TRENDING THE ISSUE

PHOTOGRAPHY AND ILLUSTRATION BY DIEGO BURCIAGA

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The film can be distributed to theaters. While getting a film rated is entirely optional, this is where the problem arises: the MPAA has formed a monopoly on the distribution model of most mainstream films. Most major theater chains will not carry a movie that has not gone through the MPAA's rating system.

Recent lawsuits with this, films that receive R or NC-17 ratings tend to make less money than PG-13 or PG-rated films. This, in effect, creates a filter on what movies can and cannot be distributed nationally, one the MPAA has majority control over.

To make matters even worse, most of the time, filmmakers aren't even told why their films received a specific rating. Matt Stone and Trey Parker of South Park have said in multiple interviews that when they produced independent films, the MPAA was tough on them. They said they would be told in vague terms to tone down everything without any specifics.

However, when the two were backed by a major studio for their South Park movie, the executives at Paramount were able to coerce the MPAA into giving them specifics to edit the movie to get an R rating.

Even more outrageous, according to Stone and Parker, was the fact that in some cases the changes the MPAA demanded were more offensive or tasteless. This sort of secret system of standards is possibly the most damaging aspect of the MPAA's grip on the American film industry. It avoids the standard American legal practice of implementing the Miller test when deciding whether or not a movie like Bully is offensive in its handling of a sensitive issue that is a problem across the country. The MPAA has already decided that teenagers are better off being protected from hearing and seeing how teenagers themselves act.

Weinstein has a legacy behind him. He helped bring Quentin Tarantino, Moore, Robert Rodriguez, Harmony Korine and Kevin Smith to bigger audiences, not to mention helping Peter Jackson, Wes Craven, Troy Duffy and a whole slew of arguably some of the greatest contemporary talent in film. I hope the studio would be able to pack a big enough punch to make the MPAA realize that they've been playing bully for far too long.

The Weinstein Company should be told why their films received a specific rating. Matt Stone and Trey Parker of South Park have said in multiple interviews that when they produced independent films, the MPAA was tough on them. They said they would be told in vague terms to tone down everything without any specifics.

Recently, Harvey Weinstein of the Weinstein Company, a film studio responsible for movies such as Inglourious Basterds, "The Fights," Michael Moore's documentaries, and this year's Oscar best picture winner "The Artist," threatened to leave the Motion Picture Association of America. His reasoning for this was due to the fact that the studio's upcoming documentary, titled Bully was labeled with an R rating and deemed inappropriate for anyone under the age of 18. This is despite the fact that the subject matter of the film deals directly with the day-to-day experiences of high school and middle school students who are affected by bullying.

Weinstein states that the MPAA is itself a bully in this situation, a view shared by many small studios and independent filmmakers. The MPAA said the documentarian's use of hard language may be inappropriate for children to hear, despite the language itself in the movie coming directly from grade-school children.

The Weinstein Company should consider itself lucky to receive any feedback from the MPAA in this situation, being a somewhat major studio in Hollywood. Smaller scale studios and indie filmmakers have felt the long arm of the MPAA law coming down on them for years now, in most cases without reason or explanation.

For years, people in the film industry have known something is rotten with the MPAA. In 2006, a documentary titled "This Film Is Not Yet Rated," followed the exploits of independent filmmakers as they submitted their movies to be reviewed by the MPAA board. The board is a private entity of individuals, kept secret from the public, but who the MPAA claims to represent the average American. This board views and analyzes the content of a movie before slapping a rating on the film – the familiar PG, PG-13, R and NC-17 ratings we all know.

Once a film receives a rating, the film can be distributed to theaters. While getting a film rated is entirely optional, this is where the problem arises: the MPAA has formed a monopoly on the distribution model of most mainstream films. Most major
Politics

Occupy movement changes focus, aims at colleges

BY HENRY ARAVARBE
The Prospector

No longer a gathering of campers sitting in protest at San Jacinto Plaza, Occupy El Paso has changed into a group of people of different ages engaged in a variety of social and political issues. Currently, they have planned an Occupy Colleges event, which will be held on the UTEP campus.

"Miners without Borders, a UTEP student organization, will be sponsoring Occupy Colleges on Feb. 29 and March 1," said Josiah Heyman, professor of sociology and anthropology and Occupy El Paso participant. "We are going to have teach-ins about the situation of higher education, costs of tuition, public support, student loans, cost of materials, books and all of the factors that affect higher education."

