Ben Saenz, Chairman of the Department of Creative Writing

According to associate chemistry professor Mahesh Narayan, spices that are commonly used by certain ethnic groups may hold the key to preventing neurodegenerative disorders such as Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease.

Along with a collaboration of UTEP professors and graduate students, Narayan is studying the preventative properties of curcumin, a component of a common Indian curry called Turmeric, and the components of a creosote plant that has been used by indigenous people in Mexico to make tea.

“The term kitchen cures arises from the fact that these are all things that have been employed traditionally in the kitchen,” Narayan said. “It could be a sophisticated kitchen of today or a kitchen that was there a thousand years back. So I thought the term kitchen cure would reflect the fact that these are substances being used either as condiments or as spices in the kitchen. But the term cure is actually a misnomer; we want to prevent the disease, that’s what these chemicals are being used for.”

According to Narayan, epidemiological studies have shown that the U.S. Caucasian population has the highest incidence of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s disease. Studies in third world countries have found that exercise and a certain diet coincide with lower incidence of those diseases.

“In the diet I came across Turmeric and it intrigued me,” Narayan said. “And to me the question was, is it just Turmeric or specifically what property in it might be significant in preventing Alzheimer’s.”

Doctoral chemistry student Parijat Kabiraj is working closely with Narayan and he plans to apply this experience to post-doctorate work.

“I am trying to understand the molecular mechanisms involved in neurodegenerative diseases,” Kabiraj said. “I work almost every day including weekends, using ellagic acid, Beta-hydroxyl butyrate, curcumin analog and piperine (black pepper) to protect dopaminergic cells from reactive oxygen species insult. Part of this work is already documented in peer-reviewed journals. I find the work I do to be intriguing. It gives me lot of confidence and happiness.”

Narayan and his team have studied polyphenols, which are chemicals that contain a particular organic property and that are present in plants. They are trying to determine how they can react in the pathogens of Alzheimer’s and Parkinson’s.

In a model cell line that is representative of the human neuron, they have induced Parkinson’s and Alzheimer’s-like behavior by increasing the amount of free radicals in the cell lines.

“Just as William Faulkner had the South to write about, I have El Paso.”

- Ben Saenz, Chairman of the Department of Creative Writing

Ben Saenz is the first Hispanic to win the PEN/Faulkner award.
On Asarco’s demolition

KRISTOPHER RIVERA
The Prospector

I've seen that the smokestacks have become part of the culture in El Paso. I remember seeing them in At the Drive In's music video for the song, "Invalid Letter Dept," and Mars Volta uses it in the song "The Widow." Local band Mexicans at Night even have a song titled, "Smokestacks." I've seen in different local media outlets that there are groups of activists wanting to delay the demolition. They are saying the right protocol has not taken place for the testing of hazardous toxins in the ground site, and that these may contaminate the environment.

This Saturday will mark a turning point for El Paso and its residents — the demolition of the smokestacks, or ASARCO towers. I haven't known these towers for very long, compared to those who lived during the time when they were running, filling the skies with toxins and poisoning the lungs of those who breathed it in.

The 826 ft. landmark of ASARCO reminds me of the historical precedence in El Paso. There is no denying its relevance to El Paso history. The smokestacks have been around since the 1960s and to consider its destruction means to reflect on what it would mean historically. Tearing down the building is destroying a city landmark. When you think of El Paso, you think of the mountain, the desert and the smokestacks. El Paso has changed quite a bit since the tower's construction and the smoke stacks symbolize an older time. There is a negative connotation people hold towards the stacks because of the health concerns, however, they are something that the city is recognized for. I believe there should be a delay in the destruction of the smokestacks so there can be further consideration on the impact it will have on the city.

AARON MONTEZ
The Prospector

I am deeply concerned that this is being ignored and may harm the health of any residents around the site, even at the UTEP campus. With the explosion, all those chemicals will be released into the air. I’ll be watching the demolition from the media area, so I'm kind of concerned that I may be breathing in something that will kill me sooner or later down the road, or maybe the tower will come toppling down on us if it does not implode and tips over on our side.

