



UTRGV lecturer cancels class after not receiving pay

Reprinted from *The Rider* online

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Students in Cecilia Sandoval's U.S. and Texas Government and Politics II class did not meet Thursday after she sent an email stating she would be absent because the university had not paid her for the overload course.

"I think it's pretty good that [Sandoval] canceled class because, as an employee also, I wouldn't want to work without getting paid," criminal justice junior Ryan Lozano said. "I think that's unfair to the professor. I also think it's unfair to the students who have paid their classes and yet, you know, the professor is not getting paid, so the professor is not going to put any effort into the class."

Lozano, who is not enrolled in Sandoval's class but saw the email posted on Facebook, said he believes the professor did the right thing.

"She emailed the students firsthand and it's better than just showing up to class and the professor not even going and has you wondering what's going on," he said. "I think she did the right step by informing the



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

UTRGV Provost Havidán Rodríguez

students."

The political science lecturer's email went viral among UTRGV students on social media Wednesday evening.

UTRGV Provost Havidán Rodríguez told *The Rider* Sandoval's paperwork had been

processed and approved.

"This is an unfortunate event that transpired," Rodríguez said. "One of the things that I just want to re-emphasize, we as a university want to provide the best education to our students. We, as faculty members, and I

speak now as a faculty member, want to ensure that our students are successful inside the classroom and outside the classroom. We go through a process as a university and this is common of all universities, basically, when we provide

overloads to faculty."

Overloads are courses assigned to faculty members above their normal course load, the provost said.

"All these faculty members are being paid their regular salaries at UTRGV, so no one is not being paid," Rodríguez said. "Now, the overloads typically occur because of an emergency situation. ... Once classes start, we assign a faculty member an overload course as soon as we find out the paperwork gets submitted. It gets processed, it goes through the department chair, the dean and then the provost office so it can get processed for payment.

"Of course, if something occurs, let's say Jan. 19, which is when classes started, it's going to take some time to get the paperwork processed. So, these faculty members are typically not going to get paid for their overload on Feb. 1, but on March 1. ... Everybody at UTRGV, whether they have an overload or not, they will get paid."

In a second email from Sandoval that went viral, she wrote that she had requested her pay four times as well as an

See LECTURER, Page 10

Lifting spirits across the Valley

UTRGV to host first annual *Charreada* as part of 79th Charro Days celebration



ANDREA TORRES/THE RIDER

The UTRGV "Spur" float sits in the Charro Days storage area for floats and will be showcased in the Illuminated Night and Grand International parades, scheduled at 7 p.m. Friday and 12:30 p.m. Saturday, respectively. Both parades will be on East Elizabeth Street in downtown Brownsville.

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER

Vibrant colors and traditional Mexican costumes will brighten the Brownsville campus during the first annual University of Texas Rio Grande Valley *Charreada* Thursday on the Student Union lawn.

UTRGV legacy institution UT Brownsville previously hosted a celebration in conjunction with Brownsville's Charro Days Fiesta. The event would feature a golf cart parade through campus and a ceremony welcoming that year's Mr. Amigo. However, this year will not include a parade.

"[We'll] have food booths, have some performances, invite the community, invite the students, faculty to come out and just, you know, dress up festive, listen to the performances and come by and support the organizations by buying food," said Velinda Reyes, associate vice president for community programs and operations.

The Mr. Amigo Association was created in 1964 to recognize "a Mexican citizen who had contributed to the friendship of the United States and Mexico," according to the organization's website.

Mr. Amigo 2015 Itatí Cantoral will See CHARRO, Page 10

Fiesta Edinburg commemorates city becoming county seat

Trisha Maldonado
THE RIDER

The 48th annual Fiesta Edinburg gets underway Thursday with music, a carnival and a parade.

Ronnie Larralde, Edinburg Chamber of Commerce director of marketing and special events, said this event symbolizes an important moment in Edinburg's history.

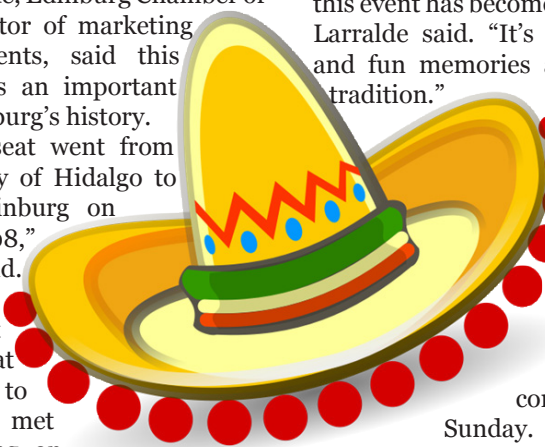
"The county seat went from being at the City of Hidalgo to the City of Edinburg on October 13, 1908," Larralde said. "On October 12, they voted about moving the seat from Hidalgo to Edinburg. They met the next morning on October 13 and moved everything. At the time, the city was known as Chapin."

The city originally was named in honor of Dennis B. Chapin, one of its developers. After Chapin was involved in a homicide, the city changed its name to Edinburg in 1911 in honor of businessman John Young, who was born in Edinburgh, Scotland.

"Fiesta Edinburg is a festival to celebrate when Edinburg became the county seat [107] years ago," Larralde said. "It is also a family event and something that the kids back then, who

are now adults, would attend when they were young, participating in the park, going to the carnival and eating the festival food.

"Now, these adults are kind of doing the same thing as when they were kids, so this event has become a family tradition," Larralde said. "It's about making new and fun memories and continuing the tradition."



Celebrations begin Thursday at the Edinburg Municipal Park. The Heart of America Carnival opens at 6 p.m. and closes at 10 p.m. The carnival continues through Sunday.

Friday night, musical entertainment will consist of Lucky Joe at 7 p.m., Badd Boyz Del Valle at 8:30 p.m. and Grupo Solido at 10 p.m.

On Saturday, the Fiesta Parade begins at the Hidalgo County Courthouse and continues to Cats Memorial Stadium, located at 1800 S. Stadium Dr. From 2 to 8 p.m. the municipal park will feature a Family Fun Zone.

The Folklórico and Conjunto Invitational Competition takes place from 1:30-5 p.m., followed by the bands Genesis K at 6 p.m., Peyote Hill at 7 p.m. See FIESTA, Page 10

THE RIDER

The Rider is the official student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Cinnabon president to speak

Kat Cole, president and chief operations officer of Cinnabon, will speak via video broadcast on “**Impact: The Art of Change Trust and Influence**,” at 6 p.m. Tuesday in the Main Building’s Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. Cole, also a philanthropist, is one of Fortune magazine’s “40 under 40.” The event is sponsored by the **National Society of Leadership and Success**. For more information, visit www.societyleadership.org.

Health and Wellness Series

A presentation, titled “**Anatomy of Sex**,” will take place from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday in Cortez Hall 118 on the Brownsville campus. The session is part of the **Health and Wellness Series** sponsored by the **Counseling Center**. For more information, call 882-3897.

Music of Carl Seale

“**Music of Carl Seale: A Chamber Recital**” will take place at 7 p.m. Wednesday in the John H. Shary Room of the University Library on the Edinburg campus. Performers will include friends, colleagues and former students of Seale, who taught in the Music Department at University of Texas Rio Grande Valley legacy institution UT Pan American from 1971 until his retirement in 2001. An exhibit featuring many of Seale’s scores will be on display in the library lobby through April 2016.

Adviser Workshop Series

A session, titled “**Resilience Training**,” will take place from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. Friday in Main Building room 1.502 on the Brownsville campus. The session is part of the **Adviser Workshop Series** sponsored by the **Office of Student Involvement**. For more information, call 882-5111.

Nuts 4 Nutrition

The **Infant and Family Nutrition Agency** will host the sixth annual **Nuts 4 Nutrition 1 Mile Fun-Run/Walk** and **5K Race** on March 5 in the Brownsville Sports Park. Race fees are \$15 for adults, \$10 for children, \$10 for

adult group participants and \$8 for child group participants. To register, visit the agency’s office at 1225 Boca Chica Blvd. in Brownsville, visit Rx Running at 3001 Pablo Kisel Blvd., Suite L, or visit ifnargv.org/n4n-registration. For additional information, call 541-9250 or email ifnargv@gmail.com.

UTRGV Theatre Alumni reunion

The **UTRGV Theatre Department** will host a reunion of theatre alumni March 6 in Edinburg. Former students, faculty and fans are invited to a full day of reunion activities, starting with a reunion lunch, attendance at the 7:30 p.m. performance of “**The Miracle Worker**” and culminating with after-play parties. For more information, email **Elva Galvan**, UTRGV theatre manager, at elva.galvan@utrgv.edu.