"The event will take place at Leech Grove, and according to Heyman, the teach-ins about higher education issues will happen multiple times over the course of the two days. Additionally, at 3 p.m. Feb. 29, there will be a teach-in event focused on public education below the university level, along with an event March 1 from Amnesty International."

"Miners Without Borders will be having a used-book sale, and there are currently plans in the works for musical entertainment," Heyman added. "They are going to have a lot of information on multiple topics available, with the goal of connecting the lives of UTEP students to greater issues at large such as the widening gap of income inequality, the increase of corporate money in politics and issues such as NAFTA."

"I want students to be more aware of how money works, how it plays into our education and how much money we have to pay to get an education," said Orlando Cordova, freshman digital media production major and Occupy El Paso participant. "We've been told our whole lives that if we go to college, we'll get a good job afterwards, but a lot of people are finding that not to be true, and the cost of tuition has risen dramatically over the past 20 or 30 years, whereas people's salaries haven't really matched that. So there's a disconnect between the value these people believe they're paying for and what they're really getting out of it."

The event will also host a petition table at Leech to collect student signatures for Change.org, a website that promotes social change.

see OCCUPY on page 5

Society

Reality show brings mixed reactions and misconceptions

BY HENRY ARAVARBE
The Prospector

When the media publicized Los Angeles filmmaker and former El Pasoan Blanca Sosa’s search for talent for an upcoming reality TV show centered on self-identified "Fresas," a subculture of young preppy Latinas, it generated a large amount of negative feedback.

Comments on the El Paso Times’ article included remarks such as, “Keep this out of El Paso!” and “Why would people here care about that kind of stuff?”

"First off, this comparison started because we first contacted the online El Paso cyberpunk magazine, KLAQ, 65 percent of participants were under 25 and were interested in the Latino culture and the borderland," Sosa said. "They took an image of what appears to be underage girls and used the same typography that "Jersey Shore" uses and put ‘Fresas’ on the image. This gave folks the wrong idea."

Sosa said the image was unofficial. The intended audience for “Fresas” is not only young Latinos, but also a broader mainstream audience, and the show wants to convey a niche culture that exists in the border cities of Texas. She said the borderland is a different place than Los Angeles or New York, and the show wishes to present its look and feel will be closer to ‘The Hills’, "Sosa said. "We want to present a subculture of the Latino culture and depict the borderland as a place where a diverse set of Latino identities exist and are even in conflict with one another. The fact that many folks have already decided that this show is a bad idea reflects that not only is there a curiosity for it, but more importantly this term, fresa, hits a nerve—and why?"

Responses to even the slightest mention of the show are powerful even for people who aren’t familiar with the term fresa, such as Ruben Sanchez, junior linguistics major.

"Honestly, for a show like that here in El Paso, I don’t think it’s a good idea," Sanchez said. "I don’t think it would get many viewers in my opinion. Maybe people out there really like to watch that kind of stuff, but to me, even with stuff like ‘Jersey Shore,’ it’s pointless."

In a recent poll done by radio station KLAQ, 65 percent of participants generated a large amount of negative feedback.

see FRESAS on page 5

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see OCCUPY on page 5
Online shopping continues to grow, retail stores adapting

BY REBECCA GUERRERO
The Prospector

Online retail sites have increasingly become a main outlet for customers to find clothing items that they might not be able to get in local shops, but the main reason many students go to online sites is for the discounts. “I do online shopping when things are cheap,” said Alexander Beltran, freshman forensic science major. “You get more discounts and on some things you don’t have to pay shipping either.” Beltran also said that online shopping will not effectively wipe out the in-store experience, but instead force customers to set foot in the store at all.

According to Nielsen’s 2011 Global Online Shopping and Saving Strategies Survey, 61 percent of global online consumers prefer shopping online because of the value of goods and deals rather than the in-store experience. Customers who prefer going to stores for their shopping experience, have nothing to worry about. According to Forbes, there is anticipation that the growth of online shopping, have nothing to worry about. According to Forbes, there is anticipation that the growth of online shopping, have nothing to worry about. According to Forbes, there is anticipation that the growth of online shopping, will not effectively wipe out the in-store experience, but instead force customers to set foot in the store at all.

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Despite the growing popularity of online shopping, there are still those for whom it will never replace the experience of in-store shopping. “I have to be there to see it in my hands especially with clothes,” said Brittany Robinson, senior history major. “If I see it online I can’t really know if it’s going to fit right, so I might as well just go to the store.” According to Forbes magazine, there are a few trends to watch for that will decide the future of online shopping. The first is the fact that new legislation may be passed on a national level requiring all online retailers to collect sales tax. This even makes the field for retailers, because not paying sales tax is no longer a bonus to online shopping.