 Authorities have constantly said that there are no risks associated to the demolition, but being an issue of public interest, I think the demolition of the towers should be delayed until we all have certainty that the toxins would be contained.

LORAIN WATTERS
The Prospector

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Question of the week

What research would you like for UTEP to conduct?

Photos by Michele Torres and Michelle Franco

NABILE GARCIA
Freshman electrical engineering major
“I would say research in circuits and processor efficiency. By making processors more efficient, we can find a way to enhance technology.”

DAVID ANDERSON
Junior psychology major
“I would like to see UTEP do more research on the effects of meditation on neurology and the possibility of using that to help treat disorders, such as mood disorders or psychological disorders.”

DANIELA CAMPOS
Junior organizational and corporate major
“I am into the research of cultural observation where you can conduct by being an observer participant or nonparticipant in order to understand different cultures and their customs instead of judging and thinking what is ‘socially correct.’”

SÉRGIO ROCHA
Sophomore electrical engineering major
“The development of electronics more specifically computers. Some examples would be the increase in processing speed, memory in hard drives or better visual models to accommodate different needs and careers.”

ERIC TARIN
Senior finance major
“I guess I would say something in the medical sciences. I would think diseases and more effective ways to deal with them.”

ERIC MARQUEZ
Freshman general studies major
“I would like to see UTEP do more stem cell research. I think stem cell research is the future of medicine. We can’t be relying on people donating organs, we need to be able to grow these organs in a laboratory.”

KARINA MARQUEZ
Junior nursing major
“Personally, I would say anything dealing with anatomy and medicine. Anything dealing with the medical field.”

GEICO’s got game.

My one reason?
To provide hope for people in need.
You only need one reason to donate plasma.

Find out how becoming a plasma donor can make a difference for patients and help you earn extra money.

New donors earn $100 this week. Donate today at:
Talecris Plasma Resources in El Paso
720 Texas Ave. (915) 532-5322
4710 Alabama St. (915) 532-5923
8802 Alameda Ave. (915) 859-6855
3515 Alameda Ave. (915) 351-0920
grifolsplasma.com

In order to receiving the donation check, you must provide a valid proof of identity and signature. This offer is limited to U.S. residents who are 18 years of age or older who donate for the first time in the designated timeframe. Offer ends when funds are exhausted. Not available in Texas, North Dakota, Maine, or New Hampshire. This offer cannot be combined with any other offer. Offer code 123397.
more than 130 publishing houses. Short stories collections coming from among more than 350 novels and one of the 2013 PEN/Faulkner Award twentieth published book as the winner. José De Pérola, creative writing assistant professor, said that this award is well deserved and UTEP should feel fortunate to have Alire-Saenz. "Ben Saenz has proven before that he is one of the most gifted writers of the region, but the Pen Faulkner Award confirms that he is among the best writers in the country," De Piérola said. "Despite his talent and his achievements, Ben remains a very down to earth person, a trait that tells a great deal about him as a human being.

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According to Narayan, in cell lines that have been pre-exposed to the kitchen cures, the incidents of Alzheimer's and Parkinson's are diminished. Their hope moving forward is that these chemicals can continue to mitigate the onset of these diseases.

"We are now going on to the next level which is trying to translate the same cell line model into a rat study," Narayan said. "The National Institute of Health wants to know whether your research can help that patient walk off the bed. So we can talk about a lot of research in classrooms or in a laboratory but all they are concerned about at the end of the day is, within the body of work you've created, discovered or invented, can it help the patient get up and walk away? Just working in cell lines or just working test tubes is not enough. You have to take your research to the next level, which from the cell line is an animal model."

In collaboration with Manuel Miranda-Arango of the Department of Biological Sciences and Edward Castaneda of the Psychology Department, Narayan plans to induce Parkinson's behavioral deficit disorder, Narayan said. "It's important for students to know that UTEP offers and provides aspiring writers with a great Creative Writing Department, " Saenz said. "Being taught by committed professors who know about the subject matter and can contribute to their future."