Entrepreneurship summer program

The **University of Texas System** is accepting applications from students in all 14 institutions for the **Student Entrepreneurship Fellowship**, a five-week summer program from May 31 to July 1 at the **IC2 Institute** in Austin. The fellowship offers 20 two-person student teams the opportunity to learn from nationally recognized faculty, instructors and facilitators, and will utilize evidence-based entrepreneurship methodologies to test their business concepts. The deadline to apply for the tuition-free training program is March 14. Early admission is Feb. 29. Students may apply at www.ic2.utexas.edu/sef. For more information, email IC2 Program Manager **Aprille Raabe** at SEF@ic2.utexas.edu or call **Ken Ma** in the University Affiliates Department at (512)499-4778.

Looking for volunteers

The **Cameron County Children’s Advocacy Center** is looking for volunteers for its San Benito and Brownsville locations. The center is a nonprofit organization that advocates for and serves child victims of abuse. For more information, call **Elsa Garcia**, volunteer coordinator/community

educator, at 361-3313.

Graduation application deadlines

Students who plan to graduate in Fall 2016 must submit their application by May 1. For more information, contact the **Graduate College** at 665-3661 or email gradcollege@utrgv.edu.

Free flu shots

UTRGV Health Services will administer **free flu shots** for students from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday at its clinics, located in Cortez Hall 237 on the Brownsville campus and at 613 N. Sugar Rd. on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call Office Assistant **Beverly Estrada** at 882-3896.

Peace of mind yoga sessions

Learn how to manage stress levels and do various types of yoga exercises from 6 to 7 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday on the Brownsville Student Union lawn. The event is sponsored by the **Student Government Association**. For more information, call 882-5937.

Meetings

Social-confidence group

The **UTRGV Counseling Center** hosts a social-confidence group, “**Reveal Yourself**,” from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesdays in Cortez Hall 118 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-3897.

G.A.L.S.

A group therapy session for females by females, titled “**Growing and Loving Ourselves**” (G.A.L.S), takes place from noon to 1 p.m. each Monday in Cortez Hall 220 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call the **UTRGV Counseling Center** at 882-3897.

LGBTQ Group

The **LGBTQ Group** meets at 4 p.m. each Tuesday in University Center 306A on the Edinburg campus. Meetings are facilitated by experienced counselors and discussion is driven by concerns and needs of the group. For more information, call the **UTRGV Counseling Center** at 665-2574.

--Compiled by Monica Gudiño



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 8 and 17.



February 8

9:03 a.m.: University Police responded to a call of a student feeling ill at the Language Institute on Price Road. He reported he had been coughing and almost lost consciousness. Emergency medical services personnel evaluated the student and found his vitals to be stable.

9:09 a.m.: A student pulled on the fire emergency handle when she detected the odor of something burning in the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. University Police responded to the alarm, conducted a walkthrough of the building and contacted the Brownsville Fire Department. Maintenance staff said the cause of the burning odor was a result of the restroom air-conditioning vents being closed when the heaters turned on.

February 9

1:21 p.m.: A staff member in the Student Services Building reported having strokelike symptoms. Hidalgo County Emergency Medical Services responded but the staff member declined attention and said he would follow up with his physician.

1:58 p.m.: A staff member reported being followed by a man, who was her classmate in Spring 2014. She said he asked if he could walk with her. After she said “no,” he was persistent in walking with her, which frightened her. University Police contacted the man, who agreed with the staff member’s statement and added he was only trying to get to know her. Upon her request, he was advised to refrain from making contact with her, issued a criminal trespass warning and escorted off campus.

4:51 p.m.: A student reported her student organization might have a counterfeit \$10 bill. The bill was rejected

by the C-Store because its test marker indicated the bill was not genuine. The officer took the bill and submitted it into evidence so that it could be examined further by U.S. Secret Service.

11:33 p.m.: An officer was locking sliding doors at the Social Behavioral Sciences Building and while doing so, the glass on the doors shattered. The remaining glass was taken out and a cardboard was placed over the door by the custodial staff.

February 10

1:42 p.m.: University Police responded to a report of an elderly man lying on the sidewalk by the Main Building fountain. He said he fell off of his walker’s seat while an unknown man was helping him by pushing the walker. After declining emergency medical services, he said he was feeling well and the officer escorted the elderly student to his classroom.

February 11

11:32 a.m.: A student reported a vehicle cut him off in Lot A1, causing him to brake suddenly and his motorcycle to fall over. The student refused to be evaluated by EMS and was told the parking lot would be patrolled more often.

February 13

2:30 a.m.: A student reported meeting an unknown male on the Yik Yak mobile application. They agreed to meet for the first time in Lot Q2. She said she felt uncomfortable and asked him to leave during their conversation but he refused. She called the police department and a search for the man was conducted to no avail. Surveillance footage is under review.

February 14

4:20 a.m.: University Police responded to a call regarding an intoxicated

female in the Heritage Hall lobby on the Edinburg campus. The student was intoxicated to the point that she was unable to speak or have any muscular control. Emergency medical services transported her to Edinburg Regional Hospital, accompanied by the housing coordinator. Another student stated that he had seen her at a party at the Veranda Apartments earlier. The intoxicated student’s mother was contacted, and physical plant was notified to clean up the vomit from the lobby floor and couch.

February 15

10:57 a.m.: A student reported his brother-in-law harassed him by taking pictures of him while walking on the Bronc Trail. The brother-in-law then sent the photos to the student’s girlfriend and girlfriend’s mother to cause problems in their relationship.

February 17

8:25 a.m.: A former student was arrested on eight state jail felony warrants for credit card abuse, after a UTRGV student reported losing his wallet on Feb. 2 in the Science Building on the Edinburg campus. The unapproved transactions totaled \$169.21. A detective was able to recover some of the property purchased on the credit card. The suspect was scheduled to be arraigned at 3 p.m. in the Edinburg Municipal Court.