Another reason people prefer online shopping is to avoid the hassle of dealing with crowds at the store. But many retailers have picked up on this need. Large chain department stores such as Wal-Mart and Sears are implementing in-store pickups of items you pre-order online. Also, some places like K-mart are even going as far as bringing the items out to a customers car, eliminating the need to set foot in the store at all.

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BY ADAM MARTINEZ
The Prospector

Student musicians from El Paso and Tucson will bring Middle Eastern musical traditions to the borderland March 1 at the Fox Fine Arts Recital Hall, when the Arab music ensemble Layali Al-Sham debates at UTEP.

The ensemble started in 2010 when three students met and shared their mutual interest in Arab music. The ensemble found a capable director in Professor Andrea Shaheen, who specializes in Arabic music research and performance.

Then, other students and professors from various UTEP departments and from the Universidad Autonoma de Ciudad Juarez joined the group.

“The ensemble was founded a little over a year and a half ago. I had just started teaching at UTEP after a year in Syria as a Fulbright fellow, and was showing my class video clips from my fieldwork,” Shaheen said. “A couple of the members of the ensemble entered for the next class and caught the tail-end. They immediately asked what it was, who I was and said they had been trying to learn Arabic music. We agreed to meet and the rest is history.” Shaheen is an ethnomusicologist who focuses on the music of the Middle East and Arabic music produced in Latin America. She is a classically trained oboist and teaches general education musicology and ethnomusicology courses at UTEP.

Senior history major Amalia Castro joined the ensemble in fall 2011. In addition to playing the clarinet she also sings in the chorus.

see CONCERT on page 6

FRESHAS from page 3
to them, there is no shortage of Latino and mainstream outlets, Sosa said she remains optimistic.

“The fact that ‘Fresas’ got picked out of a multitude of projects for the 2011 NALIP Media Market in Los Angeles demonstrates that there is a definite interest in this idea,” Sosa said. “Moreover, it also indicates that even if the current network we have been talking to doesn’t want to green light the show after we present the promo to them, there is no shortage of Latino and mainstream outlets that are always looking for reality TV content.”
“They’ve been able to make some palpable change through that petition system and signature gathering,” Cordova said. “It lets congressmen and lawmakers know how we feel and what we want to be done and how we want the law of the land to be.”

Occupy El Paso organizers hope the event will draw more students to their cause. In the case of Noemi Cortez-Calderon, senior sociology major, the event has already gotten her attention. She asked for permission to leave work early to attend a general assembly, which was held on Feb 24.

“I wish I could come more often,” Cortez-Calderon said. “I really like the Occupy Colleges event, that was pretty much my main motivator to ask for permission to leave work. I really like it because sometimes I think that students are not involved because they don’t know that they can be involved. So I think events like this really kind of draw people in by getting information out. You can’t change what you don’t know about, and things like this are about letting people know what’s going on.”

The Occupy organizers said that those who want to get involved should contact them through their Facebook page or ocupaelpaso@gmail.com. They hold frequent meetings and post times and locations for general assemblies and upcoming events online.

“I really do like events like this,” Cortez-Calderon said. “I also heard about the Human Rights convention and NAFTA stuff and I keep track of what they’re doing. I can’t really attend most of them, but I really do like them and hope it continues.”

Henry Arrambide may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
Latino groups combine to register 200,000 new voters

“We know and can see in the debates the Republican and Democrats fighting for the Latino vote. They are not doing what needs to happen to represent the Latino agenda. … Our vote is growing and becoming very strategic.”

- Hector Sanchez, executive director of LCLAA

“We are trusted organizations. The Federation serves over 2 million Latinos in the Northeast,” Calderon said. “When we tell them they need to go out and vote because it is important for their family and community, they do it.”

Calderon said the joint effort is a grassroots movement that hopes to register 200,000 voters and mobilize 100,000 volunteers at the polls this November.

“People have come together for the last three presidential elections, part of a grassroots movement that hopes to reach future Latino voters, which has sparked a race among presidential hopefuls to gain the trust of the minority vote.”

Sanchez said 91 percent of Latino voters are concentrated in 16 electoral states that will cast 300 of the 538 total electoral votes.