Alire-Saenz under the dimmed lights of The Kentucky Club is to lend an ear to a writer who has surrendered you to encircle the muted light inside each of his narratives. "Their collective voices speak artlessly, as wisdom does, and ask us to listen for the borderless poetry of the spirit," Rosario said. "To sit with Alire-Saenz under the dimmed lights of the Kentucky Club is to lend an ear to a writer who has surrendered you the alphas and omegas of his heart." The border is a character in many of Saenz's works. This, he said, is not done on purpose, but rather the border is a part of who he is and the community in which he grew up in.

In a previous interview with What's Up Magazine, Rosario said that Saenz uses the straightest lines of language to encapsulate the mutt lighted inside each of his narrators.

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Amber Morrison, creative writing major, said that Saenz' award inspires her to learn as much as she can while still a student. "It's such a great feeling to know that I'm studying under the same minds who have been awarded for their work," Morrison said. "It is amazing to see one of my professors receive such an honorable award and he reappropriated for his writing and his hard work."
Leah Steed, junior digital media production major, knows how to dress well without breaking her piggy bank. Sticking to the sale sections of most online stores, Steed likes to keep her style simple while remaining comfortable for her long days at school. Quantity over quality is important to her, but she isn’t buying cheap clothes either. The Prospector met up with her to discuss her penny-saving fashions.

Q. How would you describe your style?
A. I do not really have a way to describe it. Whatever I like I buy, no matter what it is. I do not really have a specific style. I am not into brand name things like the Abercrombie shirts or Aeropostale. It is simple. I like pants and shorts. It is not dramatic like people who wear dresses or skirts everyday.

Q. Where do you get your inspiration?
A. Online, if I see stuff from online shopping sites because I have a shopping problem. I am addicted to online shopping so I go to online places. I work at Forever 21 so I see a lot of stuff there and the styles that come in and how they are all put together. I probably get a lot from there too.

Q. What influenced you to wear this outfit?
A. In school, I do not want to wear just anything like sweat pants but I also want to be comfortable so I am really into these kinds of pants because they are like leggings but look like actual pants with pockets. I like stuff that is comfortable but also looks like, what I think to be, nice.

Q. Where do you like to shop?
A. Forever 21 because I get a discount there, so that is my main place. I used to see something and if it was expensive I would buy it because it was pretty. Now if I see something and it is expensive I look to find the cheaper thing because I would rather have more clothes than expensive clothes. If I do find something I like that is expensive, I will wait till it goes super cheap on a sale and then buy it. I have a Kate Spade purse that is $400 and I get it for $100. I also shop at the sale departments of Urban Outfitters and Nasty Gal, anything online that is on sale, that is where I go. I literally get everything online, except Forever 21.

Q. What is your favorite clothing brand and why?
A. Forever 21 probably because it is always there. I really like Nasty Gal because they have really cool clothes but it is so expensive so I stick to the sale section.

Q. Why do you like to dress up for school?
A. I think it is because I wore a uniform my entire life in school and I had no way of expressing myself and I had very little clothes so now that I can actually wear whatever I want, that is why I do it, because it is freeing.

Q. Has fashion always been a part of your life?
A. I have always liked it but I used to be intimidated by what to wear and I would basically wear blue jeans and little cardigans because I did not have much clothes. It was always something I was interested in but I did not know how to put it together until I started paying more attention and got more clothes.

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Q. Do you have any fashion advice for girls?
A. You can never wear too much black. I wear black almost every day. People always used to say that I wear too much black but I love black.

Leah Steed can still dress fashionably while on a budget by shopping at sale sections, either online or in-store.

STEWEN MANSFIELD
The Prospector

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Leah Steed can still dress fashionably while on a budget by shopping at sale sections, either online or in-store.
Everyone has an opinion.

www.utep.edu

SURVEY OPEN FROM MONDAY APRIL 15 - SUNDAY APRIL 21

Here are only some improvements that were made thanks to your feedback:

Office of Special Events
- Shortened I-20 signature processing time – pick up is now 2 hours sooner.
- Front desk notification system to immediately summon other staff for help.