--Compiled by Andrea Torres

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Reviving black history

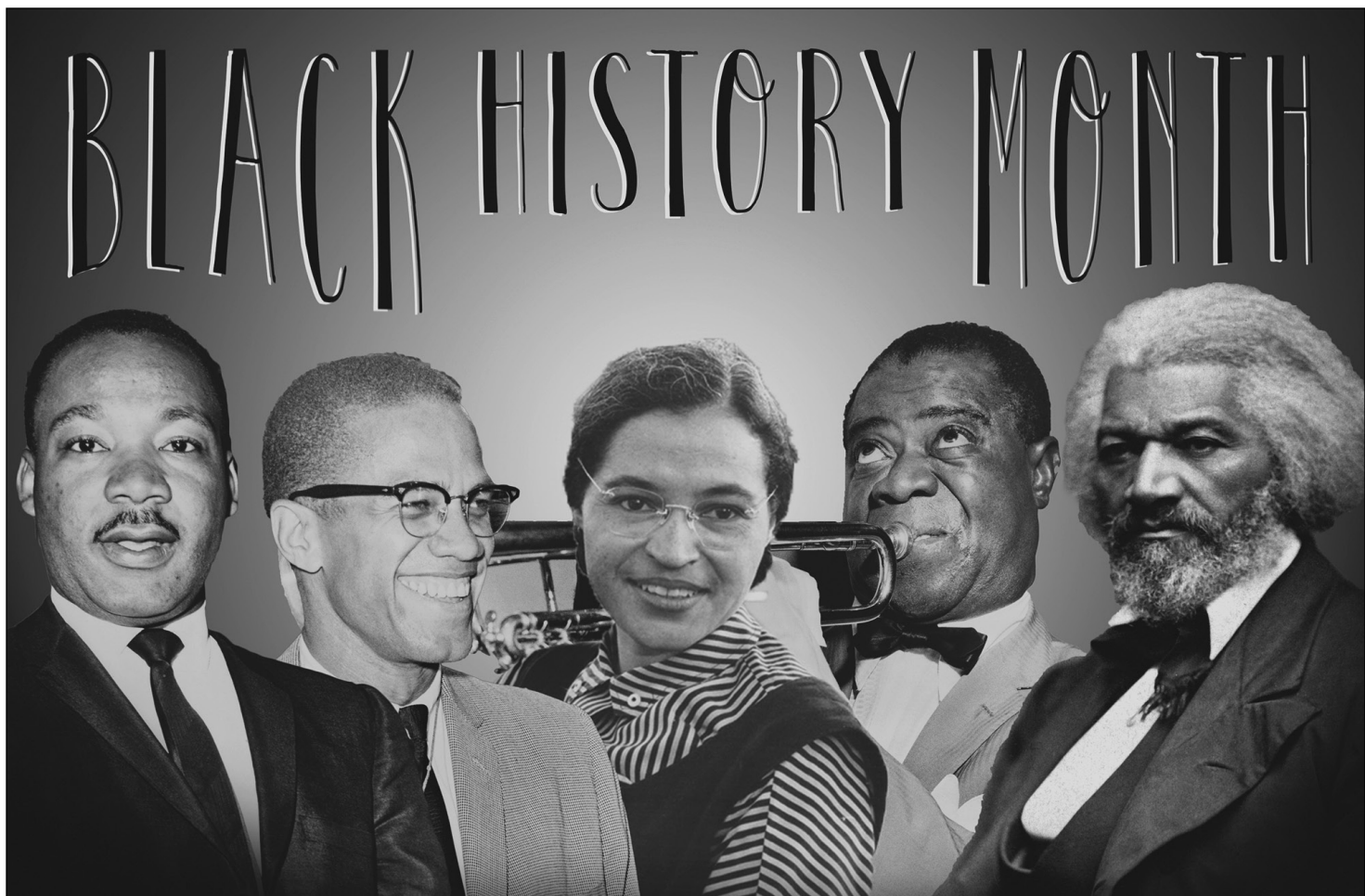
Ena Capucion
NEWS EDITOR

From the trans-Atlantic slave trade in the 15th century to the completion of President Barack Obama's second term this year, African Americans celebrate their experiences and achievements during Black History Month.

Also referred to as the National African American History Month, the celebration originated in 1915 when Carter G. Woodson, a Harvard-trained historian, and minister Jesse E. Moorland founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History (ASNLH), according to History.com. The organization acknowledged accomplishments from people of African descent. In 1926, the group sponsored a national Negro History week that in time, inspired schools and communities across the nation to recognize and appreciate African Americans.

By 1976, President Gerald R. Ford recognized Black History Month on a national scale. Since then, every president has declared February as Black History Month with a specific theme beginning with "Civilization: A World Achievement" in 1928 and "At the Crossroads of Freedom and Equality: The Emancipation Proclamation and the March on Washington" in 2013.

According to the ASNLH website, this year's theme is called "Hallowed Grounds: Sites of African American Memories." The theme will retrace the steps black Americans and African Americans have taken throughout history from the Underground Railroad



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

to the house of Frederick Douglass.

UTRGV senior Jeremy Brown, whose parents originate from Jamaica, believes Black History Month is a time to raise awareness about issues that are currently

affecting and have affected African Americans in the past. These modern issues include the ongoing Black Lives Matter movement that began in 2012 after George Zimmerman was acquitted

in the fatal shooting of 17-year-old African American Trayvon Martin.

Additionally, Brown takes the time to

See HISTORY, Page 10

Early voting for the primary ends Friday

Edinburg campus continues as poll site

Trisha Maldonado
THE RIDER

Early voting for the March 1 primary election continues this week on the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley's Edinburg campus.

Early balloting takes place from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. today through Friday at the Student Union Commons. Voters must show one of the seven forms of photo identification listed on votetexas.gov at the polling site.

On the Brownsville campus, early voting ended last Friday.

Angel Saavedra, a political science assistant professor, said voting is important because "it is a democratic exercise and we are showing that we are engaged as members in this democracy, that we want to participate in choosing who gets to govern us."

Saavedra said early voting offers the flexibility to vote at precincts that might not be a voter's designated poll site as long as the voter is registered in that county.

"It reduces the barriers," he said, such



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Two University of Texas Rio Grande Valley students cast their votes in the primary election during the first day of early voting conducted last Tuesday in the Student Union's La Sala on the Brownsville campus. Although early voting continues through Friday, the Brownsville campus polling site closed last Friday.

as missing work on March 1.

Saavedra suggested how students can be better informed about politics and voting.

"I'd say read the news and I mean read," he said. "If you have access to the Houston Chronicle, read the Houston Chronicle. If you want to read The

Monitor, read the monitor. There is also the RGV Guardian. There is other sources that they can look at, but you have to be informed."

Yvonne Ramon, Hidalgo County elections administrator, said that as of Thursday, 663 people had cast early votes on the Edinburg campus: 567 for the Democratic Party and 96 for the Republican.

Remi Garza, Cameron County elections administrator, said a total of 244 people had voted on the Brownsville campus, with 201 votes cast for the Democratic Party and 43 for the Republican Party.

Victoria Paiz, an anthropology and psychology sophomore, said she encourages people, especially students, to vote.

"If there is one thing you should do as an American is to vote; help choose your nation's leader," Paiz said. "I went into that line and it took me five minutes to get up here to vote. I would encourage students to come by."

Alvin Garza, a communication senior,

See VOTING, Page 10

Slap case 'wrapping up'

Police chief: We've met with prosecutors

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR IN CHIEF

Hidalgo County prosecutors agree with University Police that a case in which a professor allegedly slapped a student is a class C misdemeanor, UTRGV's police chief says.

"We spoke with the [prosecutors]," UTRGV Police Chief Raul Munguia said last Thursday. "They're the ones that would handle a higher grade [assault], a class A misdemeanor, which is

what the student thought it should be classified as. The DA's office here in Hidalgo County also concurred with us that it's a class C assault."

On Jan. 21, a student on the Edinburg campus reported that her philosophy class was having a discussion about right and



wrong and while the discussion was taking place, the professor slapped her on her left cheek. She was shocked because the slap was unexpected, according to a synopsis of the report.

As of press time Thursday, no charges had been filed by the

student, the chief said.

"The case, we're getting close

to wrapping it up," Munguia said. "Hopefully, by tomorrow or the next couple of days or early next week, we'll probably exceptionally be closing the case."

On Feb. 10, *The Rider* filed an open records request, asking for a copy of the offense report of the case. The request was submitted to UTRGV Chief Legal Officer Karen Adams.

Adams told *The Rider* the request is under review and the newspaper will receive a response in a "timely fashion."

Campus Q & A

If you could make a movie about the Valley, what are some things that you would make sure to include?



Saul Torres
Criminal justice junior

“I would make sure to include what troubles people face when dealing with gangs here, when dealing with narcotics and other illegal substances being passed through the border and what many agencies, like the Border Patrol, what they have to deal with, their troubles specifically, even if it’s narcotics and gangs, once again, and other federal agencies here, mainly law enforcement.”



Felicia Flores
Estudiante de tercer año en estudios interdisciplinarios

“Yo incluiría la Iglesia de San Juan, los campos de batalla históricos, también incluiría un poquito de historia de la [Isla del Padre], y también incluiría un poquito de información de la universidad y el colegio de TSC”.



Jasminmarie Solares
English freshman

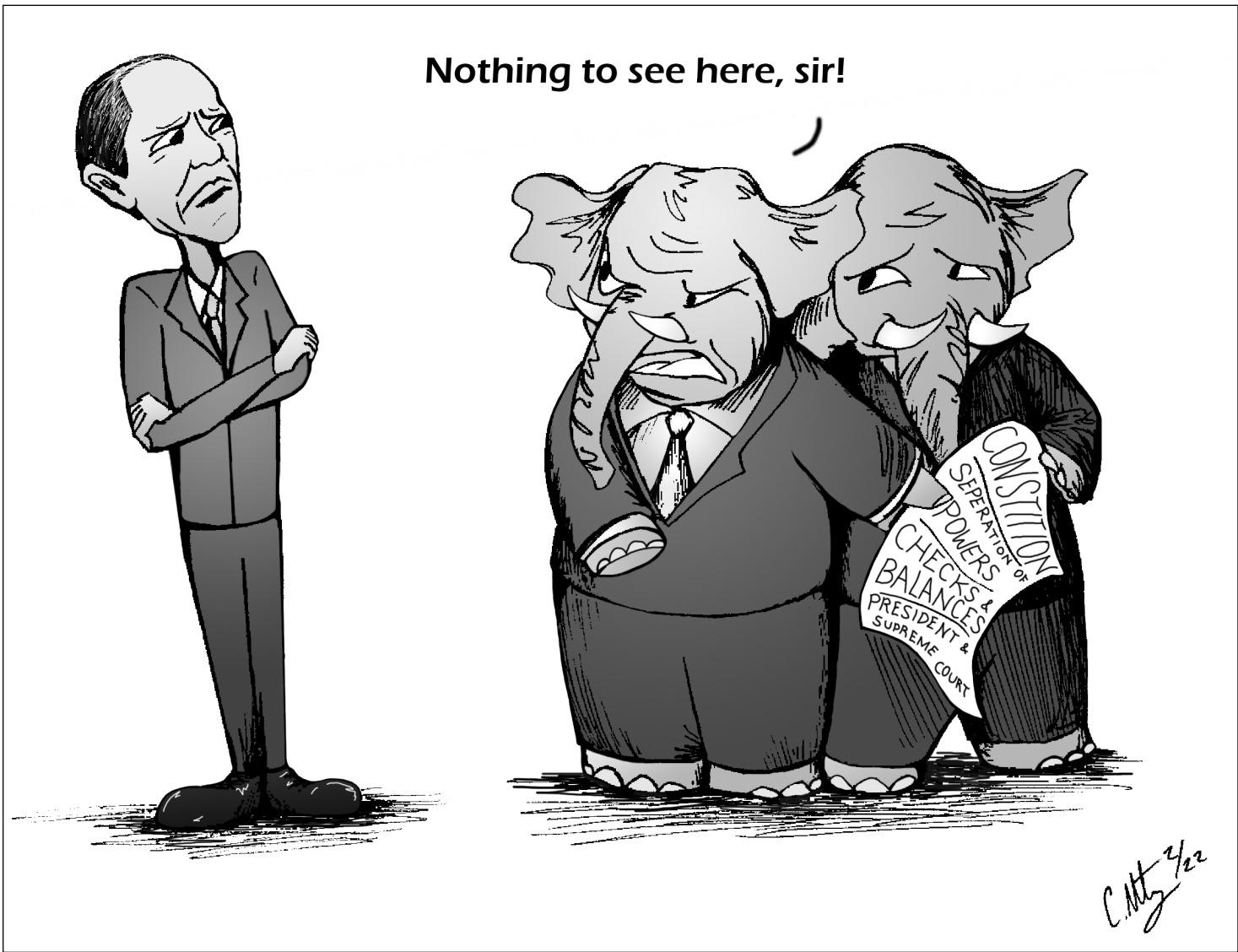
“I would make sure that the culture is always involved, the food, the people, the way that we always get together and the family.”



