find unique funky pieces that you can’t find anywhere else,” said Sara Kitchen, the assistant manager at Eureka Thrift Store.

Thrift shopping has become quite popular in the borderland community. In recent years there has been an increase in new local thrift stores like Plato’s Closet, THRFT Store Vintage, Uptown Cheapskate, and Eureka Thrift.

“Save your money, things are getting expensive, gas prices are going up,” said Maria Casas, a retail associate at the east side Uptown Cheapskate. “Thrift shopping, in general, gives you a more unique look. You don’t have to buy super expensive stuff to make yourself known. You can thrift something and make it your own. You never know what you’re going to find when thrifting. Everything that you find at a thrift store has a story to it.”

Plato’s Closet, 9507 Viscoun Blvd, is open 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. all week long. Although it is a chain retailer, it does sell trendy second-hand clothing for teens and young adults. Customers are also encouraged to bring in their gently used brand-named clothing and accessories. An employee will then review the items and pay cash for the items they are interested in. Plato’s Closet also has a website customers can use, platoscloset.com.

New thrift stores have been popping up in downtown El Paso. THRFT Store Vintage opened a couple of years ago at 321 E. San Antonio Ave. It is open from 1-8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The store sells lots of different vintage brands like Guess, Nike, Levi’s, and so much more. There are lots of different styles of clothes for one to mix and match their style. There is a vintage drop every Tuesday at noon. Customers can buy in person or on their website thrftstore.com.

Over on 315 S. El Paso St. is Eureka Thrift Store. Eureka is one of the newest El Paso local thrift stores, inaugurated July 29, 2021. Cleverly named after the Greek word that means ‘I have found,’ Uptown Cheapskate’s main demographic that we reach toward is more of a younger trendy audience, but there’s something for everyone here. We check for style and condition when we choose from the clothes people want to sell to us. We take clothes that have been trending in the past two to three years and we also do fashion field trips with customers.”

For more information on these thrift stores, follow them on Instagram @thrifeureka, and @uptownelpros. Twitter.

“We sell a little bit of everything in men’s and women’s clothing,” said Kitchen. “It’s young adult to adult clothing. We have everything from casual wear to formal wear, jeans, shirts, dresses and just about anything that you could need.”

“It’s an affordable alternative to the mall, and the store constantly announces sales with certain tags being 99 cents. You can find different vintage pieces and make your own style. The store also hosts sales events that can be learned about on their website thrifeureka.com. Customers can also donate clothes if they choose to. Clothes that the store does not take are then donated to Candlelighters.

“Our price point is what makes us unique, we try to keep it affordable for everyday wear. We are also more selective on what we choose to put out, we check the condition of each article of clothing,” Kitchen said. Look cooler with a new grungy aesthetic street style or any style you want at one of Uptown Cheapskate’s locations. Their stores are located at 2900 N. Mesa St., Ste B and 1225 Wedgewood Drive. They are both open 10 a.m. to 8 p.m. Monday through Saturday. On Sundays, they are open from noon to 6 p.m. Uptown believes in the upcycling impact, which is consume less, reuse more and choose used. They encourage customers to reduce their carbon footprint by donating old unused clothes and buying secondhand clothes. At Uptown you can bring your unused clothes and get compensated if they choose your clothes.

“We check clothes and see what has been trending in the past couple of years,” said Kevin Kellog, a sales representative at the east side Uptown Cheapskate location. “The main demographic that we reach toward is more of a younger trendy audience, but there’s something for everyone here. We check for style and condition when we choose from the clothes people want to sell to us. We take clothes that have been trending in the past two to three years and we also do fashion field trips with customers.”

Prizes include: A collectible Paydirt Pete Bobblehead; a reusable tote filled with goodies; an orange Hydroflask; and a grand prize of a pair of AirPods! Survey will be available from April 18 to April 24.
Drag queen Rosita Thorne at her home, Tuesday, March 29. The Prospector sat down with her to talk about the process and inspiration for creating her costumes. Photo by Hugo Hinjosa/The Prospector

Behind the look with drag queen Rosita Thorne

Q: What made you want to create your own costumes?
A: Truthfully, it was out of necessity. I am a bigger queen, and sometimes it is hard to find plus size clothing, let alone costumes that will not only look good and flatter me but fit. So, it was more out of necessity to find clothes that would fit me, so of course, I thought if I can make the clothes, I can make them fit me. From there, the creativity took over, and it just became more of an outlet to say, “If I want to make something, I’m going to make it happen and I can make it all myself.”

Q: Did you know how to sew before this? Or was it more of “I need costumes, so I’m going to learn how to sew?”
A: I originally went to college as a theatre major, so I was really involved in the costume department, and I learned how to use the machine. That is about it. Costume wise is basically all the learning process. I am self-taught. So, everything that I make is more of a trial and error.

Q: What has been the biggest hurdle you’ve had to go through when creating your costumes?
A: I would probably have to say finances. Although again, it is a lot easier to just buy a costume and whatnot. Sometimes it is more expensive. And on the flip side, making your own clothes. Sometimes details such as chiffon, tulle, and the fabric itself can be a little bit pricey. So, I think that was one of the biggest hurdles I had to overcome when I first started. But now it is a good thing. I know how to source most of those things.