University Police Department
- Recreated and improved the UTEP Police Facebook site by providing helpful information regarding safety, awareness and campus activities.

The Library
- Added 8 group study rooms in an effort to respond to student requests for more group study space.
- Improved the Library website to make it easier to search.

Office of International Programs
- Shortened I-20 signature processing time – pick up is now 2 hours sooner.
- Front desk notification system to immediately summon other staff for help.

University Bookstore
- Launch of a new Order Management System that opens student access to inventory across Follett’s network – including Follett’s warehouse and more than 930 campus stores – to minimize out-of-stock scenarios and reduce prices.
- We also launched a promotion and we are offering 33% OFF on a variety of USED Textbooks during Spring 2013 rush.

Parking and Transportation
- Moved Assistant Director to Academic Services Building to better address customer needs.
- Implemented Facebook and Twitter accounts to provide more timely information.

The Prospector
- To increase awareness of The Prospector’s website, Pick Awards were launched, a survey for students about their favorite spaces and places to hangout on and off campus. The survey became available online. The survey was renamed and given a new logo for brand identity and awareness.
- To increase awareness of the print edition of the newspaper, student teams hand out the newspapers and giveaways (snacks, pens, etc.) when special issues are released.

University Food Services
- Hours of operations have been extended to serve students who have afternoon classes. Mein Bowl and AFC Sushi have extended hours of operation till 4 p.m. The Food Court is now open till 3 p.m. Jamba Juice/Starbucks also extended their hours of operation Monday – Thursday from 7 a.m. – 7 p.m.
- The new venues were also accompanied by updates to the dining rooms. The dining rooms feature new furniture.

Facilities Services
- Updated classroom furniture and conditions in different buildings around campus.
- Upgraded restrooms in the Liberal Arts Engineering, College of Business Administration and Benedict Hall buildings.

Center for Civic Engagement
- Established new quality control guidelines regarding to customer service including information given to students.
- Developed new marketing strategies to promote current programs available to students.

University Career Center
- A new module within Job Mine, to better track and reported in job.
- A one year, non-credit course was developed to expand offering in Liberal Art.

University Administration and Benedict Hall
- Recreated and improved the UTEP Newspaper, student teams hand out the newspapers and giveaways (snacks, pens, etc.) when special issues are released.
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University Police
- Developed new marketing strategies to
- Increased the number of cashiers for events to address customer needs.
- Implemented a quality control process on work orders that includes three parts; a written status of the work order, a quality level of satisfaction of the resident.

The Library
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University Career Center
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University Ticket Center

- Increase the number of cashiers for events and peak hours.
- Implementation of a sports lottery for student tickets to UTEP Athletic Events, wherein Miner Gold Card becomes ticket after online registration.

Miner Gold Card

- Enhancement of the features of the Miner Gold Card on Campus, including:  
  - Ability to Purchase with your Miner Gold Card at the University Bookstore, Art Department, University Ticket Center, Food Services, and Copy Mine among others.
  - Receive 10% discount at all Food Services venues when paying with Miner Meals.
  - Validations for student services like the Student Recreation Center, Library Services, and Career Services among others.

University Counseling Center

- Created a Case Worker position and are currently interviewing to fill that position. With our new Case Worker on board, we will be making changes in our intake and follow-up processes which we expect to facilitate our group therapy program.

Career Center

- The Experiential Learning Program implemented Job Mine to better track and identify new and similar opportunities for the College of Liberal Arts.
- Created a marketing/outreach office for all print and web-based communications and design.

University Bookstore, Art Department, University Ticket Center, Food Services

- Promotion and offering 33% OFF on a variety of USED items.
- Implemented Facebook and Twitter accounts to provide more timely information.
- Developed new marketing strategies to promote current programs available of information given to students.

Residence Life

- Implemented a quality control process on work orders that includes three parts: a written status of the work order, a quality control check from the staff, and a call back from the staff to survey the level of satisfaction of the resident.
- Close collaboration with the Facilities Services Department to interview and select a local architecture firm partnered with a nationally recognized housing firm specializing in the area of University student housing. This firm has worked to identify the needs of the UTEP campus and its student body in the area of housing. They are currently working to design the next phase of student housing to meet these current and emerging needs.