“We have a nice set of Arab percussion instruments from Cairo, thanks to Dr. Graham and the Music Department,” Shaheen said. “The poetry and songs include political commentary on the Arab world and revolution’s past. We invite everyone to join us for an intoxicating evening of music and poetry and to experience a night in Damascus.”

Layali Al-Sham debut concert will take place from 7 to 9 p.m. March 1 at the Fox Fine Arts Center Recital Hall. The cost is $5 for general admission, $3 for children, seniors and military, free for UTEP students and faculty. For additional information contact Amalia Castro at acastro@miners.utep.edu.

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By Krystal Oblinger / The Prospector

On Feb. 18, freshmen foreign exchange students Thomas Kuijper, from Holland, and Jenni Viitala, from Finland, had the idea for an Anything But Clothes party dress that would incorporate recyclable material in their design. What transpired was the collecting of The Prospector’s Valentine’s Day issues and about an hour-long construction of a newspaper dress.

JENNI VIITALA / FRESHMAN EXCHANGE STUDENT

WHAT INSPIRED THE DRESS?
We had an ABC party coming up and I was talking about what to wear, and was thinking a newspaper dress would be nice because I would like to wear something recycled, and he was really excited about the idea, he said he would design it for me.

HOW DID IT FEEL IN THE DRESS?
It was nice (how it felt). It was really surprisingly well, it didn’t feel like it was breaking, as I expected. I was a bit careful about moving around and sitting down but I was (careful about moving around). It was quite wide so I had to get used to it because at first I ripped it a couple times because it was wider than I thought.

THOMAS KUIJPER / FRESHMAN EXCHANGE STUDENT

HOW DID THE TWO OF YOU COME TO DESIGN THE DRESS?
Well actually it was not a big story or something, we were just having lunch together and we heard of this ABC (anything but clothes) party, so if you have clothes you cannot get in, you get bounced out. So you have to improvise and not be naked. No she said, she wanted to make a dress out of newspapers, but she was afraid it would be too difficult, but I said, I could help you with that. I came to her house and we made the dress in half an hour I just improvised and that was it.

WHAT DID YOU USE TO MAKE IT?
I used The Prospector, I actually took some bus schedules too but the prospector had this valentines issue, so it was red, and we liked the color so we used it to make the dress. We only used duck tape and the paper for the dress, we used see through duck tape a lot actually because you have to put layer after layer to make it really tight, and even now the dress is kind of loose still. You build up layering and you put a lot of duck tape on it.

HAVE YOU EVER MADE A DRESS BEFORE?
I haven’t made dresses out of newspaper before, but I first wanted to go to the design academy, so I did a course for two years of drawing and painting and doing metal work, I did a lot of stuff because it was to build my portfolio for the design academy. But then when I went to the design academy to hand in my portfolio somebody jumped in front of the train and that caused me to be late and I thought, let’s just study psychology, why not.

MAKE YOUR OWN PROSPECTOR DRESS

Make your own Prospector dress and email us pictures with your name to prospector@utep.edu.
A GROUP OF UTEP STUDENTS HAS BEEN NAMED UTEP 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS. THEY REPRESENT THE BEST OF UNTAPPED, HIGH-POTENTIAL TALENT AT THE UNIVERSITY.

On February 23, The 21st Century Scholars engaged in a full day of programming that emphasized essential career and leadership skills including communicating in a professional setting, networking, self-promotion and working in a collaborative environment.

CONGRATULATIONS 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS!

Mirna Nayeli Acevedo
Courtney Adcox
Karen Aguirre
Adan Anchondo
Justyna Antoszewska
Jorge Banos Gomar
Francisco Javier Barraza
Stephen Campbell
Karla Carmona
Gina Carrion
Noraliz Casanova
Oscar Casanova
Michael Castaneda
Leticia Castillo
Sara Chavez
Lorena Contreras
Alyssa Ronnie Cottmen
June De Antonio
Jessica DeHaro
Maira Del Toro
Leah Diaz
Robert Jesus Diaz
Ana Dorado

Kevin Duran Caballero
Nestor Duran Nungary
Luis Einaudi
Dafne Elizondo
Annette Escobedo
Itzel Figueroa
Jacqueline Gamboa Varela
Ryan Garcia
Jesus Bryan Garcia
Kimberly Garcia
Oscar Garza
Jessica Ann Gonzalez
Priscilla Guevara
Danielle Healy
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Valerie Hernandez
Arlene Hernandez
Brianda Herrera
Mayra Huereca
Catherine Jones
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Lizette Sidransky
Lyndsey Slape
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Kenneth Stice
Alejandra Valadez
Jose Manuel Varela
Elisa Tamayo-Ochoa
Andrew Velazquez
Samantha Wells
Kacy Wittek
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CONGRATULATIONS 21ST CENTURY SCHOLARS!