Jesus A. Leal
Theater/television/film junior

“I would try and include every city and mostly every single attraction or attribute. When someone from somewhere else asks about the Valley, they think of one place. I would try and include that place even if it’s just a restaurant or a coffee shop.”

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles



Clarissa Martinez
THE RIDER

For college students, money is precious. There’s tuition, food, textbooks, extra fees and the usual bills to pay. And perhaps this is true, but to me, especially as an art major, the most valuable thing is time.

Last semester, I juggled 16 hours of classes and 19 hours of work. If each class requires three hours of out-of-class time, then that’s where I was. I wrote two research papers due within 10 days of each other and aced them both. I stayed up late studying, writing, painting and sometimes working. I had to wake up by 8 a.m. Friday mornings, when the week’s labor took the greatest toll on me. It was exhausting.

This semester is just as tiring. My days begin at 7:30 a.m., when I wake, and end around 1 a.m. All of my classes begin around 4 p.m. and end at 7 p.m., 10 p.m. on Mondays and Wednesdays. When I

Time is tickin’ away

get home, all I want to do is sleep.

I have an internship that I have to worry about now, more drawing to do than ever before and I’m starting to stay late in the art studios again. I have one advanced history course that requires the usual writing and reading that most advanced history courses have. My responsibilities at work stay the same, but there will always be times where I’ll get more assignments.

Traveling around campus all day and squeezing in a bite to eat made me realize how precious time is to me. I need time to research, time to write, time to draw, time to learn and time to eat. I even need time to remember.

There’s so much to do in one day in order to get ready for the next day. If it takes longer than I thought for any assignment, my to do list gets pushed back. My work just piles up.

Everyone tells me to take a break, but, honestly, there’s no time for one. Short-term responsibilities butt heads with the long term, adding to my anxiety.

There’s pressure to graduate on time, to meet internship and graduate school deadlines, to look for jobs, scholarships and to make life-altering decisions when all I’ve experienced is the school “bubble.” I understand the importance of a break, of “fun,” but sometimes it’s hard to devote time for that when responsibilities loom.

When I happen to be doing nothing, I worry about the consequences. What if I never get that assignment done? What if I don’t have the time I need to study?

I look calm on the outside, but on the inside my mind clouds with constant worry.

The worst part about all of this is that I know others are having a worse time than I am. I know people who pull all-nighters with a similar schedule to mine. My friends commute from Brownsville to Edinburg, and that’s already a huge chunk out of their day. One friend goes to school full time, has three jobs and works graveyard shifts. I have friends with families to love and look after, with bills to pay, children to worry about and jobs to maintain.

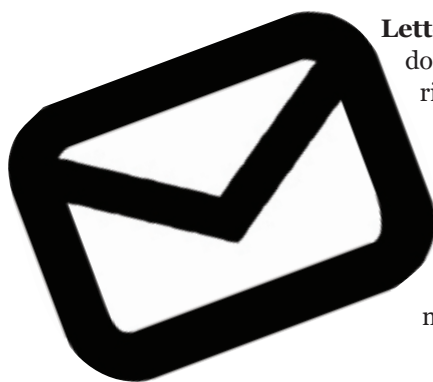
In a way, I sound like I’m just complaining. Maybe I am. But my exhaustion is real, my back pain is real and my feelings are genuine. I can’t change any of that.

Everyone has their own burdens to bear. Some burdens may be bigger than others, but that doesn’t mean the consequential feelings are any different. In the end, it really is a matter of how one approaches his or her problems.

Life for me is often a rut, but the little things still remind me that I’m still living. Eating lunch with friends, listening to new music by my favorite artists and just talking to family keeps me content.

Time is difficult to manage, but it is possible. I just wish there were more of it.

Submit a Letter to the Editor



Letters policy: *The Rider* encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit for grammar and content. Letters for *The Rider* may be sent to utrgvtherider@gmail.com. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of the author. Opinions expressed in *The Rider* are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of *The Rider* or UTRGV administrators.

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‘Agents of change’

RGV Millennials aims to bring young professionals together

Rick R. Ramirez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

The Rio Grande Valley Millennials is a nonpartisan organization that seeks to positively affect the community by bringing together professionals and community members from South Texas.

Founding member Blanca Davila, who graduated from UTRGV legacy institution UT Brownsville with a master’s in public policy and management, said the group will host the RGV Millennials Summit March 23 at the Edinburg Conference Center.

Davila and Alberto Espinoza, a graduate student in public administration at UTRGV, founded the organization on Oct. 4, 2014.

“The goal behind our agenda is to really empower millennials,” said Davila, who is a post-secondary success coordinator for United Way. “We want to let them know that there are opportunities out there. We just have to go out there and get them, and take charge of our future.”

The summit will take place from 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., and topics to be discussed are civic responsibilities and engagement, transforming passion to action, education, entrepreneurship and technology. Several discussion panels and guest speakers will present a wide



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

RGV Millennials co-founders Blanca Davila and Alberto Espinoza.

range of information to participants.

Discussion panels will consist of three speakers and a moderator. Participants will be able to ask questions by posting them to social media during the discussion.

The keynote speaker will be Javier Palomarez, president and CEO of the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

“His office is located in Washington, D.C., but he is a native of the Rio Grande Valley,” Davila said. “So, his story and unique experience spoke out to us, his journey to becoming president and CEO, especially someone from the RGV. He had to overcome challenges and barriers to obtain an education and become successful in his career.”

Davila and Espinoza approached John Sargent, a professor in the UTRGV College of Business and Entrepreneurship, shortly after founding RGV Millennials.

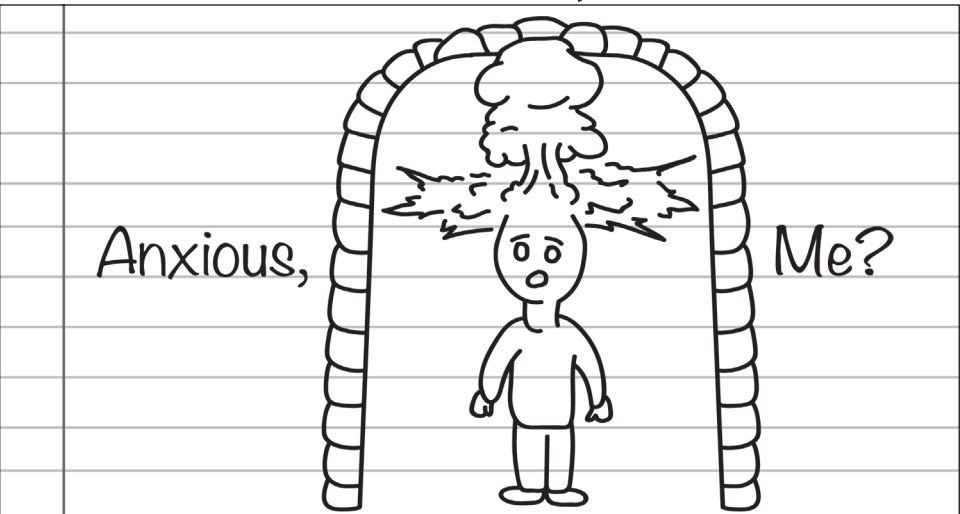
“This is an organization that I think, that hopefully, we can maintain a relationship with the leaders that are emerging from the university who are really trying to make a difference in the Valley,” Sargent said. “RGV millennials might be a good place for graduates to go, where they can be around like-minded people, maintain a relationship with the university and have an opportunity to be leaders in the community and make a real difference.”