Facilities Services

- Upgraded restrooms in the Liberal Arts, Engineering, College of Business and CHS/SON.
- Supported campus-wide expansion of assistive technology for students with disabilities. Upgraded hardware and software in Assistive Technology Lab and established ADA workstations in computer labs in the library, Cyber Café, and CHS/SON. Assistive software is now on MyDeskTOP.edu for use by students with disabilities. Room 418 in library is now dedicated to use of voice activated software.

University Career Center

- Consistently in collaboration with the Facilities Services Department to interview and select a local architecture firm partnered with a nationally recognized housing firm specializing in the area of University student housing.
- Report from the intake and follow-up processes in the Department.
- Developed a new module within Job Mine, to better track and report in Job Mine by students.
- Support campus-wide expansion of assistive technology for students with disabilities. Upgraded hardware and software in Assistive Technology Lab and established ADA workstations in computer labs in the library, Cyber Café, and CHS/SON.
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University Parking and Transportation

- New venues were also accompanied by hours of operations have been extended to serve students who have afternoon classes. Mein Bowl and The Food Court is now open till 3 p.m. Jamba updates to the dining rooms. The dining rooms feature new furniture.
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LIFE DAY  
MONDAY, APRIL 15  
UTEP GREEN WALK/TENNIS SHOES CONTEST  
• 10:00 AM  
Leech Grove  
Show your miner pride to win prizes!  
Brought by University Wellness Program

WATER DAY  
TUESDAY, APRIL 16  
DISCUSS EARTH DAY TOPICS  
• 12:00 PM  
Lawn by Dinner Theatre  
Join various UTEP student organizations as they discuss Earth Day topics.

AIR DAY  
WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17  
SYMPOSIUM AND LUNCH WITH THE CHEF  
• 12:00 PM  
University Suite 312E

“R³ RE-CREATE, RE-THINK, RE-DISCOVER”  
APRIL 17 - APRIL 24  
ART GALLERY  
• Brought by Union Services

EARTH DAY  
THURSDAY, APRIL 18  
EARTH DAY CELEBRATION  
• 10:00 AM - 2:00 PM  
Union Breezeway  
Live music from local El Paso bands and DJs

FIRE DAY  
FRIDAY, APRIL 19  
KEEP THE EARTH GREEN  
• Raffling off a custom single speed bike from Crazy Cat Cyclery.  
Brought by Environmental Advocates
Men can go to Gentleman’s Republic, a barber salon geared specifically towards them, and enter a relaxing environment to get their hair cut or a “detail” for their hands or feet, all while enjoying non-alcoholic or alcoholic beverages.

**STEVEN MANSFIELD**

*The Prospector*

Situated inside a 101-year-old house, a new kind of salon has opened up in El Paso for men. Located near campus at 1709 Montana, is a full-service barber salon catering specifically to men. Sticking to the roots of a barber shop, owner Laura Miramontez has blended the services of both a barber shop and a salon so men feel comfortable while getting the full treatment.

“It is not just a barber shop and it is not just a salon, it is a barber salon for men,” Miramontez said. “There is no term out there called barber salon so men feel comfortable while getting the full treatment.

“Men don’t have their own place to go, a place to go with a European style.

I like that you can get a free beer and liquor, televisions set to your choice. Offering a wide variety of beers, Laura Miramontez, owner of Gentleman’s Republic, makes the client feel comfortable from the very beginning.

“I believe that if you want to relax somewhere and you want a drink, whether non-alcoholic or not, you should have one,” Miramontez said.

It was about four months since I got my last hair cut and I don’t think I’ll get it cut anywhere else, ever.

Gentlemen’s Republic offers special packages for men to get the full treatment. The King for a Day gift certificate gives men the opportunity to spend the day getting pampered with multiple services in one day.

“Usually women are celebrated, but here we have the King for a Day gift certificate and with that it allows people to customize anything for their king, whoever they want to pamper,” Miramontez said. “When the men come in they really feel like a king.”

