I AM AN ARTIST

THIS DOES NOT MEAN I WILL WORK FOR FREE

I HAVE BILLS JUST LIKE YOU

THANK YOU FOR UNDERSTANDING

DESIGN BY ANA RAMOS/ THE PROSPECTOR
No second chances

As an art student double majoring in graphic design and painting, I am often challenged in being told that doesn't matter. That doesn't mean it's not worth burning in a project or assignment that took me hours and hours to complete. This can be frustrating, especially when art or good art is extremely hard to define—if not impossible.

There are no rules to follow to guarantee your artwork will be good, and yet we still get told that something is not working, when a piece is completed, by professors, art jurors or even an average person. Why? Because everyone's taste or preferred style is super different.

Last week in the art department, there was a call for the annual student artwork showcase held at UTEP's Rubin Gallery. They asked that all the artworks are on display, from paintings to metals to ceramics, etc. Then, only one juror comes out of town and takes a look at all the art and chooses what will en­ te and what will be rejected from the showcase.

This has often created problems, because some jurors may pick what they like according to the type of work that they do, whether it is ab­ stract, realistic or something else. This in turn means that a lot of good art that had a lot of thought and hard work put in to it will not be accepted, because one juror alone, with biased opinions, will make that decision. This doesn't mean that the work chosen is bad, it's just that good art comes in many different styles and displays many different ways of looking at the world.

Considering all of this, my friend and I were discussing which pieces to submit for the show and found ourselves looking at the ju­ ror’s website to see if we could de­ ciper what it was we needed, that way we could submit something that he would like instead of something that we were proud of. Ultimately I opted for the latter, because is it really my work if I’m changing it to be someone else’s approach instead of my own?

This sometimes feels true in the classroom as well, because when we are assigned a project, it usually comes with a list of requirements to fulfill. And if you don't have a good professor, then number one on that list will be to make it look the way they want it to.

I once had a professor who low­ ered my grade because my design was symmetrical and expressed to me that while symmetry is appealing to the eye of the human being, he didn’t like things to be symmetri­ cal. This was during my first semes­ ter of college and I was completely lost, I couldn’t understand what I had done wrong in my work until I realized that making it symmetri­ cal wasn’t an actual flaw in this par­ ticular assignment, he just preferred asymmetry as a personal preference.

Although this doesn’t always hap­ pen, I’ve had many excellent pro­ fessors as well who taught me the technical parts of art so that I may be able to create art pieces in my own way, in my style and from my point of view. They have not only taught me this, but have also encouraged me to experiment and to push beyond what I’ve done.

Because of course, there is bad art in the world and as students, yes we are bound to have failures as we do these experiments and learn new techniques. But the most im­ portant thing that professors have taught me is to own my mistakes and find a way to turn them into something greater, a part of what I had meant it to be originally.

Now, regardless of whether the piece is successful or a monumen­ tal failure, we as students must take it all as part of the learning process. And yes, sometimes when it comes down to the grading it seems like there are no second chances, what you did is what you get, whether it’s good or bad.

Creating art usually isn’t all about the grades, it’s the end result that matters, and while the grade is fi­ nal, the lessons learned from mis­ takes on a piece can always be put to good use in a new one. Looking at it this way means that there actu­ ally is an infinite amount of chances to get it right, whatever that means.
The fine price of fine art

BY RENE DELGADILLO

As a studio art major, senior Kymea Staten said she constantly bought expensive hardware store tools and art paper until she decided to change majors.

“I changed my major because of how expensive it was,” Staten said. “You never really know what you’re gonna need because a syllabus in art classes often changes and it can be frustrating. There have been times where I have spent over $60 on a single assignment.”

Staten, now an art history major, said the price of the supplies caused her to feel stressed and embarrassed after not being able to purchase them.

“There were times when I wasn’t able to afford some of my supplies and as a result, I would fall behind in my classes. I became extremely stressed and overwhelmed,” Staten said. “It’s embarrassing to not be able to afford it.”

During one semester, Staten spent approximately $600 in supplies for her art courses affecting more than just her bank account.

“If resulted in eating a very poor diet and making sacrifices that didn’t feel necessary,” Staten said.

David Griffin, chair of the Department of Art, said he is aware of what students have to go through as they take courses in the art department.

“It’s the same thing when I was a student,” Griffin said. “We, as faculty, are aware of this problem and we try to help and suggest solutions and possible substitutions for those materials that students will use. Just because you use lower quality materials that students will use. Just because you use lower quality materials that don’t necessarily mean your art won’t be good. If you’re creative and you’re really good, then you can make those materials work just as good as you would do with high-end art materials.”