JACKIE MACIAS
HUGO MELENDEZ
DANIELA MENDEZ
ANA MENA
ANGIE MENDOZA
STEFANIE MORALES
JUAN C. MUNOZ
BRITTANY NICHOLS
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VICTORIA T. PEREZ
LESLEY PETTIT
ARLEEN REYES
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MONICA RIVAS
KARLA RIVERA
KRISTOPHER RIVERA
ALEJANDRO ROBLES
ELIZABETH RODRIGUEZ
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JOSE MANUEL VARELA
ELISA TAMAYO-OCHOA
ANDREW VELAZQUEZ
SAMANTHA WELL
KACY WITTEK
Fashion functions in odd ways. The sophistication that has been uprooted over the years has resulted in a mix of variations and reproductions of different fashion trends across a long standing margin of time. Designers across the world find similar ideas and inspiration in similar places. This coincidence marks the trends of tomorrow.

Trends take on elements from various decades. Clothing with elements from Gatsby era, ‘60s and ‘70s are some of the year’s most viewed pieces on the catwalk.

“To be honest people have been retro-ing fashion for thousands of years. For example during the early 1800s they were retro-ing ancient Greek fashions so we have been doing retro stuff a whole lot,” Crystal Herman, costume designer/historian and assistant professor in theater/dance said.

Trends are always taking bites from the past. In the present, flower prints, geometric prints and tribal prints are some of the most popular designs.

“It’s interesting to me the things that we choose to retro. From the ‘80s and ‘90s we’re retro-ing a lot of what was counter culture at the time,” Herman said. “Like parts of the Goth movement and that sort of thing and actually retro-ing it in a non-offensive way.”

Trends can also come from different places than just a time period. Fashion finds inspiration in music, art exhibitions, cultures, etc.

“A little while ago, we had the emo movement. We were mixing it with punk and then turning it into a less offensive image than the original movement itself,” Torres said. “I think pretty soon we’re going to start retro-ing the ‘90s. We’re going to see more of the flared skirts that are coming back into style, as well as flat shoes.”

Torres said clothing speaks for itself and is all about simplicity. He adds that a lot more breathable and comfortable fashions are to be expected for upcoming spring and summer collections.

At the moment, Herman sees the trends pulling from past retro-ing trends that will inevitably lead to a hyper real situation in fashion.

“Now, we are retro-ing the ‘80s just like a few years ago we were retro-ing the ‘70s. I think pretty soon we’re going to start retro-ing the ‘90s,” Herman said.
**Fashion and film, an absolute synergy**

BY JESUS RODRIGUEZ

Fashion designer and editor in chief of the El Paso-based "Queen King Magazine" Adriel Hidalgo watched and was fascinated by the film, "Black Swan" (2010).

Immediately after watching the movie, he designed a dress which would go on to be recognized by Texas Monthly Magazine. The outfit was inspired by the black feathered dress Natalie Portman wore for the role. Hidalgo, founder of the label Queen of Persia, said his "Black Swan"-inspired dress, a black couture gown with black ostrich feathers, black dyed pony hair and 122 yards of black chiffon and organza, is his most iconic design to date. However, he credits the film "American Beauty" (1999) with inspiring most of his designs, including three of his dresses that were published in "Vogue Italia.

"Ever since I saw the part where Minnie Driver was laying in a bed of red roses, I have been using flower structures and patterns in my designs," Hidalgo said.

Robert Gutierrez, senior communication lecturer, said this is an absolute synergy: fashion influences and benefits film, just as film influences and benefits fashion.

"The fashion industry knows that film is a great way to gain exposure," Gutierrez said. "I can say throughout my life there's been ways that actors have dressed that I've obtained. I slim down, I like what they're wearing.

Gutierrez said it is the big-screen that glamorizes fashion and therefore validates it. He used the example of the 2007 film, "June," which is popularly heralded as the cause of a rise in teen pregnancy, to represent a film's impact.

According to Jaime Barba, UTEP Dinner Theater Costume designer and lecturer, the cyclical influence between fashion and film is now more than ever dictating the way people dress. Growing up in the '90s, Barba recalled Madonna's popularity.

"I can't tell you how many girls put boxes on their hair or wore one long earring and nothing on the other side, and had tons of those little rubber bracelets," Barba said.

