

Ready to carry

UTRGV prepares for new law, plans to hire more police

Ena Capucion
NEWS EDITOR

Senate Bill 11, the campus carry gun law, will take effect Aug. 1 across all higher education institutions in Texas.

Campus carry differs from Senate Bill 17, or open carry, which allows concealed handgun license (CHL) owners to carry their gun on a shoulder or belt holster. Under campus carry, handguns must remain concealed.

University Police will make additional hires by the time the fall semester begins, said Ben Reyna, Security and Campus Affairs associate vice president. Reyna said there will be training for campus police regarding situations that may occur involving campus carry. There are also protocols in place to handle incidents such as a shootout or any other threat and have been in place prior to campus carry.

“The issue of addressing the matters [that] relates to handguns or any other weapons is a constant area of training [for] police officers,” he said. “[Training] will be consistent with the policy and the applicable laws that relates to CHL holders who now exercise



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARIO GONZALEZ/ THE RIDER

the right ... to carry concealed handguns on university campuses.”

The associate vice president, who is a former director of the U.S. Marshals Service and Brownsville Police chief, said anyone with any type of concern

regarding campus carry should call the police department.

“The officers will always try to have a higher presence,” Reyna said. “Our police operations are always being adapted to the constant changing dynamics of our campus environment.

Every day is a different day on our campus. Some days we have more events than others and it’s always our goal to ensure that we have a higher presence and are on the campus to provide the necessary response. But I think having that information out

there is very, very important.” UTRGV President Guy Bailey said he does not see campus carry having any effect on the campus.

“The one thing that we can reassure everybody is if you simply look at what’s happened where campus carry is legal--like in Colorado--there are no problems at all and it’s really ceased to be an issue at all, that’s the first thing,” Bailey said. “And the second thing is that [people] deal with it every day off campus.”

Across the Rio Grande Valley, there are signs at entrances to restaurants and stores stating that guns are not allowed on the premises. UTRGV will also be posting signs across campus in areas where guns are not allowed when the law takes effect Aug. 1. Some of these areas include child-care facilities, laboratories, places for religious worship and polling areas.

“We have exclusion zones and they [state] the specific rooms,” Reyna said. “They are being defined and this will be added as a supplement to our policy. ... One of the things that we do want to encourage is that anybody should contact campus

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Fight for reproductive justice continues

Marissa Rodriguez
THE RIDER

On a hot Thursday afternoon in late June, around 100 people gathered behind Whole Woman’s Health of McAllen to celebrate the death of House Bill 2, the restrictive Texas abortion law that effectively shut down every abortion clinic in South Texas.

With purple bandannas wrapped around their heads and wrists, the pro-choice supporters listened to community leaders speak out on the trials they have faced on the reproductive justice front and what is in store for the future.

“Providing access to women of the Valley does not come without

a lot of trouble,” said Kristeena Banda, the McAllen Whole Woman’s Health administrator. “Without the people fighting

“Without the people fighting to get women access and to be able to access care, we wouldn’t be here. The fight will continue but, ‘*Si se pudo.*’”

Kristeena Banda

Whole Woman’s Health of McAllen administrator

to get women access and to be able to access care, we wouldn’t be here. The fight will continue but, ‘*Si se pudo.*’”

Since 2013, the site on South

Main Street has been the only clinic offering abortion care for Deep South Texas women, with the next closest location being in San Antonio. The site only remained open due to an exemption made in 2015 by the 5th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, which ruled that closing the clinic would be too harmful to women in need.

On June 27, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down HB2, which was passed in 2013 and required all clinics to maintain the standards

of a surgical center, placed new prohibitions on medically induced abortions and abortion past 20 weeks of fertilization.

In response to the SCOTUS



LESLEY ROBLES/ THE RIDER PHOTOS

Lucy Ceballos Félix, a senior field coordinator for Texas Latina Advocacy, speaks for women’s health June 27, after the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the Texas anti-abortion law.

decision to strike down HB2, Texas Gov. Greg Abbott said it was a move that will prove harmful to both fetuses and women.

“The decision erodes States’ lawmaking authority to safeguard the health and safety of women and subjects

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Rider is the official, award-winning 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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Game-A-Palooza

The Student Union invites students to **Game-A-Palooza** from noon to 2 p.m. July 21 in the Student Union's La Sala on the Brownsville campus and Aug. 10 in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Free Vision Clinic

Members of the **Baptist Student Ministry** at UTRGV will provide a **Free Vision Clinic for Kids K-12** for the Brownsville community from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. July 26 in Tejas Mobile Home PIB Mexicana, 409 Morningside Rd.; July 27 in Trinity Baptist Church, 505 Old Alice Rd.; and July 28 in El Buen Pastor, 260 McKenzie. For more information or to pre-register, call 320-6545.

Game Room tournaments

A **Billiards Tournament** will take place July 21, a **Texas Hold' em Poker Tournament** July 28 and an **Air Hockey Tournament** Aug. 4 in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. The tournaments will take place from noon to 2 p.m. For more information, call 665-7989.