Griffin said during this upcoming fall semester, course fees for design one and two, drawing one and two and life drawing one will be raised. He said some of the fees have not been raised in more than 20 years and the money raised from this will allow some professors to help out their students.

“I just raised three or four (course fees) that hadn’t been raised for quite a while,” Griffin said. “After I buy the materials, I will be able to supply them without having the students go out and buy them on their own. I teach one of those classes and I know exactly what they need to create what I’m asking for.”

Griffin said there is a nationwide problem in funds for liberal arts majors.

“That is networking, that’s making yourself open to possibilities to the doors that open. I know it’s hard to double major, but there are ways in which art students can find the resources to find money after graduation.”

Griffin also said students should reconsider if they are majoring in art if they are not willing to make these sacrifices.

“Is making a living in the arts easy? No, it’s not,” Griffin said. “Art is hard and art is going to cost you money, time, and you have to really devote yourself to it.”

Griffin said there is a perception that art majors won’t be making a living once they graduate, a perception he said can be overcome if art students look for unique ideas and career choices.

“Is the student really clever enough to double major in business or painting and go out and open their own studio?” Griffin said. “That is networking, that’s making yourself open to possibilities to the doors that open. I know it’s hard to double major, but there are ways in which art students can find the resources to find money after graduation.”

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SGA candidates reflect on election week and anticipate results

By Adrian Broaddus

Bill Chavira, vice presidential candidate, and current senator, expressed his thoughts about his campaign for SGA.

"This past week was a great experience for me, but I learned a lot," he said. "I was talking to people and getting to know who they are. I want to be a voice for the people."

Chavira said he hopes to get people involved in SGA and to bring a new perspective to the board. He said he is excited to run as a candidate for vice president.

"I want to bring a fresh perspective to the board," he said. "I want to bring a new idea to the board."

Chavira said he believes he can make a difference in SGA and help the students.

"I think I can make a difference," he said. "I want to be a leader for the students."
Artspace operates to house artists and revitalize downtown

By Leslie Sarinana

Artspace is a non-profit organization that has been developing art facilities across the country in an effort to transform the art scene in cities. They have partnered with the El Paso Community Foundation to bring affordable living for artists while cultivating job creation and developing the art community.

Roderick Artspace Lofts, named after Dorrance D. Roderick, who was a pioneer in radio, television and print journalism in El Paso, are located downtown at the corner of Oregon Street and Missouri Avenue. This location was chosen and transformed into the city’s arts destination. The Artspace project is meant to rejuvenate the neighborhood and add to El Paso’s existing institutions, such as the El Paso’s Children’s Museum, art museum, history museum, science museum and theater.

The buildings took over seven years to develop and build. The El Paso Community Foundation donated $10 million out of the $12.7 million it cost to build the project. The Artspace Lofts opened to tenants in El Paso in 2016. Current resident, Diego Martinez, a UTEP alum with a degree in special education, was one of the first to apply for housing at the lofts.

“As an artist, to live there you definitely have to stay active,” Martinez said.

Artspace currently operates 40 projects in the United States. Rent is based on the tenant’s income, and only people who qualify for affordable housing can apply to live there. That means that in El Paso, those who wish to live in Artspace must make less than $22,000 a year.

Non-artists are also welcome to apply, but applicants involved with and dedicated to the arts will be given preference.

The project works to incorporate artists as much as possible in the community. Artspace holds FabLab workshops, Proper Printshop, an art workshop and a gallery space, where they allow the tenants to hold shows.

Some of the current residents include photographers, sculptors, filmmakers, fashion designers, street artists, singers, producers and DJs.

“Everyone is a different kind of artist, so I’m curious to see how the brainstorming comes,” Martinez said. “I think right now it’s still getting settled. It’s a new location, new place.”

Applicants are interviewed by a community-based committee, which looks for applicants who are dedicated to their art and will be a positive contributor to the building and community.

“Part of the application process is that you have to meet with a panel of six people. You have to show why you want to be there, what you have to offer to the community, what you plan on doing with your art, and if you’re active,” Martinez said. “So for me being in a collective and also painting all the time, I was able to show that I was a candidate.”

Kathrin Berg, vice president of the El Paso Community Foundation, is one of the community members who interviews applicants.

“The process was not so much on the quality of art, that is something that you judge on your own. But the idea and commitment on being an artist and a resident in an artist community downtown, that was very important,” Berg said.