“Barber salon for men.”

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Laura Miramontez, owner of Gentleman’s Republic.

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Marty Fullerton, junior pre-pharmacy major, walked out of his first haircut at Gentleman’s Republic with a smile on his face. He was impressed, not only with the look and feel of the barber salon, but the professionalism of the staff.

“It was about four months since I got my last hair cut and I don’t think I’ll get it cut anywhere else, even. There is no place like this. It is the real deal,” Fullerton said.

“I like that you can get a free beer and liquor, televisions set to your choice. Offering a wide variety of beers, Laura Miramontez, owner of Gentleman’s Republic, makes the client feel comfortable from the very beginning.

“I believe that if you want to relax somewhere and you want a drink, whether non-alcoholic or not, you should have one,” Miramontez said.

It was about four months since I got my last hair cut and I don’t think I’ll get it cut anywhere else, ever. There is no place like this. It is the real deal,” Fullerton said. “What really impressed me too is she didn’t just stop at the cut or at the wash, she showed me how to use the products, how to style my hair and how to maintain it. Now I am not leaving here wondering how to get this style again.”

Gentlemen’s Republic has many qualified staff members, each with their own specialty. For instance, Miramontez said that Jenny Sauce, who cut Fullerton’s hair, cuts hair with a European style.

“Men can go to Gentleman’s Republic, a barber salon geared specifically towards them, and enter a relaxing environment to get their hair cut or a “detail” for their hands or feet, all while enjoying non-alcoholic or alcoholic beverages.

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Laura Miramontez, owner of Gentleman’s Republic.

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Mia starts taunting the survivors, there are scenes where a possessed and atmospheric style. Yes, a lot of Raimi's story with his own visceral quality. Alvarez really approached his version the quality of the remake. However, it's hard not to be concerned with the young souls, one by one. Alvarez introduces audiences to the style of an ancient evil spirit, who soon takes possession of the Necronomicon, or Book of the Dead. Mia and her friends encounter an ancient text, the drug withdrawal process. Mia and her friends to help her through her session of the young souls, one by one. As someone who loves Raimi's original, it's hard not to be concerned with the quality of the remake. However, Alvarez really approached his version of Raimi's story with his own visceral and atmospheric style. Yes, a lot of Raimi's dark humor is gone, though there are scenes where a possessed Mia starts taunting the survivors, which reinforces how darkly funny this series can be. The film takes itself quite seriously as opposed to that combination of horror comedy fun. Although some of the performances are a little bit rough to get through. Levy is fantastic and gives a pretty committed performance. She has to juggle between playing someone who is possessed by throwing out insults and pounding fun at the horror that is happening to the kids, and play a very different variation of that (especially in the final blood-soaked climax). Her focus shifts as soon as she becomes possessed and then her brother's story takes center stage. As the protagonist, Shiloh Fernandez' David doesn't have that charisma that Bruce Campbell from the original exhibited, although his relationship with his sister is very well established. The film doesn't hold back at all as to how much gore, blood and guts Alvarez is willing to show, as he proceeds that the college kids go through. Blood covers the screen as dismemberments are shown in pretty amazing and gruesome ways. The film remains intense until the heart-pounding rain-soaked bloody third act. There are numerous references throughout the film to the original classic that hardcore fans will surely enjoy seeing (like the Oldmoke cat), and the poster for the film appears as a disturbing reference in the Book of the Dead). The iconic chainsaw is included as well and even one of the most controversial scenes from the original. Some of these references Alvarez enjoys including as direct sound choices, like the ominous whooshing sound the demons make when chasing someone, or the kinetic and crazy room-ins and camera angles that Raimi so masterfully employed back in the day, which signaled his distinct and inventive style. No, "Evil Dead" is not the groundbreaking work that Raimi's original, and subsequently its hilariously gory sequel, were and it's not going to re-invent the genre, but Alvarez has a lot of gory fun with the material and his vision is relentlessly entertaining. The film also benefits a lot from great atmospheric visuals, courtesy of the camerawork by Aaron Morton (although, I do love the original's grungy and gritty 16-mm look). An operatic score by composer Roque Baños (especially in the third act as it builds to an amazing crescendo) and some frightening special effects all add up to create a satisfying and solid remake of a horror classic. Four out of five picks.
A survey from Fieldhouse.net found that 72 percent of student athletes have a Twitter account, 93 percent have Facebook and about 70 percent have an Instagram account.