Sargent and other faculty help facilitate some of the events and social gatherings that are sponsored by RGV Millennials.

“I’m very excited about the RGV Millennials and the idea of people, recent graduates and young professionals taking an active role in the community,” he said. “It’s a win-win for us and exciting. So, we are here to do anything we can to help.”

The RGV Millennials is an open organization and does not charge dues. Students, graduates and young professionals are invited to participate and join. The group can be reached through its Facebook page at facebook.com/rgvmillennials.

Anxious, me?



MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Take a deep breath.

As college students we often find ourselves “stressed out” or having “anxiety attacks” in the midst of rushing through things to do, but what exactly is anxiety?

We consulted with Sandra Rubio, counseling specialist III at the Counseling Center, who provided information on the impact anxiety has on our bodies and how to manage it.

What is anxiety? Anxiety is the reaction of your body to a situation that is above and beyond of what you can cope with. “How you are feeling about the situation [under anxiety] is disproportional to what is actually happening.”

How does it affect our health? “For example, when you have an exam you are not 100 percent prepared but you’ve been successful in previous ones, but this one requires a little more studying. So, you have your ability and the knowledge but your mind might start saying, ‘You are not good enough. You don’t know this test.’... Since you are already under stress and the body tends to go to the negative and you can’t eat, sleep or concentrate, what started off as negative thinking that was only in your head now manifests physically, stomach hurts, sweat etc.”

How does it affect our development as college students? “Students will avoid feeling bad, so what they’ll do is stop attending class or if they’re in class they are feeling overwhelmed or anxious. So, they are not able to concentrate because their mind is thinking, ‘I don’t belong here. This is too difficult for me. I am not going to be able to handle this’ and so, instead of being open-minded and concentrating on the lecture, they

are fighting their own thoughts.”

What are some ways to prevent and manage it? Challenge the negative thinking. Reflect on why are you feeling a certain way. Replace it with a positive aspect of the situation and focus on it. “Being a student is body, mind and soul.”

Mind: You have to have a clear and open mind, positive thoughts, affirmations and people who support you along the way. **Body:** Eat well. Sleep well. Be drug, trauma and drama free. **Spirit** (not necessarily religion): Have time to relax, regroup and get the negativity out. Seek help when you get to the point where it is conflicting with your day. “Sometimes it’s just a matter of someone giving you a different perspective.” Family, friends, counselors, mentors and professors are people who can help you look differently at the situation to help you do something about it.

What are some services UTRGV offers students and where can they find them? The Counseling Center offers individual counseling on both campuses to help students manage stress and time or if they are battling anxiety or depression. Outreach events and group workshops also are offered. In March, Rubio said, there will be stress management workshops before midterms. “On Tuesday, we have a social skills group where students learn about different topics.”

The Counseling Center in Brownsville is located in Cortez Hall 237 and in University Center 109 in Edinburg. For more information or to make an appointment, call 882-3896 in Brownsville or 665-2574 in Edinburg.

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

Members of the French Club at UTRGV include Vice President Berenice Sainz (front row, from left) and Sarai Madrigal. Back row: Fernanda Gonzalez, Recruiter Marisol Sánchez Cortez and Treasurer Mariana Arredondo.

Name: The French Club at UTRGV
Purpose: To help students studying French to have a better understanding of the language and culture.
President: Sarai Madrigal
Vice President: Berenice Sainz
Secretary: Nydia Preciado
Treasurer: Mariana Arredondo
Adviser: Khalid Aada, lecturer in the Department of Literatures and Cultural Studies.
Activities: Practice conversation skills,

cooking, movies and volunteering.
Meetings: 9:30 a.m. Wednesdays and 11:30 a.m. Thursdays in the University Library on the Brownsville campus.
Membership Requirements: Must want to learn the French language and culture.
For more information, email Madrigal at: sarai.madrigal01@utrgv.edu or visit Facebook/the frenchclubUTRGV
--Compiled by Monica Gudiño

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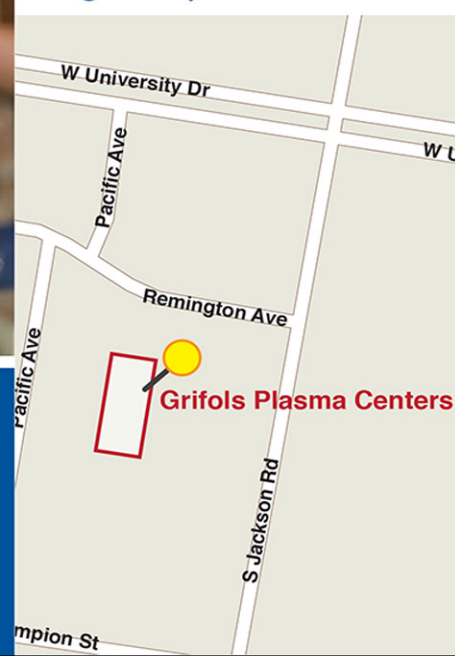
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Un cambio de estrategia

Reporte aboga por un reemplazo de la guerra contra las drogas

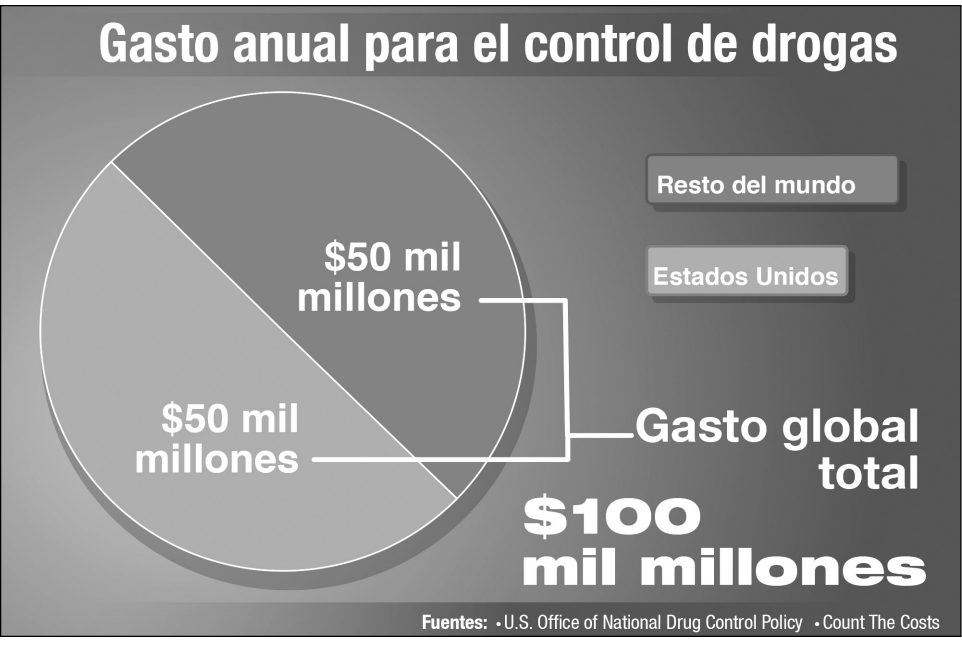
Felipe Zamorano
THE RIDER

Políticas de drogas enfocadas en erradicación y castigo deben de ser reemplazadas con unas centradas en desarrollo e integración política, económica y social, de acuerdo a un reporte por la Escuela de Economía y Ciencias Políticas de Londres.

“Después de las Guerras Contra las Drogas”, publicado el 15 de febrero, es una colaboración de más de 20 expertos en un gran rango de temas, incluyendo política de drogas, seguridad, tráfico y sistemas judiciales, quienes son parte del Grupo Experto en la Economía de Políticas de Droga de la escuela. Un grupo de firmantes, incluyendo a varios académicos, cinco galardonados con Premios Nobel y el presidente de Colombia José Manuel Santos, afirma que “la ‘guerra contra las drogas’ provocó que la comunidad internacional priorice políticas prohibicionistas ante el desarrollo sustentable a un terrible costo socioeconómico”.