Q: Can you tell us a time you noticed you were spending too much money on one costume?
A: I had recently competed last year for a newcomer pageant, which is a pageant for newcomer drag queens. And I think one of my more expensive costumes easily costs into the 1000s. So that’s probably one of the biggest eye openers of oh my goodness, this is a little bit expensive.

Q: Who is your fashion inspiration?
A: That’s almost like asking to pick a favorite child. But there’s a couple of course, drag queen wise. I look up to Kne Chi, Aquaria, Bob the drag queen, Bianca (Del Rio). Those are some of my overall just inspirations in drag, just because they have such a wide variety of fashion tastes as well as aesthetics. I lean towards vintage aesthetics. So, I look at Terry Mugler, Tom Ford, Moschino. I really just take inspiration from all over.

Q: What has been your biggest lesson while performing with the other queens at Touch Bar?
A: The thing that I cherish most from Touch Bar is that they have taught me to believe in myself, and to always do things purposefully, and do them as confidently as possible. And I only reiterated that because sometimes in life, when you’re scared to do things, they never turn out right for you. But so long as you have that confidence, and so long as you are content and happy with what you are doing, the people around you will see that as well and they will appreciate that.

Q: When can everyone see you perform?
A: You can find me performing every Wednesday at Touch Bar as well as Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. You can also find me on Instagram (rxsita).
LEFT TO RIGHT: In the ‘80s, football uniforms included a white line across the sleeve and three lines running down the pants, while their helmets included “UTEP” spelled out. Men’s Basketball uniforms in 1966 included the words “Texas Western” spelled out on the front and had shorter shorts than today. Women’s basketball uniforms included a wider sleeve with a blue line above them along with a high V-neck cut with stripes along the neck. Photos courtesy of the UTEP Athletics Department.

The uniforms that made UTEP

A look at UTEP sporting attire through the years

BY KATRINA VILLARREAL
The Prospector

UTEP uniforms have been a staple part of UTEP Athletics and have evolved throughout the years. From time to time, the Miners like to pay homage to uniform designs worn in the past in what they call their “throwbacks.”

Here are a few of the sports at UTEP and some of their transformations of uniforms worn throughout the years.

In football, UTEP has kept a sleek look and only changed a few things in the uniforms. In the late 1960s, the Miners uniforms included a wide line across the sleeve and along the pants, while sporting a blank helmet. Compared to the 1980s where the line across the sleeve got smaller and there were now three lines along the pants, one orange and two blue, with UTEP across the helmet.

Between 2016-2022, football uniforms have changed quite a bit. In the 1980s, the football team had UTEP in a large text size across the chest, and from 2016-2022 it has gotten smaller. In 2016, the Miners had a small UTEP logo in the middle of the jersey, and in 2018 and 2022 it had UTEP in a medium text size across the chest, varying in color from blue and orange. From 2016-2022, the pants of the uniforms have kept simple with no lines going down the sides.

Men’s basketball at UTEP has seen quite a few differences in uniforms throughout the years. In 1966, the UTEP men’s basketball sported the iconic Texas Western uniforms that included orange and white checkered seams along the neck and arm area with Texas Western spelled out on the front of the uniform with the player’s number in the middle. The shorts with those uniforms were much smaller than they are today.

Today, UTEP men’s basketball uniforms are much different than the uniforms from 1966. The Miners showed off various uniforms throughout the season including a throwback Texas Western jersey with a modern twist, and a gray jersey with “Miners” written across the chest for Noche Latina. One uniform worn this year is an all-white ensemble with UTEP across the chest, UTEP on the waistband, and a small pick on the shorts; this uniform can compare to the 2008 uniforms without the orange and blue lines going done the sides of the jersey and shorts.

UTEP women’s basketball, like the sports mentioned above, has seen a difference in uniforms over the years. In the 1980s, the Miners uniforms had a wider sleeve with a blue line an inch above the end of the sleeves. The jerseys had a high V-neck like cut with orange, blue and white stripes and UTEP across the chest.

At the moment, the Miners rock various uniforms in different colors throughout the season. The Miners sport an all-blue ensemble with pink accents for Breast Cancer awareness month, the pink outlined the number, with UTEP in all pink on the front and pink along the sides of the jersey and shorts. The uniforms are a lot different from the 1980s, as the uniforms today have much smaller sleeves.

Volleyball jerseys have stayed almost the same throughout the years, only changing a few things in the uniforms since then. In 2010, the Miners sported a short-sleeve shirt with just the number on the front with UTEP across the back above the number, and the last name below the number. In 2016, we see the long-sleeve jerseys make an appearance with the number in the front and sections of blue, orange and white along the sleeve of the uniforms.

Currently, the UTEP volleyball team sports long-sleeve uniforms all season in various colors including white, pink, orange, and blue. White and orange uniforms were the exact same concept with only the sleeves of each being different; the orange uniforms have a half-orange, half white with a blue line going down the middle, and the white uniforms have a half-white, half blue with an orange line going down the middle.