As the 2008 documentary "Star Inside: Fashion in Film" points out, filmmakers and costume designers look to successful films to base their collections. Fashion designer Jean Paul Gaultier's "Spring 2007" collection was heavily inspired by the "Pirates of the Caribbean" films by the popularity of the film, pirate hats, skull-prints and rugged scarfs for everyday wear.

"For Barba, fashion in film, like in the film "Sex and the City," (2008), is more of a treat than outrageous," Gutierrez said. "Honestly, if you saw someone dressed like Carrie Bradshaw walking down the street, you'd think she was psychotic," Barba said. "But I think that was one of the reasons why the series and the movies were so popular. Because our regular Joe Blow gets to see these cool fashions used in everyday settings."

Hidalgo's "Black Swan" inspired couture gown is made with ostrich feathers, black tip feathers, black dyed pony hair and chiffon.

**Tech column**

**Redesigning technology for consumers**

BY JERRY ALDAB

Annoyed by the sun's restless shine and the morning's chilly breeze, I pull out my cheap Sony headphones to ease the impatience. In the shuttle stop, a gentleman similarly ignores the world with blasting waves from Beats headphones and the constant monitoring of his sleek smartphone.

Then, it hits me: neither the conspicuous head-phones wrapped around his neck or the 4-inch leather foam-lined carrying case. Apple headphones once represented professionalism, they are rap- ed and stolen. Other features include a built-in, in-line headphone splitter and a leather foam-lined carrying case. Despite the price and the mar- keted demographic, these head-phones are decent for an everyday listener. However, they are not the most comfortable and the four-way active noise canceling mode works a lot better than most ear bud brands and al- lows for more control over the settings.

**Movies**

**Fashion and film, an absolute sympathy**

BY JESUS RODRIGUEZ

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FMLA brings ‘The Vagina Monologues’ back to the stage

BY ADAM MARTINEZ

“Don’t worry, we were worried. We were worried about vaginas!”

These are the opening lines to Eve Ensler’s award-winning play “The Vagina Monologues,” making its return to El Paso March 2 and 3 at the Percolator. A cast consisting only of women will share stories centered on the one body part that is often left unspoken. Full of reverent wit and tear-jerking anguish the play celebrates women’s efficacy and strength.

Since its first performance in a basement in a New York City café in 1996, the play has been performed in over 40 countries and translated into over 35 languages. Over 15 years later the play has become a staple for V-Day celebrations around the world.

V-Day is a global activist movement advocating the end of violence against women, while promoting events that increase awareness, fundraise and solidify the message of existing anti-violence organizations. The Feminist Majority Leadership Association, a student organization at UTEP, will host the 5th annual production of this series of monologues in commemoration of V-Day.

“We really like the way (La Mujer Obrera) builds power within their organization and exemplify the spirit of V-Day,” Matyear said. “They put the power in women’s hands and we really wanted to support that.”

What started as a series of interviews with women about violence and sexuality, “The Vagina Monologues” has given voice to experiences and perspectives previously exposed to the public. The performers have each had to tap into the power of being a woman to address issues of violence, love, sex and identity.

Freshman musical theater major Jacqueline Stewart is performing “The Little Coochie Snorcher That Could” which recalls a young girl’s sexual experience with an older woman.

This year’s director is Ken Forestal, a lecturer in the College of Education with a theatre background. Matyear is confident Forestal’s direction will take a look inside of ourselves, and also as a community to get the conversation going about violence. “He’s really focusing on the words which make us relate to the stories,” Matyear said. “It’s great because everyone, thinks “The Vagina Monologues” is only a production for women but people who don’t identify as women can come because we’re raising money for a benefactor. But the main focus is to spread awareness about violence against women.”

James Newson, a senior in mechanical engineering, believes the intimacy of the Percolator will appeal to more people. “It’ll make the show seem like an improv event and will be more aimed at the community than being a more formal production,” Newson said.

Ensler was inspired to write the play with the hopes of relating experiences of violence, sexual freedom and inequality to general audiences. Matyear expects people to be impacted by the show on a personal level.

“The Vagina Monologues” shows us to accept who we are and love all parts of ourselves,” Matyear said. “It’s a way to start that dialogue and really take a look inside of ourselves, and also as a community to get the conversation going about violence.”

This year’s UTEP production will donate 90 percent of the proceeds to local nonprofit La Mujer Obrera, as well as 10 percent to benefit the Haiti Relief Fund.