Martinez describes the community as doing more than just helping revitalize the city. It’s served as a support for artists and has even helped create different artist collaborations.

“I would definitely recommend it. I feel like I have a purpose there. Being there and being around artists, having the support,” Martinez said. “It’s gonna be a good center focus for people traveling looking for art. It’s been really slick; it’s been very nice. El Paso is kind of one of those cities where there’s so much talent.”

Artspace will be hosting a meeting with all current tenants and anyone who is interested in living there or joining the community at 5:30 p.m. on May 12.

Leslie Sarina may be reached at theprospectordaily.arts@gmail.com.
FloraFEST returns to the Chihuahua Desert Garden

By Claudia Flores

FloraFEST is the largest plant sale of its kind in the region, and a fundraising event for the maintenance and operation of the Chihuahua Desert Garden on campus. This is a 23-year-old tradition, where shoppers enjoy a large variety of native and desert-adapted plants to take home and start their own personalized garden.

Kaye Mullins, education curator at the Centennial Museum, is in charge of coordinating the plant sale and recruiting people to volunteer and make this event a successful one.

“We have a huge variety of plants that are native to the area and those that have been adapted like shrubs, trees and everyone’s favorites, the flowers,” Mullins said.

From desert marigolds to sages, FloraFEST offers about 3,000 different plant species. Most of the plants at the event are not available at local nurseries or retailers. “One of our most popular varieties of flowers is the chocolate daisy, and, believe it or not, it really smells like cocoa,” Mullins said.

Living in a desert region, it is hard to find plants and flowers that bloom in the dry area and instead of purchasing the typical cactus, FloraFEST gives El Paso the opportunity to learn about the different plant varieties that are well adapted to the region.

According to Mullins, the event draws close to 2,500 people coming through during the two-day plant sale.

It’s wonderful to see when they open the gates for people to come in and all you can see is the whole place covered in pink, purple, red and so many different colors,” Mullins said.

With almost 3,000 plant varieties at the FloraFEST, local master gardeners will be at the event for people to come by and learn about the plants they are purchasing.

“We have plant-pros all four hours and an information center in the middle of everything, there are people with a name tag that says ‘Provider,’ and those people can tell you what kind of plant works best for you,” Mullins said. “We will also have people from the El Paso Native Plant Society and other expertise at the event, so don’t hesitate to ask questions if you don’t know the plants.”

FloraFEST will take place on April 29 and 30, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the plaza between the Undergraduate Learning Center and the Centennial Museum on campus.