De igual manera, ellos afirman que “el sistema regulatorio de drogas global debe cambiar a principios de desarrollo sustentable que incluye: salud pública, reducción de daño de consumo y suministro, acceso a medicinas esenciales y experimentación científica con regulación legal estricta”.

John Collins, director ejecutivo del Programa Internacional de Política de Drogas de LSE IDEAS, escribe en el reporte que la “guerra contra las drogas” y las políticas que esta sostiene han sido en gran parte desacreditadas. Él menciona que líderes alrededor del mundo, incluyendo a dos jefes de estados actualmente en funciones—el Presidente Santos y el Primer Ministro Canadiense Justin Trudeau—han rechazado el enfoque anterior y en su lugar favorecen unos nuevos basados en salud pública y políticas alternativas.



“En esta nueva era, la era post-‘guerra contra las drogas’”, escribe Collins, “esferas nacionales y locales sostienen cada vez más relevancia que aquellas internacionales en determinar las selecciones de políticas y resultados”.

En su lugar, el reporte sugiere, las actuales políticas prohibicionistas de drogas deben de ser reemplazadas por unas que se alineen con las Metas de Desarrollo Sustentable de las Naciones Unidas, abordan el problema de drogas como un problema de salud pública en lugar de una criminal, enfoquen en reducir el daño causado en lugar de ignorarlo y participen en políticas de experimentación social científica

140,860
Individuos arrestados en México por uso de drogas entre el 2009 y 2014.

164,345
Personas asesinadas en México entre el 2007 y 2014.

Fuentes: Instituto Nacional de Estadística y Geografía (INEGI), Procuraduría General de la República (PGR)

MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHICS

altamente regulada.

Las 17 metas de Desarrollo Sustentable de la ONU, a pesar de no estar directamente destinadas a hacerle frente al problema de las drogas, priorizan el desarrollo sustentable y la integración política.

“Desde los 80s... la gente ha regularmente expuesto la necesidad de acabar la guerra contra las drogas como existe, y aun así continúa”, dijo Kenneth Cowle, un profesor de justicia criminal de UTRGV. “Esto claramente no es algo nuevo... una iniciativa [internacional] puede serlo, pero la idea de que necesitamos de alguna manera cambiar nuestro abordaje a las drogas ha existido casi toda mi vida”.

Los Estados Unidos y México han sido dos de los países más prominentes en llevar a cabo la “guerra contra las drogas”

“Hay miles de personas que son detenidas”, dijo Pérez. “Todas las instituciones penales y recursos de las instituciones penales [se están utilizando para atender] un problema que es básicamente un problema de salud y desviando los recursos que podrían ser utilizados para funciones más relevantes”.

La credibilidad de aquellos encargados de hacer cumplir las leyes de drogas también es una preocupación.

“Lo que es importante ver es [que] las instituciones que implementan estas reglas, en el caso mexicano... no es la policía mexicana, es la policía de Iguala, [Guerrero] que desapareció a los 43 estudiantes [de la escuela Normal Rural de Ayotzinapa], es la policía de Veracruz que desapareció a los 5 jóvenes, es la policía de la Ciudad de México que es conocida por abusos y extorsiones y violaciones al debido proceso”.

Adicionalmente Pérez dijo que debido a la ineficiencia de las instituciones penales en países latinoamericanos, incluyendo a México, los consumidores están desproporcionadamente en la mira.

“La respuesta fácil es para ellos detener a consumidores que es muy fácil ubicarlos”, ella dijo. “Es muy fácil comprobarles que tuvieron, las pruebas necesarias para procesarlos, pero es muy poco productivo en términos sociales, es muy poco provechoso”.

La “guerra contra las drogas” ha llegado a un gran costo para los Estados Unidos también.

La Oficina de Política Nacional de Control de Drogas estima que el país gasta alrededor de \$50 mil millones anualmente en control de drogas. Esta cantidad, parte de presupuestos estatales y federales, es la mitad de los \$100 mil millones gastados anualmente alrededor del mundo estimados por Count the Costs, una colaboración entre varias organizaciones no gubernamentales que estima el costo de la ‘guerra contra las drogas’.

“Hay muy buena evidencia que en E.U.U.A. ... que toda la ‘guerra contra las

drogas’ ha incrementado ... problemas de salud pública, y no ha resuelto una sola cosa”, dijo Amy Hay, una profesora de historia en UTRGV.

Hay dijo que la estrategia, de hecho, causa tremendos problemas. Los usuarios de drogas son tratados como criminales primero y como personas con adicciones médicas después.

“La actual ‘guerra contra las drogas’ no busca el tratamiento, busca el castigo”, ella dijo.

Adicionalmente, Michael Shiner, director asistente del Centro de Criminología Mannheim en la Escuela de Economía de Londres y contribuidor a “Después de las Guerras contra las Drogas”, escribe que a pesar de que se cree que la aplicación pesada de leyes puede incrementar los precios de las drogas, funcionando como un tipo de impuesto, no hay casos claros en los que arrestos a gran escala interrumpieron mercados o que incautaciones a gran escala incrementaron los precios del mercado.

“Actualmente el éxito de la política se mide con qué tantas incautaciones, qué tantas detenciones, qué tantas erradicaciones de los cultivos hay”, dijo Pérez. “La necesidad es medir de otra forma el éxito o fracaso de la política de drogas”.

Aún cuando las esperanzas son altas y el progreso está en marcha, un cambio puede no estar tan cerca como la mayoría querría.

“Desde el final de la administración de [Richard] Nixon y entrando a la administración de [Jimmy] Carter, todos han esencialmente estado diciendo que la ‘guerra contra las drogas’ es un fracaso, pero esto es entre gobiernos”, dijo Cowle. “Se toma para siempre para darle la vuelta”.

Aún cuando Cowle prevé un cambio incremental, no ve necesariamente uno completo.

“No puedo imaginar que cambiarían eso radicalmente, simplemente no es la manera en la que las políticas públicas suelen funcionar”, él dijo.

Para la version en inglés, visita www.utrgvrider.com

Righting the ship

Women’s basketball wants to return to winning ways

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

Five wins in five conference games feels like a long time ago for UTRGV women’s basketball. The five-game streak to start conference play raised some eyebrows around the Western Athletic Conference.

Now, Head Coach Larry Tidwell’s team is trying to play itself out of a funk that has seen its record drop to 7-4 (as of press time Friday).

Injuries have plagued the Vaqueros this season, with first-year players who have been contributing going down to extended periods. Freshman Bernesha Peters missed a few games, as did junior-transfer students Anushka Maldonado and Mary Savoy. Savoy was averaging 10.5 points per game and has been out of action since December for UTRGV.

The team has been giving a multitude of areas to find excuses, but Tidwell is not about to allow his team to use any.

“I’m not making excuses, I’ve got to do a better job,” the veteran coach said. “It’s all about coaching when we get down to those [close] games. I’ve got to coach smarter. I’ve got to coach quicker, and I need to get more effort in the second half. So you can just put this on Coach Tidwell.”

During the second half of the WAC regular season, the Vaqueros have dropped games to Utah Valley and Missouri-Kansas City, two teams they earned wins against in round one of WAC.

Despite the recent slide in results, the Vaqueros are still among the top WAC teams.

“We’re still in second, as bad as we’ve spiraled. [If] we win two on the road, we’re right back at it. If we take care of business the next three games, we’re going to end up second and we go into the tournament as the No. 2 seed,” Tidwell said.

Two regular season games remain for UTRGV. One against the worst team in the conference, Chicago State at home. The other against the best team in the WAC on the road. It provides stiff contrast but the team may be able to use that to its advantage with the WAC tournament looming after the New Mexico State season finale.

The head coach still found many players who were worthy of praise as



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Head Coach Larry Tidwell and Assistant Coach Gabe Henry walk off the court during halftime of the 57-68 home loss against New Mexico State on Jan. 30.

they played through the tough stretch.

“Shawnte’ [Goff] is a competitor, Anushka [Maldonado] is a competitor, Rickell Preston is playing at a high level,” Tidwell said, starting to list before summing up. “I’ve got a really good nucleus. If we can get healthy and get everybody put together, I think we’ll be OK.”

Anushka Maldonado is a player that Tidwell has counted on down the stretch of conference play. The junior, who transferred from Odessa College, has been playing major minutes and has stepped into a big role. She currently averages 27.3 minutes and 9.8 points per games, along with 6.5 rebounds a game in her 23 appearances.

The forward insists that hard work is the only way to remedy a losing streak.

“[We need to] just forget about the last games, focus on what we need to improve, which starts at practice. [We need to] work on the things we need to do,” the 6-foot-1-inch Maldonado said. “We watch film to see what we did wrong

and start from there.”