Performances of “The Vagina Monologues” will take place at 7 p.m. March 2 and 3 at the Percolator, 217 N. Stanton in downtown El Paso. Tickets are $10 and will be available at the door.

“We don’t have Magoffin anymore so we are doing it at the Percolator, a smaller venue,” Orozco said. “So we are a little worried about how many people can come because we’re raising money for a benefactor. But the main focus is to spread awareness about violence against women.”

Athena Matyear, organizational/corporate communication senior

“Don’t drink and drive designate a driver

FASHION ROUND UP

Photos by Greg Castillo & Jasin Stone
During the Tulane game Feb. 12 at the Don Haskins Center, Texas Tech, the Miners became the only team in that win. Even then, UTEP didn’t think they had a chance. "We're focused on who we're playing, and we're working hard, and we're looking at ourselves. Th is led to Adams calling an unexpected timeout during the second half. "Adams was talking about how well done something while the crowd was going crazy and we were all hyped up," senior guard Briana Green said. "We still had a lot of time to play, so we knew that we couldn’t stay focused. We had to get back to being composed and keep playing our game." This action was initially surprising to the players, but they soon understood why the timeout was called. "I realized that she was right," Green said. "We still hadn’t done anything. The game wasn’t over." Despite that happening, the UTEP players said they have remained focused and talented at the fact that they’ve been on a run ever since. "Coach Adams keeps reminding us that even though we are winning the games and having a good season, we haven’t achieved anything," senior guard Bulla Eglite said. "We don’t have a banner with our names on it. "I don’t have a memory of playing in the Haskins Center. So we just keep being composed and keep playing our game," Adams said. "The great thing is the kids have bought into being unselfish and being a team." The Miners began a 15-game winning streak into the season mark. During the streak, seven of the games were decided by 10 points or less. The closest of them all was the Miners’ first encounter with the Tulane Green Wave Jan. 15, where the Miners won 65-64 in overtime. One of the keys to success in that game, as it has been all year, was the depth of the roster. "In every game, every player can show up," Eglite said. "Anyone can be the leading scorer. It’s hard for an opposing team to scout us because they’ll never know who will have their best game." Statistically, only two players, senior forward Gloria Brown and sophomore forward Kayla Thornton, are double figures in minutes per game. Twelve players average in double-figure scoring. Six players are the leading scorer. It’s hard for an opposing team to scout us because they’ll never know who will have their best game.”

"Winning the conference championship was important, but we need to keep working hard and show that we deserve it," Eglite said. "We want to finish the season winning all of our conference games. This shows how good of a team we are, because last year we struggled. We've shown that we can overcome the hard times and do good this year.”

The Miners have not had many negative moments prior to their recent loss to Rice Feb. 26 but in addition to focusing on one game at a time, head coach Keith Adams has found other ways to keep her team on the ground.

UTEP began a 15-game winning streak New Year's Eve when they beat Texas State and continued it to their most recent win Feb. 23 against SMU. The Miners became the sole winner of the Conference USA championship in that win. Even then, UTEP was not ready to celebrate. "We're focused on who we're playing," head coach Keith Adams said. "That game's that's in front of us is all we're thinking about.”

During the Tulane game Feb. 12 at the Don Haskins Center, the Miners let their actions get ahead of themselves. This led to Adams calling an unexpected timeout during the second half. "(Adams) was talking about how well done something while the crowd was going crazy and we were all hyped up," senior guard Briana Green said. "We still had a lot of time to play, so we knew that we couldn’t stay focused. We had to get back to being composed and keep playing our game.”

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Men's Basketball

Senior takes biggest step forward after career of setbacks

BY FRANKIE RODRIGUEZ

When he entered UTEP under former head coach Tony Barbee, senior forward Gabriel McCulley expected to have his Senior Night with his five fellow recruited teammates.

But every year, McCulley had to deal with an injury, a red-shirt year, a new coach or a rebuilding team. Taking on his new leadership role, McCulley has adapted to these obstacles during his five-year tenure at UTEP.

"All these things that have happened to me have turned me from a teenager to a man. Things happen like this in life and I feel it prepared me for life," McCulley said. "When you have a job, sometimes you get a new boss. Coaching change and injuries are a part of life."

Through resiliency, McCulley has found a way to maintain an optimistic mindset through all of his setbacks.

"Some of those things I ask God and myself, 'why do those things happen to me?" McCulley said. "Every time I have taken a step forward it seems like I take a step back. That's life."