Although many of the uniforms for the Miners have changed, we still see the throwback jerseys from time to time, as UTEP athletes honor their legacy.

Katrina Villarreal is a staff reporter and may be reached at kvillarreal1@miners.utep.edu.
Athletes versus superstitions

BY DANIEL ALEC LOPEZ

Athletes will sometimes wear a certain piece of clothing or object on their arm or neck area because they believe it will help them play better in games, which is a lucky superstition. According to businessinsider.com, former NBA player and legend Michael Jordan, wore his University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill shorts under his Chicago Bull’s gameday shorts. Another athlete who believed in superstitions was former pitcher for the San Francisco Giants Steve Kline. Kline never washed his own hat and wore it every game. Former Chicago Bears all-pro linebacker Brian Urlacher used to eat two chocolate chip cookies before every game.

UTEP athletes also have their own form of superstitions with a certain object they wear or have something they do to make them play better. At least two UTEP football players had their own superstitions and rituals this season. When speaking with senior running back Ronald Awatt, he explained he wore a bracelet that his teacher once gave him. “I have a bracelet that one of my teachers from high school gave me, I have another one, I have a ‘what would Jesus do’ bracelet that I would wear before every game and that gets me locked in, and pretty much saying a prayer before every game,” Awatt said in an interview after practice on March 25.

Freshman tight end Wyatt Dyer also explained his superstitions and how it makes him play better. He elaborated by talking about how he catches the ball well when wearing a certain pair of gloves that he has worn since his high school days. “I have this certain pair of gloves that I always wear, I’ve worn them since high school, and I play pretty well with them every time,” Dyer said.

There are plenty of athletes who claim they play better when following their normal ritual. Superstitions make some athletes play better and have a certain mindset that has them locked in and ready to not accept defeat. A lot of these superstitions do have some type of effect on the athlete, both mentally and physically, seeing as they tend to perform better when the time comes.

Daniel Alec Lopez is a staff reporter and may be reached at dalopez23@miners.utep.edu.

NCAA WOMENS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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National Student Employee Appreciation Week

Attend activities for a chance to receive J Balvin concert tickets, UTEP Dinner Theatre tickets, Alamo Drafthouse Movie tickets, and many more giveaways! The more days you attend, more chances to receive giveaways.

- **Tuesday, April 5**
  - Internship and Part-time Job Fair

- **Wednesday, April 6**
  - Former Student Employee Panel & Luncheon

- **Thursday, April 7**
  - Coffee Chat at the Career Center

- **Friday, April 8**
  - April’s Foot of Learning

- **Monday, April 11**
  - LinkedIn Photo Lab

MORE INFO

NCAA WOMENS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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Playing in style in and out of the game

BY EMILY AUTUMN VELASQUEZ

Athletes have plenty of rituals to help get them in the zone, but before the game even starts, athletes will take advantage of being in the spotlight and dress to impress. Being able to express themselves through their fashion choices is an opportunity these athletes don’t take lightly – especially with the resources at their fingertips.

National Football League Cincinnati Bengals quarterback Joe Burrow was one of the most talked-about athletes of the season, not only because of the records he was breaking, but because of the outfits he would show up in. Burrow did a variety of things like show up to the Super Bowl in a zebra print suit, and showed up to the AFC championship game with a customized “JB9” diamond necklace made to wear. The significance of the necklace is those are his initials and the number he sports while playing football.

A famous player who is UTEP alumna and Burges High School graduate is Green Bay Packers running back Aaron Jones. Jones often pays homage to his hometown city of El Paso in his outfit choices.

BY DANIEL ALEC LOPEZ

The UTEP softball team (12-23, 2-10 Conference-USA) lost 8-2 and were swept in the series against the University of North Texas (21-7, 10-2) April 3 at Lovelace Stadium. The Miners will try to re-group to start of this matchup in the fourth inning, freshman pitcher Jones on numerous occasions made sure to add a sombrero to his outfit out of respect and love for his hometown.

Something else of significance that Jones adds to his uniform is a necklace filled with his dad’s ashes. His dad passed away from COVID-19 complications in 2021, but Jones wanted to ensure his father was always with him.

National Basketball Association star LeBron James is known not only for being the leader in many categories across the NBA but also for the choices he makes when it comes to an outfit. His style has a wide variety considering he will dress in a hoodie and jeans, then the following game he is in nothing but designer clothes.

National Hockey League player David Pastrňák plays right wing for the Boston Bruins. Pastrňák takes advantage of his opportunity to wear whatever he pleases by wearing customized suits prior to games. Pastrňák has worn all kinds of suits that consist of solid colors like mint green or salmon, to suits covered in prints like penguins or bubblegum.

Major League Baseball player Fernando Tatís Jr. created a spark in the MLB world when he showed up to the All-Star game in a custom pink suit with “El Niño” and 23, his number, engraved on the inside of his suit. Tatís Jr. is a short stop and outfielder who plays with the San Diego Padres.

While sports are most of these athletes’ first love, there is room for more than just the sport. Athletes across every sport are constantly putting time and effort into their outfit choices to ensure they have style not only when playing, but also when arriving to the game.

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