She feels that a 5-0 start like the one the team started with creates a target on their back that is a byproduct of success.

“It’s natural instinct to feel that way for a team that started out 5 and 0,” Maldonado said. “Potentially, that’s what their attitude was. Every team should just come out ready to play, regardless.”

Maldonado was only looking toward the future during practice last week.

“Before we lose our second place we need to step it up,” said Maldonado, a Roy, Wash., native. “We just need to figure out our weaknesses, build and go.”

The regular season is coming to a close. The last time RGV fans can see this team in home action will be this Saturday when Chicago State visits UTRGV.

The Western Athletic Conference tournament quarterfinals start March 9 at Orleans Arena in Las Vegas. The Vaqueros hope to reach the tournament finals for the second year in a row, which will take place March 12 and be televised on ESPN.



Idil Türk (from left), Angela Villarreal, Laura Van Tilburg, Michelle Mercelita and Sica Cuzic watch the action from the bench against New Mexico State. The Jan. 30 loss was the second in a stretch that saw UTRGV lose four out of five.

Coach of the Week



COURTESY PHOTO

Name: Brett Bernstein

Sport: Tennis

Title: Head coach

What’s your favorite part about coaching? “Well, you get to be outside all day and you get to work with young men, shaping character. Being an alumni I feel relatable in that sense and kinda preparing these guys for a life outside of college, as well, on and off the court.”

What was your biggest adjustment going from athlete to coach? “Well, can’t be these guys friends all the time, you kinda gotta play the bad guy role from time to time, which is not always easy to do, especially when you are relatable to these guys, but you have to step up and fill the role the guys need from time to time.”

What’s your favorite thing about life in the Valley? “Life is easy in the Valley, we got Moonbeans coffee, Luciano’s, H-E-B and Whataburger. You can’t beat that. I’m usually in the office or on court or getting something to eat.”

What’s your favorite place close to campus? “Probably Luciano’s, but I’ve been trying some other stuff. Chopstix is pretty good. There’s this place called Snowbite that’s right by [University] Drafthouse. I’m expanding my horizons.”

Where would you go on your dream vacation? “Actually, this past summer I did, France. I thought France was really cool. Paris, I like the people there. Lifestyle is easy. I’d probably want to go back to France.”

What is the best advice you have received? “Probably from my dad, who was a college player. Probably the biggest thing he told us, ‘Play fearless.’ I think me and my brother really took that to heart when we played here and we played against a lot of the bigger schools and we did well against them. Really weren’t intimidated by what they brought to the table.”

Who is your favorite artist? “All-time favorite is Third Eye Blind. As for artist, probably Bruce Springsteen. I grew up listening with my dad, so it just rubbed off on me.”

--Compiled By Nathaniel Mata



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LECTURER

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

emergency check.

“On the fourth time the Provost approved it, but would not grant me my emergency check until some question were answered why I wanted to get an emergency check. ... It is not welfare, I am entitled to this money since I have worked for it,” Sandoval wrote in the email.

The provost said Walter Diaz, dean of the College of Liberal Arts, is “handling this situation.”

“Emergency checks are typically designed to make sure that a person,

and it could be a student, it could be a staff member, it could be a faculty member, a check is automated outside the normal payroll cycle because there was an issue that there was a mistake, someone did not submit the paperwork, there was some major mistake along the way that we decide that, yes, this merits an emergency paycheck and then it gets processed,” Rodríguez said.

Diaz was unavailable for comment.

“We have university processes,” Rodríguez said. “If a faculty member has an issue or a concern about pay, salary or whatever issue they may have, all faculty members know there is a process. You go to your department chair and

address your issue with the department chair. If the issue is not resolved to your satisfaction, then you can go to the dean of the college and if the dean doesn’t resolve it to your satisfaction, you can always come to the provost to address this situation, either by email or letter or by phone.”

The Rider tried to contact Sandoval for comment on the issue but as of press time Thursday, she had not returned calls or emails.

Asked what message he had for the students concerned about the issue, Rodríguez replied: “We as the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley care very profoundly about their education at our

institution. We take steps every day to ensure that they get the best education possible. They should not be concerned about the situation. Their classes are not going to be canceled. Their degrees are not going to be impacted by this or any other similar situation.”

Lozano said the university should inform its employees when they are getting paid.

“If they’re not going to be able to afford another professor to teach the Thursday class, they should have informed the professor beforehand rather than having her teach a class in hopes of her getting paid than not getting paid at all,” he said.

CHARRO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

visit the campus during the *Charreada*, which is scheduled from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Cantoral is a star of *telenovelas*, or soap operas, such as “*Amores con trampa*” (2015) and “*Hasta que el dinero nos separe*” (2009).

Reyes said the university will recognize Cantoral and give her a bouquet of flowers, framed poster of Charro Days signed by the artist and a UTRGV bag with memorabilia.

Santa Estrella, co-director of and dancer for Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán de UTRGV, was chosen to be the model for the official poster created by local artist Don Breeden for the 79th annual Charro Days Fiesta that takes place throughout

Brownsville.

“I was very excited,” Estrella said. “I feel it’s a big honor just to have been selected for it. ... I’ve been doing it for the last 17 years and I just feel that just being part of Charro Days is a big accomplishment, it’s a big thing, but being on the poster is just the cherry on the icing.”

In 1937, “local business leaders searched for an antidote to the gloom that engulfed Brownsville during the Great Depression,” according to the Charro Days Fiesta website.

“In 1938, they actually started the first parade and this fiesta we call Charro Days,” said Eduardo “E. J.” Martinez, president of the Charro Days Fiesta organization. “They did it mainly to raise the spirits of the community and they did it with Matamoros, our sister city across

[the border].”

Celebrations kicked off Sunday with *Baile Del Sol*, a street dance at the festival’s headquarters on Elizabeth Street in downtown Brownsville.

Tonight, the Brownsville Independent School District will host Fiesta Folklorica, where students will perform dances from Mexico at 6 p.m in Sams Memorial Stadium.

Hands Across the Border will start at 10 a.m. Thursday at the Gateway International Bridge. In this ceremony the mayors of Brownsville and Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, meet and exchange gifts.

That same day, following the *Charreada* at UTRGV, BISD will host its Children’s Charro Days parade at 2:30 p.m. on East Elizabeth Street.

Noche Mexicana will feature a dinner, folklórico dancers and Mariachi 7 Leguas with a special appearance by Mr. Amigo from 6 to 11 p.m. in the Amigoland Convention Center. Admission is \$25 per person.

A float representing UTRGV will be featured in two parades, the Illuminated Night parade, at 7 p.m. Friday, and the Grand International Parade, at 12:30 p.m. Saturday, both on East Elizabeth Street. The official parade marshal will be Secretary of State Carlos Cascos, who is a former Cameron County judge.

Reyes said the Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán will be on the float, which will feature a big boot, spur and charro hat.

For more information and to purchase tickets to the special events, visit the Charro Days Fiesta main office at 455 E. Elizabeth St.

FIESTA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

and Costello at 8:30 p.m. Country singer Easton Corbin performs at 10 p.m.

Between 10,000 and 15,000 people are expected to attend the four-day celebration.

“We’re expecting a higher end of that since we have entertainment days on

both Friday and Saturday,” Larralde said. “Two-time Grammy-winning Grupo Solido will be performing on Friday and national country artist, Easton Corbin, will be performing on Saturday.”

Patricio Mendoza, a management senior, said this will be his first time attending.

“I didn’t know about this event before until this year, so it’ll be my first time

going,” Mendoza said. “I’ll be going with some friends and I’m excited about it. I am looking forward to it and to see the performers.”

Clarissa Muñoz, a marketing and management junior, said she would like to attend.

“I probably will let a few friends know and my sister, too, that there will be a carnival for my nieces,” Muñoz said. “I’m

not from Edinburg, so I don’t know the history on the city but it’s good that they hold this celebration annually so it isn’t forgotten.”

Admission to the festival is \$10 Friday and \$15 Saturday. Admission for children 12 and younger is \$5. Carnival admission is \$10. For more information, call the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce at 383-4974 or visit www.edinburg.com.

HISTORY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

be thankful for the life he’s living.

“I take Black History Month as not so much of a celebration, but a time to think about how privileged I am as an African American to be where I am today,” the double major in biology pre-med and psychology said. “Having ancestors who were slaves and then being able to just be in a situation where I can get an education [and] have the opportunity to be what I want to be in life ... I just take the month

as a month of appreciation. [I’m] paying respect to those that worked so hard and went through so much before me just to allow me to have the life that I have now.”

While the majority of people, including Brown, take the time to appreciate and reflect on black history, UTRGV junior Omar Coronado believes that history belonging to any racial minority should not be compressed to a single month.