National Watermelon Day

Free watermelon will be served to students from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Aug. 3 in the Main Building's Courtyard on the Brownsville

campus and in the East Patio on the Edinburg campus. At the same time, the **third annual Watermelon Seed Spitting Contest** will take place. V Bucks will be awarded. For more information, call 665-7989.

National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day
 Free chocolate chip cookies will be served to students in honor of **National Chocolate Chip Cookie Day** from noon to 2 p.m. Aug. 4 on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Business Summit

First lady of Texas **Cecilia Abbott** and strategic partnership expert **Barbara Harrington** will speak at the **RGV Nonprofit Business Summit**, which will take place from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Aug. 9 in the Region One Education Service Center in Edinburg, 1900 W. Schunior St. The summit is part of the **Texas Nonprofit Summit Series**. Registration is \$25 for students and \$85 for nonprofit and business leaders. To register, go to www.texasnonprofitsummit.org. For more information, call 665-3361.

Research Institute

Explore the possibilities of **undergraduate research** and learn how to get started with **interdisciplinary research** from 9 a.m.

to 1 p.m. Aug. 23 in STAC 1.112A on the Edinburg campus and from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Main Building 2.236 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-3461.

Business Without Borders

A dinner and discussion with **Antonio O. Garza**, former U.S. ambassador to Mexico, and moderated by the Texas Tribune CEO and Editor-in-Chief **Evan Smith** will take place from 6:30 to 8 p.m. Aug. 25 in the Brownsville Events Center, 1 Events Center Blvd. For more information, call 542-4341.

Volunteers Needed

The **Positive Community Impact Coalition**, a nonprofit organization serving 19 counties by bringing new projects with evidence-based information for intervention, prevention and treatment of substance abuse, invites students on the Brownsville campus to bring their best ideas for a public service announcement. The best idea chosen will be filmed for a commercial that will be presented on television and in local movie theaters. For more information, call **Alexandra Ybarra**, PCI coalition coordinator, at 624-7144 or 423-0018, Ext. 11.
 --Compiled by Monica Gudiño



POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between June 6 and July 11.

June 6

8:31 a.m.: University Police found two students engaging in sexual activity in a vehicle parked in a "no parking" zone near the Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus. The car's windshield and two front windows were blocked with shades. The incident was referred to the Dean of Students office.

June 11

9:30 a.m.: A student reported that at 11:02 a.m. June 10 he and his girlfriend were walking on a trail when they were approached by a male student who was a suspect in an assault which occurred in May 2016. The suspect reportedly attempted to touch the woman's arm and spoke to the boyfriend in a provocative manner, trying to get him to fight. The boyfriend pretended to call the police, not wanting to spend time looking for the phone number, and the suspect left. The couple left the area in a vehicle. The suspect was contacted by phone and reminded that Student Rights and Responsibilities had already told him to stay away from the girl's boyfriend. He then acknowledged he had already been told that and stated that he understood. The incident was referred to the Dean of Students office.

June 13

2:34 p.m.: A staff member reported

that a man was viewing pornographic websites on a library computer on the Harlingen campus. An officer issued the man a written criminal trespass warning for all UTRGV properties and escorted him off of the campus.

June 29

8:24 p.m.: A student reported being followed to campus by a non-affiliated male, with whom she was briefly involved in a relationship. The man had been going by her home, and made numerous phone calls to her phone by using a phone application to disguise his number. She said she filed a harassment report with the police department in her hometown. The man followed her from her residence to campus on June 29 and after she arrived to Lot K2, the man entered her vehicle as soon as she parked. He wanted to discuss their past relationship. While in the vehicle he grabbed her wrist and she pulled away from him but he grabbed her wrist again, holding it tighter, but she was able to break loose. The man left the area before the officer arrived. The suspect was arrested July 1 by University Police on a charge of felony stalking. He was also served with an emergency protective order and issued a criminal trespass order for UTRGV properties.

10:05 p.m.: A student reported several instances of what she felt was odd behavior on the part of construction workers at a site on the Edinburg campus. She also reported that she felt as though she was being watched and followed by different unidentified Hispanic males on and off campus throughout June. She provided a written statement but none of the reported behavior was found to be to the level of a criminal offense at the time.

July 11

9:40 p.m.: While on patrol, an officer observed an unattended white SUV with its ignition on parked along the curb of Jackson Street. Upon investigating, the officer saw a man emerge from the Casa Bella student housing complex. The man said he was the owner of the vehicle and was looking for a male student whom he had met at Lincoln Park while exercising. He then told the officer the student told him he could visit him at his apartment whenever he needed something. However, the subject said he did not remember the male student's name and was unable to identify the number of the apartment the student lived in. He was issued a written criminal trespass warning.
 --Compiled by Andrea Torres

RULING

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more innocent life to being lost," Abbott said in the statement published on the Office of the Governor website.

The fight to maintain women's choice has already started again. On July 1, Texas Health and Human Services Commission published a proposed rule in the Texas Register that would require abortion clinics to provide cremation or burial services for fetal remains, at the expense of women.

Abbott's office supports the new rule and hopes that it will be passed into state law. The governor's office could not be reached for comment by *The Rider* despite numerous phone calls.