Claudia Flores may be reached at claudiaphr97@gmail.com.
proposed to be LabEPMA artists. We presented their platform to the EPMA department first to be considered for selected by the faculty of the UTEP art ining a student to feature. UTEP Department of Art and selecting a student to feature. Gerstheimer said students had to be selected by the faculty of the UTEP art department first to be considered for the program, and then those students presented their platform to the EPMA. "There were four artists that were proposed to be LabEPMA artists. We told them these proposals were good, but they didn't really apply to how they would work be shown (at EPMA)," Gerstheimer said. "They all redid their proposals, and (Gutierrez) was the one we selected because it seemed the most doable, but also the most engaging and exciting for us." Vincent Burke, an associate professor of art, approached the EPMA about featuring one UTEP art student per year. Featuring Gutierrez has been in the works for more than a year, and he even took time off in the fall semester of 2016, to work on his piece. Gutierrez had been previously working on site-specific sculptures out in the desert, and decided to weave together a quilt of the materials he found in the desert to feature at the museum. "That piece started with my exploration of illegal dump sites outside El Paso. I stumbled upon that one by sheer chance actually. That place became my studio," Gutierrez said. "I decided to go out there and build site-specific sculptures. I started to go out there and build. I built about seven of these. That quilt is a representation of my explorations of 'Krag.'" Gerstheimer also said that this selection was a lengthier process than usual. The curatorial department aims to alter the works that are shown so that they're not always displaying paintings and different mediums. "(Gutierrez') seemed to make the most sense for what we're trying to show," Gerstheimer said. "He really changed his ideas to be something that could go here, because he was doing site-specific sculptures. We can't show something in the desert. He proposed this and it really seems to work." This is a grand opportunity that most artists don't accomplish until later in their careers, and Gutierrez will receive an honorarium for his exhibit. When describing why he chose a quilt of materials, Gutierrez said, "The quilt is basically an accumulation of my wanderings. I was creating a narrative of wanderings. It's up to anyone's interpretations. The narrative can be whatever you want." The Fifth Estate makes his way into El Paso's music scene. The Fifth Estate, commonly known as Fifth, is making his way onto El Paso's hip-hop scene. Fifth kicked off his path to fame by headlining his first show at the Lowbrow Palace on Friday, April 14. Myke Joyner, 25, grew up as a military brat and came to El Paso four years ago. Joyner has been making music for most of his life, playing trumpet and guitar when he was younger. It wasn't until high school that one of his best friends introduced him to the rap scene. "I used to play around with (rap), but it wasn't until I turned 18 that I started to take it more seriously," Joyner said. Joyner found the name Fifth Estate as a suitable name, when thinking about the structure of social classes. Before the French Revolution, France separated society into three estates. Clergy was the first estate. The second estate was nobility and the third estate was common people. The fourth estate is the media. This structure continues in modern U.S. society. "The fifth estate is also like the news, but it's the raw truth and less opinionated," Fifth said. "When I say the fifth and the sixth is me, I'm the voice of reason." Around five months prior to his Low­ brow debut, Fifth began to view his hip­ hop career with a new perspective. "I realized I had always had passion for music and I was finding ways to eat, sleep and travel off of it," Fifth said. "If I get superstardom off of it that's tight, but I just want to be able to provide for my self and experience things. The things I've experienced through music and meeting people are unlike anything I've ever done." Fifth played at the Lowbrow with local artists such as the Smell Kids and singer songwriter Elia Esparrza. Fifth walked on stage to the beats of El Paso DJ One Man Jazz, who Fifth said he felt honored to work with. When Fifth first moved to El Paso four years ago, he was hungry to get out and see what music scenes existed here. It was really kind of hard to find a hip-hop scene because there are a lot of variations of it," Fifth explained. "You have your guys who are definitely '90s boom bap. You have your guys like the Rare Individuals, who are more modern. There's a whole mixture out there." Fifth says the music scene in El Paso is not talked about by the average El Pas­ san, but they should recognize what's going on in their hometown. "I really do believe there's world-class talent here, from some of the hardcore bands here to some of the hip-hop acts to some of the singers. The scene has done a lot of growing in the last year, I meant that in all accounts," Fifth said. "Even the local venues here like Prickly Elder and Dream Chasers Club, I've seen a lot of more progressive, forward­ thinking efforts come out lately and I think it's going to benefit all of us." Fifth says 19-year-old El Paso artist Evander Griim and Khalid have inspired him by taking their newfound fame out of El Paso and bringing it home when they can. He says now is the time for artists to capitalize on the attention they're bringing to El Paso.
Nico & The Silent Films strive for innovation in first year

BY LESLIE SARINANA

Among all the local talent, one of the newest bands stands out above them all—Nico & The Silent Films. They are this year’s winner for the Lowbrow Palm Springs Battle of the Bands and they’re only been together for a little over a year.

The band is comprised of Andrew “AJ” Lopez (lead vocals and guitar), Derek Hernandez (lead vocals and guitar), Steven Maldonado (bass) and Fernando Corona (drums). Just because they don’t all sing on stage doesn’t mean they can’t. Earlier in the development of the band, Lopez and Maldonado were the lead singers, but the roles have changed over time.

The four all met during high school before deciding to form the band. Earlier names for the band were Nico Wednesday and Silent Films. Their current name is based on the Velvet Underground and Nico and Andy Warhol’s films.

“We kind of combined both of the band names we previously went by. First, we called ourselves Nico Wednesday, then we started calling ourselves Silent Films, so we didn’t really like either of them. So we just mixed them up,” Lopez said. “We like the whole image that the name gives. “Honey,” is the latest addition to the band, having joined seven months ago.

Lopez and Hernandez were in a different band before deciding to form the band. Earlier in their development of the band, Lopez and Maldonado were the lead singers, but the roles have changed over time.

“We’re trying to get past the local thing. We’re trying to push ourselves further than that. Just getting out there, different cities,” Lopez said. “I think if anything, the only thing that’s really possible on stage. We just play and hopefully it sounds good.”

They credit their success to having fun and keeping it as natural as possible on stage.

“They’re pretty new, we’ve been in previous bands and stuff, but this has been the one that’s worked out the most,” Hernandez said.

Although their sound is mostly surf, they pull in the band explores with different elements of music. Some of their songs include hints of jazz elements, punk, blues and psychedelic.

“We all have very different individual interests and when creating music they all get to contribute different sounds. They cite The Beatles, the Beach Boys and The Flaming Lips as some of their influences.