“I think it was a nice idea at first when it started as Negro History [Week], but I don’t like it now,” the double major in art and psychology said. “Black History Month is just a highlight reel

of all the major players. Even when I’m [prompted] to divide it as Black History, it should just be American history. Everyone should be included.”

Throughout grade school, American children have been taught the aggressive actions taken between the 15th and 19th centuries to transport slaves. However, in 2015, a McGraw-Hill World Geography textbook referred to these slaves as “workers” and “immigrants.” Coronado hopes that once the Black Lives Matter movement finds its way into black history, that it won’t be watered down as well.

“[They’ll be] saying something like the ‘very aggressive’ or ‘powerful Black Lives Matter movement took over American politics,’” Coronado said. “But I hope not. I think that with the way things are now--the country’s way more progressive--I don’t think [Black Lives Matter] will be painted that way. ... I just think a lot of it [came] from white conservatives not wanting to admit that there was ever a problem with race in this country, so they wouldn’t let proper history be taught. By default, American history is white history.”

VOTING

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

reflected on why people don’t vote and points out the importance of early voting.

“Obviously, like the stigma says, that if you vote it doesn’t really matter,” Garza said. “I think that is what a lot people think though. But no matter how little a vote seems to you, it does really matter in the big picture and you are still getting your voice out there.”

He said people complain about what

is going on with education and taxes but don’t do anything about it.

“So, coming out here to vote really shows that we are trying to do something,” Garza said.

The university will not be a polling site on March 1.

For more information on early voting, visit votetexas.gov.

For information on early voting in Hidalgo county, visit <https://tx-hidalgocounty.civicplus.com/index.aspx?nid=105> or call (956) 318-2576.

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Performing near you

‘Jordan Belfort’ artists Wes Walker and Dyl coming to Louie’s Backyard

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

Wes Walker and Dyl, whose viral hit “Jordan Belfort” was Spotify’s No. 1 college song in 2015, are coming to South Padre Island next month.

Jordan Belfort is a former stockbroker whose rise and fall was the subject of the award-winning movie, “The Wolf of Wall Street.” He is now an author and motivational speaker.

“It was kind of a play in the Jordan Belfort lifestyle. We thought that was kind of just a funny concept,” Dyl said by telephone last Thursday from New York City. “We thought it merged well with the college market. It was a good vibe for a song and something that was worth making a song about.”

The song was originally released on SoundCloud more than two years ago but was remastered over the summer in a music studio.

Walker, 20, and Dyl, 21, are from Philadelphia and met in sixth grade. Walker attended Temple University in Philadelphia while Dyl went to Tulane University in New Orleans. Both decided to drop out of college to pursue music careers.



COURTESY PHOTO

Wes Walker (left) and Dyl

“Me and Dyl used to run an entertainment company,” said Walker, a DJ, rap artist and entrepreneur. “We would do bar mitzvahs, weddings, proms, high school dances and stuff, and that really geared us for the entertainment world.”

Both artists never thought the song would become a hit.

“Jordan Belfort” has sold more than 250,000 singles, peaking at No.29 on the iTunes Pop chart, and received more than 33.3 million plays on SoundCloud and YouTube, according to an email from

Nicole Massaro, who handles publicity for ADA, a Warner Music Group company.

“Thinking back on the overall picture of what happened, it seems like so much has happened so quickly,” Walker said. “I would say that we just saw it happening and slowly took the steps that we saw we needed to take, to take it to the next level.”

After the popularity of “Jordan Belfort,” they soon landed a deal with Atlantic Records, a major American record label based in New York City.

“Hopefully, we’ll continue touring,” Walker said. “We’ll be able to get our new music out there and start to really grow our following.”

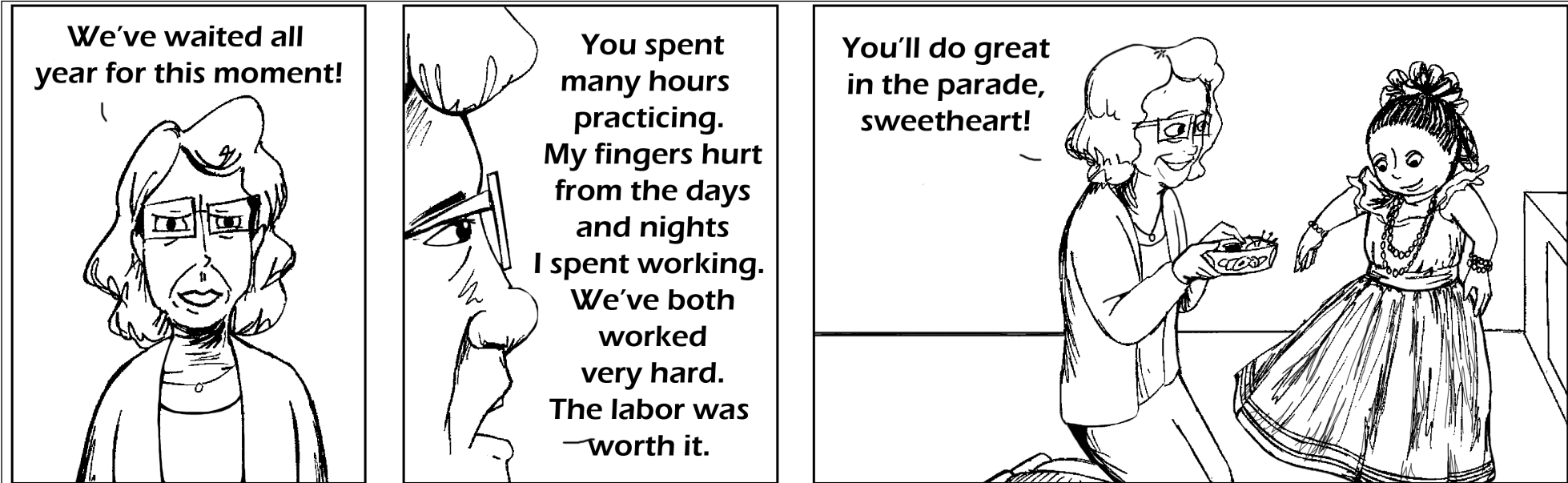
The rap artists will perform March 9, 14 and 21 at Louie’s Backyard on South Padre Island. On March 15, they will be at South by Southwest (SXSW) in Austin.

“I think that South Padre Island is going to be really fun,” Dyl said. “We will be there to party with everyone, you know. We don’t come to our shows and just party by ourselves, we like to party with all of our fans.”

For more information about the artists, visit their websites, weswalker.dj and itslit.org.

VALLEY TOONS

By Clarissa Martinez



Bank donates \$1 million



MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER

UTRGV Vice President for Advancement Kelly Cronin (from left), UTRGV President Guy Bailey, U.S. Rep Filemon Vela (D-Texas) and PlainsCapital Bank Chairman Alan White pose for a photo after announcing the bank’s gift of \$1 million to the university. The event was held last Friday in the Student Union’s Gran Salón in Brownsville.



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

UTRGV President Guy Bailey talks about his friendship with PlainsCapital Bank Chairman Alan White during a ceremony last Thursday in the PlainsCapital Bank Theater on the Edinburg campus.

Active Vaqueros



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Seth Jackson, a chemistry and business sophomore, exercises with a kettlebell during the Vaquero Olympics obstacle course last Tuesday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. The event was part of UTRGV's Homecoming Week festivities.

Double dash!



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Film junior Richard Garza and sociology junior Jason Alce take a ride on an oversized tricycle at the Homecoming Tip-Off celebration Feb. 15 on the Chapel lawn in Edinburg. The Student Union provided snacks, live music by the UTRGV Pep Band and other activities for students to enjoy.

Going for the gold



GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER

Biology junior Kuzy Zarzosa kicks soccer balls toward targets with varying points marked on them last Wednesday at the UREC's Vaquero Olympics in Edinburg.

Eat, sleep, hurdle!



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Yessica Alonso, a nursing junior, jumps a hurdle while she competes in the Vaquero Olympics obstacle course last Tuesday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. Jameli Echiveste, a University Recreation Center staff member, times Alonso.

Tied up in color



ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER

Biology freshman Estefania Hernandez decorates a shirt during the Tie Dye T-Shirts event hosted by the Campus Programming Board last Thursday on the Student Union lawn in Brownsville. The event was part of UTRGV's Homecoming Week festivities.

Midday snack



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Students and staff enjoy Frito pies, hot Cheetos and cheese Feb. 15 at the Homecoming Tip-Off party on the Chapel lawn in Edinburg. The UTRGV Pep Band performed and students enjoyed activities such as shooting a basket and riding a tricycle. The event was sponsored by the Student Union.