Coming in this year as the only senior and talk of a rebuilding year, McCulley anticipates a flood of emotions during his own Senior Night game against Rice Feb. 29 at the Don Haskins Center.

"It is one of those things I am going to have to play by ear. I have been here five years and I really don't know how it is going to be. I am just going to let the emotions flow as I get on the court," McCulley said.

The players are hoping the game will be exhilarating because it will be McCulley's last game in front of his fans for the last five years.

"It is just going to be real exciting and electrifying. I know a lot of emotions are going to be flaring with him and the crowd," junior guard Jacques Streeter said. "It is going to be a great game, we will get the win but it will be exciting."

Coming into this season, he had a major step back with his injury over the off-season, missing the first four games. His return sparked a revamped team, which turned a 1-4 team into an 8-7 one heading into Conference USA play.

"He was still out there talking to us all the time trying to get us going and inspiring us. When he came back, he gave us a big lift in the season," sophomore guard Michael Perez said. "He gave us more stability and confidence; another leader on the court and somebody who had been through a lot of battles. He has been a great leader for us this season."

During the summer prior to this season, McCulley made an effort to show some of the younger guys what it was going to take to win before the season started.

"He gave a lot of leadership in the summer behind closed doors and before anything ever started. He told us it started in the summer and going hard in pick-up games, just getting after it," Streeter said.

Streeter said he has soaked in what McCulley has taught him about leadership because he may have to step in and fill the role as the leader for the team upon McCulley's departure.

"(McCulley taught me) just to keep bringing the leadership out every day, bring that same type of level and intensity that we have on the floor. Playing through injuries and stuff like that," McCulley said. He doesn't anticipate a professional basketball career (although he admitted he wouldn't mind having one). He graduated with his bachelor's in criminal justice in December 2010 and is currently in graduate school, hoping to finish in the spring. He said he has just one online class left, which he expects to finish in June, meaning he can walk with his master's in leadership studies in May. He hopes to fall back on this career choice when he begins supporting his first son, which he is anticipating for March or April.

"I can get a master's degree, that would be a big accomplishment for me," McCulley said. "I am more worried about off the court and life after basketball. You can't play basketball for the rest of your life."

Frankie Rodriguez may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.
simplystated

February 28, 2012

UTEP will start spring drills at 3:30 p.m. Feb. 28 at Glory Field. UTEP’s practice is the first of 15 with the annual Orange and Blue game slated for 6 p.m., April 6 in the Sun Bowl.

UTEP, which finished 5-7 a year ago, returns 45 letterwinners and 13 starters from a year ago. The Miners have seven starters returning on offense, four on defense and two on special teams.

Senior QB Nick Lampaison returns as the Miners’ starting signal caller. Lampaison threw for 1,718 yards and 12 touchdowns. UTEP also returns its top-two receivers in senior Mike Edwards and sophomore Jordan Leslie who combined for 1,087 yards and five touchdowns.

The Miners lost the meat of its running game with the departures of Joe Bannard (993 ypg), Vernon Frazier (362 ypg) and Leilyon Myers (307 ypg and 12 TDs). The trio combined for 1,634 of the Miners’ 1,859 yards last year. Sophomores Nathan Jeffery, who ran for 166 yards and Josh Bell look to fill the void.

The Miners lost an experienced group on defense but LB Jamie Irving returns to the groind after redshirting the 2011 campaign. Starters DL Gernand Reed, DL Horace Miller and CB Drew Thomas and safety DeShawn Grayson highlight the Miners’ defensive personnel coming back with LB Josh Fely, DB Richard Spencer and DL Greg Watkins also bringing with them experience.

2012 SPRING PRACTICE SCHEDULE

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<td>April 6</td>
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All practices to take place at Glory Field unless otherwise noted.
GOLD from page 13

Senior sprinter Endurance Abinewa finished fourth by two-hundredths of a second in the 60-meter dash followed by junior Yolanda Suggs at fifth place. UCF finished first and second in the event as All-American freshman Octavious Freeman came in first and sophomore Dominique Booker second, while East Carolina sophomore Tania Minkins finished third.

Freeman posted an NCAA automatic-qualifying time of 7.23 seconds during the preliminary rounds.

Tulsa and East Carolina won the men’s and women’s indoor championships, respectively. The Miner men came in fifth with a total of 80.5 points, while the women came in sixth with 47 points.

The UTEP men took fifth last year at the same event, while the women took third.

Daniel Ornelas may be reached at prospector@utep.edu.