“We still have a couple songs that are still in the works. We’re trying to get them perfect for shows,” Lopez said.

They’ve had a successful year, winning Battle of the Bands, opening for The Drums, landing a spot at the Neon Desert Music Festival and going on their first tour. They’re barely catching their breath. “It’s kind of hard to point it down to one thing because we’re always kind of changing it. We’re all influenced by a lot of different things,” Lopez said. “Some things are just like heavy crazy, and some things are just like slower, mellow. Whatever we’re feeling.”

Hernandez comes up with most of the songs and the lyrics.

The band will be embarking on their first tour this coming summer. They hope to record and release new material after their tour.

“We probably won’t do it (record) until we come back from tour this summer. We’ll probably just focus on the tour and then do it,” Hernandez said.

As the winners of the Battle of the Bands, they won studio time at Sonic Ranch. They plan to take advantage of that after touring. They’re unsure about whether they’ll create an album or a couple EPs, but one thing is for sure, there will be new music from them.

“Expect, once we come back from tour, expect some new recordings,” Lopez said. “Nico & The Silent Films will be at Neon Desert on May 27, to close off the local stage that night.”

Leslie Sarinana may be reached at theprospector.ent@gmail.com.

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#UTEPBETHEVOICE
The latest UPTEP Dinner Theatre production of “Anything Goes” is a bright and charming musical adventure dreamed around an ocean liner. However, a rushed second act that seems to disregard storytelling at times can leave the audience feeling lost at sea.

Originally written in 1934, with music and lyrics by composer Cole Porter, the musical讲述了 dreams aboard an ocean liner. How does the ship’s ultimate destination help other characters flourish? For example, during “You're the Top,” Mitchell’s years of theater experience were telling as she commanded the stage and seemed perfectly comfortable guiding Blakely along while displaying great comedy. The musical also makes use of great side characters in Elwood Hardgrove, played by Noraman Lewis, and Erma, played by senior English major Lauren Peña. Lewis portrays a perpetually drunk character that ironically seems the most sober of all once it is all said and done, while Peña’s character has an interesting arc regarding her sexuality, even if it ultimately doesn’t fully develop.

Technically, the production is sound. The backdrop resembles the deck of the ship while also shifting to the inside of the suites and the bar. It manages to keep a minimalistic style and never detracts from the action on stage.

In terms of sound, the lines were always clear and clean. However, during “I Get a Kick Out of You,” the music overshadowed Mitchell’s voice. When it comes to lighting, the production team kept it simple, with just a few levels of blue and red lighting. These levels went well with the energy and commitment to the characters shows some effort, a product of its-time script and a rushed second act holds the audience back from being a memorable performance.

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**‘Anything Goes’ slows down in the second act**

**Claudia Hernandez / The Prospector**

Mitchell’s stage presence is unmatched during this production, and the chemistry the brings to stage helps other characters flourish. For example, during “You're the Top,” Mitchell’s years of experience were telling as she commanded the stage and seemed perfectly comfortable guiding Blakely along while displaying great comedy. The musical also makes use of great side characters in Elwood Hardgrove, played by Noraman Lewis, and Erma, played by senior English major Lauren Peña. Lewis portrays a perpetually drunk character that ironically seems the most sober of all once it is all said and done, while Peña’s character has an interesting arc regarding her sexuality, even if it ultimately doesn’t fully develop.

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**Keeping grillz alive in EP**

**Michaela Roman / The Prospector**

Grillz is located at 5929 Dyer st. in northeast El Paso.

Grillz is a business on the northeast side of El Paso, you’ll find blocks and blocks of local restaurants, body shops and other small businesses running down Dyer Street.

Something you might not expect to find is a store that specializes in the late 90s, early 2000s mouth jewelry—grillz.

The 3-5-Six Custom Gold Grill is a barbershop, mixtape store and studio all in one, located at 5929 Dyer St. Samuel Griffin, owner of 3-5-Six, started the shop in 2001 and came up with the name from the Bible, Proverbs 3:5, 6, which talks about trusting the Lord with all your heart and mind providing in return.

The grillz are custom made to fit the customer’s mouth from a mold of their mouth. They run from six to 22 karat gold. They can be made in sterling silver and gold. By using ceramic, the white gold can be painted to any color, even hot pink or bright yellow. The teeth can be diamond cut or have a stone finish. They also offer to provide cosmetic teeth for those who cannot afford to get it replaced at the dentist.