BY PAUL REYNOSO
The Prospector

Social media plays role in today’s college athletes

According to a February 2013 survey from Fieldhouse.net, 72 percent of student-athletes have a Twitter account, 93 percent have Facebook and about 70 percent have an Instagram account.

“We have to watch what we say and the pictures we post,” said Wade. “You just have to be careful and aware of what you are doing all the time when you’re online.”

Softball head coach Kathleen Rodriguez said that when it comes to social media outlets such as FaceTime and Skype, Rodriguez said she sees them as an opportunity for her athletes to keep up with old teammates and family who are out of town.

“One of the really neat things about FaceTime is we can see people jumping over or extraordinary plays get a lot of views, “ said Leslie, “they become UTEP Miners and represent a whole lot more than just ourselves,” Rodriguez said.

With the emergence of recent social media outlets such as FaceTime and Skype, Rodriguez said she sees them as an opportunity for her athletes to keep in touch with old teammates and family who are out of town.

“IT’s just a neat thing to be able to keep in touch with your children and know that they are OK,” she said. “But also to keep in touch with friends that went on to play at different universities.”

UTEP softball receiver Jordan Leslie knows that social media like YouTube, may bring good publicity but it can also be just plain good fun. (“Sports highlight videos), like people jumping over or extraordinary plays get a lot of views, “ said Leslie, “they become UTEP Miners and represent a whole lot more than just ourselves,” Rodriguez said.

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BY EDWIN DELGADO
The Prospector

Spring football game just around the bend

According to a February 2013 survey from Fieldhouse.net, 72 percent of student-athletes have a Twitter account, 93 percent have Facebook and about 70 percent have an Instagram account.

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During tryouts and throughout the football and basketball seasons, the UTEP cheerleading squad has worked on improving their technique while preparing themselves for the few minutes they will have to compete at nationals.

From April 10-14, the UTEP cheerleading squad will compete in the 2013 National Cheer Association Collegiate Cheer Championship in Daytona Beach, Fla. "Overall the team is really excited," said five-year veteran and senior pre-speech/language pathology major, Ashlie Mena. "We are pumped up and coming together even more because of how close competition is and how much we want it. We are all working hard and just have that feeling of 'can't wait.' We want to go out, do our best and represent our university."

In 2011, the Miners made their first appearance in the NCA Championship and earned their first national title in a competition of 20 teams in the intermediate co-ed division. However, the squad was unable to recreate its success a second time in the 2012 NCA Championship, as bobbles throughout their final routine landed the squad fifth place out of 17 squads.

"Being returning champs was harder for us," Mena said. "There was a whole new set of expectations. People knew who we were and teams would even come out to watch our practice, so it was stressful at times."

UTEP’s competing squad of 20 members, along with Paydirt Pete, will perform a two-minute routine demonstrating their style and expertise. Their performance is then scored against the other competing squads.

"Creating our competition routine is definitely a squad effort," said UTEP cheerleading head coach, David Vasquez. "This year we wanted to have choreography that was a little bit flashier. In terms of the transitions, going from one skill element to the next, we wanted to make our performance a flowing routine rather than something that was chopped into sections."

With a complete routine and hours of practice, the squad is ready to showcase their talent at the NCA Championship. Unlike last year, however, they are ignoring others’ expectations and are solely focused on taking their hard work to the mat and putting on the best performance.

"I think everyone is expecting us to return with a vengeance," said six-year veteran and junior mathematics major, Jimmy Salais. "While winning the title again would be awesome, our main focus is just to go out there and do our best."

Upon their return from nationals, Vasquez will be holding tryout clinics to help prepare candidates for the 2013-14 final squad tryouts, which will be held April 27.

Audrey Westcott may be reached at theprospector@utep.edu.