The silver teeth start off at $35, and cheapest gold starts at $65. The shop asks for a 30 percent deposit and then the customer has 90 days to pick them up.

When Tyler Batson, UPTEP football wide receiver and senior multidisciplinary studies major, came to El Paso he had just lost his grill. One of his teammates told him about 3-5-Six.

Batson has had a grill since his junior year in high school in Houston. He paid around $320-$350 for this most recent piece.

“Everyone says, ‘why would you wear a grill?’ I say, why would you wear gold earrings? I just want gold in my mouth,” Batson said. “I like to be different in that aspect.”

Although there was a time in the early 2000s, when Griffin was selling 26 grills each week, he says he still sees a variety of customers. Soldiers from Ft. Bliss, UPTEP and NMSU students, high schoolers, parents and even in between.

Griffin’s support for UPTEP football made Batson feel comfortable when getting his teeth molded for his grill.

“I thought it was my kind of thing I could bring from Houston to El Paso. A few of my teammates have them, but they’re also from the Houston or Austin area or Dallas,” Batson said. “In high school it was all a competition about who had the better one. Being on the team we do a lot of formal things, but I don’t wear it to anything like that. You know just going out on the weekends or just hanging out with friends.”

Batson says as much as he enjoys wearing grillz, it’s probably not something he’ll do much longer.

“I actually had three or four and after losing my most recent one, I realize as you get older there are more priorities to spend money on,” Batson said.

For information about price and availability, you can email Michaela Roman at michaela.roman@utep.edu.
Café Istanbul offers the freshest Mediterranean food in town

April 25, 2017

BY JASON GREEN
The Prospect

The new restaurant at 3501 Sun Bowl Drive, behind the empty Krispy Kreme building, is more than just an outstanding place to get Mediterranean food at a great price; it is the culmination of one man’s life’s work, his drive to succeed and if need be, the pouring out of his love on anyone who needs it.

Café Istanbul opened just weeks ago after Habib Gumus and his crew worked for months to convert the old barbershop around the bend from Helen of Troy field, just blocks from campus. They added a patio for outdoor dining, with plans to add some hookahs further down the line along with an open kitchen. It’s the first of its kind for a Mediterranean restaurant in El Paso and Gumus’ top priority.

"These days, in the restaurant industry, once the kitchens are closed you don’t know what’s going on in there," said Gumus over a Turkish tea. "I’m in the food business almost 15 years and it’s become a major issue for the kebabs that soldiers with experience overseas had learned to love. "In the food business almost 15 years and it’s become a major issue for people. It’s like this—if you don’t show love to the food, that food’s not going to taste good.”

Café Istanbul is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Taste is not a problem at Café Istanbul. On a recent Friday night, our table of four dove into Iskander (Doner Kebab meat with an excellent tomatobased sauce over the top), Lamb Doner Kebab, Chicken Doner Kebab and the Reef Sahi. All of the plates come with a choice of two sides: fries (amazingly seasoned), salad or rice.

While debating amongst the table about what sauce we would prefer, from Tzatziki, garlic or chili, our phenomenal waiter Okun told us that they about what sauce we would prefer, from Tzatziki, garlic or chili, our phenomenal waiter Okun told us that they were all on the house, so why not have them all. Midway through the meal, Okun was back to ask for our votes on the favorite—the staff was in competition apparently. Tzatziki, the Mediterranean classic, was the winner.

All of the meats were amazing, moist and flavorful. Upon talking to Gumus later, I found out that the meat is never frozen and seasoned completely in house. According to Gumus, in the case of the Doner Kebab (often referred to as Gyro), this is a great departure from other restaurants.

"If you ask me a question, I can tell you what's in it," Gumus said. "That's why the kitchen is open, you don't see anything frozen." Café Istanbul did not come to the west side without experience. Gumus has served food all over the world, since getting his start in Iraq.

After working as a translator for the military in Iraq, Gumus realized that the soldiers needed some time to relax and eat a good meal. He began to serve Turkish food to the troops to great success. He continued to work as a translator, while serving food, for multiple tours in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Following his time with the military, Gumus was able to parlay his experience overseas had learned to love. "I'm in the food business almost 15 years and it's become a major issue for the kebabs that soldiers with experience overseas had learned to love. "In the food business almost 15 years and it's become a major issue for people. It’s like this—if you don’t show love to the food, that food’s not going to taste good.”

No, my friend, you come drink water if you need it. "It is this personality that rubs off on the employees under Gumus’ command and builds the family atmosphere at Café Istanbul. The restaurant is inviting and clean.

More offerings are on the way from the upstart restaurant like more live Turkish music on the weekends and an in-house oven for baking fresh pita bread. The food is indescribably fresh and clearly homemade when compared to other offerings around town.

You owe it to yourself to try the food at Café Istanbul and maybe also come out a better person for having eaten there.

Café Istanbul is open daily from 11 a.m. to 9 p.m.

Follow Jason Evans on Twitter @greenevansj
Football player has wealth of talent beyond the field

BY AIGUE TOURIS

The Prospector

For student athlete Jean-André Moore, his talents extend far beyond the football field.

The senior wide receiver is heavily involved in the arts, beginning his musical career at age 3, when he started to learn to play piano.

"When I was 9, I began to sing during Catholic masses, and also would play piano," Moore said.

Moore is also a member of Lambda Chi Alpha and has had many roles in his fraternity. He has held the role of social chair and has helped organize and run events for up to 300 people, as well as balancing the budget, which is in the thousands.

Moore also incorporates his love of the arts into the fraternity, and he produces, mixes and choreographs all of their respective dance and skit competitions.

The 25-year-old has been preparing for the last seven years, beginning with a nightclub he owned in Portland, Oregon. "I really enjoy performing and creativity, and this extends to writing and poetry as well," Moore said.

Moore also produces music and composed covers of popular songs.

As a senior on the football team, Moore keeps a line between athletics and pleasure. The wide receiver looks to contribute to the Miners as they break in their second-year offense under offensive coordinator Brent Pete.

Tall and lanky, Moore looks like the prototypical wide receiver and could very easily help out projected starting quarterback Ryan Metz.

He joined an acting troupe in the summer of 2016, and enjoyed the experience thoroughly. He was cast as the lead in a subsequent production of "The Sorcerer" and he's planning on joining the UTEP Dinner Theatre in 2018.

Moore has lived on his own for the last seven years, with this comes self-reliance. He also has dabbled in cooking and, as he said that he's taught himself pretty well. Moore said he enjoys the process of preparing the food as much as eating it.

"My Almond Rocca cream pie is easily my best dish," said a smiling Moore. "It was tricky to learn and took lots of practice, but it's what I'm most proud of!"

Moore's repertoire of varied and unique skills is ever expanding and he is even learning about the world of hypnosis.

"It changes every day for teams that are interested," Jones said. "I'm still feeling like the same player." Jones said. "I'm still working hard and doing everything I had been doing." Jones has been busy getting his name known on the draft leaderboards.

"I was cast as the lead in a subsequent production of "The Sorcerer" and he's planning on joining the UTEP Dinner Theatre in 2018."

Moore is an avid listener of podcasts. Moore said. "The JUGS machine, for example, really helps us on the field, but also with juggling for me."

"I think undoubtedly sports have helped my hand-eye (coordination)," Moore said. "The JUGS machine, for example, really helps us on the field, but also with juggling for me."

Moore has been performing at the homecoming event before being named homecoming king 2016.

"I still feel like the same player," Jones said. "I'm still working hard and doing everything I had been doing." Jones has been under a demand from trainers, works out with the UTEP football team, gets more treatment, works out again with his younger cousins' Burgas High School basketball team, rests in the evening and repeats it the next day.

"It changes every day (for teams that are interested)," Jones said. "Now I'm hearing from teams, who I hadn't heard from throughout this whole process. They always say you're going to end up with a team you never talk to."

The NFL draft will span from Thursday, April 27, beginning with the first round up until the later rounds on Friday and Saturday.

Jones and others prepare for the spotlight of 2017 NFL draft

BY ADRIAN BROADDUS

The week that every NFL hopeful anxiously awaits, NFL Draft week is finally here. This year, there are multiple Miners, who will be hoping to get a call from an organization and get a chance to play at a higher level.

For these NFL hopefuls, it takes months of preparation, training and getting in communication with professional scouts to figure out where they are desired.

Since announcing that he would forgo his senior season for the NFL, former standout running back Aaron Jones has been busy getting his name known on the draft leaderboards. He has competed on the grandest stage at the NFL Combine, which raised the recognition for his play knowing that it was time to put in some work, "I wanted to do here at UTEP, except winning a conference championship, I just decided it was time for me." Moore is an avid listener of podcasts.

Despite his activities in the world of entertainment off of the gridiron, Moore says that his main focus is on his last year of college is football.

"The way I see it is that football is winding down, but I have the rest of my life for my creativity," Moore said. "So, I have a heavy focus on playing football this season as hard as I can, and giving it my all."
Chihuahuas relying on pitching to find their early season rhythm

The El Paso Chihuahuas returned home from a 2-5 road trip with revenge on their mind. So far, the team is 3-3, with two games left to play at Southwest University Park.

FILE PHOTO THE PROSPECTOR

By Mike Flores
The Prospector

After a rough set of away games for the El Paso Chihuahuas—where they went 2-5 from April 11 to April 17—the team has bounced back during their recent homestand. The Chihuahuas responded with a 3-3 record in their home park, from April 18 to April 25, but still have two more games remaining until they have to pack their bags for a trip to Utah. Now at 8-10 overall, El Paso is 6-5 at home and three games under .500 on the road.

Against the Rainiers, El Paso really showed their depth. Chihuahuas’ pitcher Dinelson Lamet was a force to be reckoned with on the mound, as he struck out a season and team-high 13 batters. Despite Lamet’s performance through 5.1 innings pitched, the Chihuahuas could not hold onto the lead he built. Tacoma took advantage of the El Paso relief corps and overcame the home team in extra innings (10).

In total, the Chihuahuas retired 33 Tacoma batters on strikeouts alone during the four-game series. “Coming off a rough and cold road trip, it was nice coming home and getting El Paso weather,” said Rod Barajas, Chihuahuas’ manager. “We had a couple of rough games pitching before, but I still think pitching is going to be the backbone to our season.”

But even in the 6-5 loss to the Rainiers, Chihuahuas’ pitcher Davidon Lanet was a force to be reckoned with on the mound, as he struck out a season and team-high 13 batters. Despite Lamet’s performance through 5.1 innings pitched, the Chihuahus could not hold onto the lead he built. Tacoma took advantage of the El Paso relief corps and overcame the home team in extra innings (10).

In total, the Chihuahuas retired 33 Tacoma batters on strikeouts alone during the four-game series. “Coming off a rough and cold road trip, it was nice coming home and getting El Paso weather,” said Rod Barajas, Chihuahuas’ manager. “We had a couple of rough games pitching before, but I still think pitching is going to be the backbone to our season.”

Hitting wise, El Paso continued to earn huge support from their starting first baseman Jamie Romak, who hit four home runs, including two in one game against the Rainiers, and lifted his home run total to eight on the season. On Monday, Romak was named Pacific Coast League Player of the Week for batting .478 from April 17-23. His five home runs also tied him for the most in all of professional baseball during that seven-day span.

Romak’s first home run of the series in the opening game staked the most, as it came in the seventh inning with the game tied 3-3. Romak drilled Rainiers’ pitcher Sam Gaviglio’s pitch over the left field wall and it turned out to be the game-winning moment, giving El Paso the victory, 4-3.

El Paso’s third baseman Casey Sappington got at least one hit in every single game against the visiting Tacoma team. Sappington totaled nine hits, five RBIs and lifted his batting average to .382 (team-high) after the four-game series.

Earlier in April, Reno had embarrassed the Chihuahuas back in Nevada, winning the series 2-1 with a combined score of 29-18, the Chihuahuas got revenge on Reno—beating them 3-1 in the Sun City during the four-game set of contests.

The Chihuahuas upended the Aces 7-1 in game one due to three home runs—one coming from Romak once again, shortstop Daxty Coleman and right fielder Jabari Blash—which started the win by getting Blash off the second inning of the game.

After Romak knocked in his fifth home run of the homestand, he now leads the Pacific Coast League in that category with nine souvenir balls on the year. Romak is also first on the roster with 17 RBIs.

In game two of the Reno series, the Chihuahuas could not overcome an early deficit and it turned the game around. We were not able to overcome the error, and they put up four runs after, but to bounce back and pitch six shutout innings on top of that was very, very impressive. It’s good to see guys who won’t fold, we look for guys like that.”

Instead, Reno capitalized on the mistake and went through all nine batters in the first inning to get out to a 4-0 lead.

El Paso tried to comeback with a two-run home run from right fielder Jabari Blash to make it a one-score game, but the damage was already done and Reno tied up the four-game series.

El Paso will now be on the road again—following the final two games versus Reno in El Paso—when they travel to Salt Lake City to face the Bees at Smith’s Ballpark. It will be the first meeting of the year between the two PCL Southern Division teams.

The Chihuahuas sit in fourth place in the division with their 8-10 record, while Salt Lake leads the division with their 11-8 overall record due to their nine-game-winning streak. 

Follow Mike Flores on Twitter @mikeyThereal.