Sadie Hernandez, who helped moderate the event outside Whole Woman's Health, disagrees with Abbott. She is known for #IStandWithSadie, a nationally trending hashtag in 2014, when Planned Parenthood funding was reduced and it could no longer afford to offer breast cancer screenings. She now works as a public affairs intern with Planned Parenthood Texas.

"These men will do anything they can to take away choice from women," the Brownsville native said. "They further restrict access to abortion by making women pay for funeral services that people can't normally afford when an elderly

person or adult dies. I'm not surprised and I don't think it will be passed."

Since the HB2 ruling, the high court has shut down similar laws in Florida, Wisconsin and Alabama.

According to the Department of State Health Services website, residents can submit comments on the burial service proposal within the first 30 days of its publication. The spokesman for the Texas Health Commission announced that the final decision on the proposed rule will happen in September.

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Grandmasters in the making

UTRGV Chess Summer Camp 2016 starts today

Monica Gudiño
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Chess Team will host its first summer camp from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. today through Friday at Episcopal Day School, located at 34 N. Coria St. in Brownsville.

The lessons are divided into beginners, intermediate and advanced. Throughout the week, students will learn the pieces of chess, how they move and the rules of the game before advancing to the next level.

Students practice between the lessons and a tournament is scheduled for the last day of the camp, so they can experience what a real tournament is like, said Alfonso Almeida, chess senior program coordinator.

Almeida will be an instructor in the summer camp along with UTRGV students and alumni, who are recognized nationwide due to their victories in championships, their latest being the 2016 President's Cup, in which they placed second.

"Basically, they are going to be taking over 12 lessons for the camp and it's really amazing. I mean, the way these kids learn chess because like in a regular basis, we visit schools like once a week and their understanding is not as good as in the chess summer camp," Almeida



COURTESY PHOTO

Students play against each other during the tournament that is set up for the last day of the chess summer camp so that students can know what a real chess tournament is like.

said. "They are exposed more to chess, the instructors, the game and it's also the interaction with all the other kids that's very helpful."

Some of the benefits of playing chess are higher-order thinking skills in mathematics, problem solving, decision-making and logic skills that have been

proved through research, according to Almeida.

Jeffrey Serna, a U.S. Chess Federation expert and UTRGV alumnus, will be one of the instructors of the summer camp for the second year in a row. He was an instructor at the chess summer camp at legacy institution UTB.

Serna said he feels a big sense of satisfaction when the students enjoy the game. Some students have a background knowledge of chess but the beginners are sometimes the ones that surprise them.

"Last year, I had a student who was a complete beginner and some of the kids kind of already knew how to play and by the end of the camp when the tournament was held," Serna said, "the kid, even though he missed the first round because he was late, he won every single game after that and he almost won the whole tournament."

Serna hopes that some of the children who attend the summer camp will want to continue playing chess after the camp is over.

The cost of the summer camp is \$250, siblings get 20 percent off. The last day to register and pay online is today. To pay online, go to webapps.utrgv.edu/it/em/

For more information, contact Almeida at 882-5761 or alfonso.almeida@utrgv.edu.

CARRY

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

police right away in the event that they see any type of weapon [in an exclusion zone], whether concealed or not."

To view the campus carry policy and exclusion zones, visit utrgv.edu/campuscarry.

The University of Texas System board of regents met last Wednesday to consider the campus carry plans of its institutions. The board approved the plans and made a change to UT Austin's policy, "striking the university's requirement that a concealed carry license holder who carries a semi-automatic handgun on campus must do so without a chambered round of ammunition," according to a news release.

Striking the requirement "was based on information from weapon safety experts who raised concerns that creating a scenario where people may need to unload their guns prior to entering a building on campus could lead to unsafe situations, such as an accidental discharge," the news release states.

As mentioned in the university's handbook of operations, concealed handguns are prohibited in dorms that have more than an occupancy of one and do not allow a resident to safely secure his or her handgun such as Unity

Hall, Heritage Hall or Troxell Hall in Edinburg. However, handguns are permitted in residential areas such as

training and tips for different scenarios. Police Chief Raul Munguia said his department will provide more trainings

everyone would stand a better chance to survive.

"[The training] is very good because I think if you have this in the back of your mind--if it happens, wherever it happens--it doesn't necessarily have to be on campus or in a classroom," she said. "A situation like this might arise any place, you know, in the community. By having the training, you have something to fall back on."

UTRGV junior Paola Rivas shares the same fears with Garcia-Caceres. Rivas finds it intimidating to be around people potentially carrying guns.

"It makes me really apprehensive and not as safe as it's supposed to be doing," the rehabilitation services major said. "I work at the mall and there's a sign that says, like, they're not allowing open carry. So, I see a lot of places that don't allow it. So I think it's really weird to have it in the first place when a lot of people obviously don't feel comfortable enough to have it. I'm not even allowed to have scissors at the cash register area because they can use them to hurt someone else."

To report suspicious activity, call University Police at 665-7151 on the Edinburg campus and at 882-8232 for the Brownsville and Harlingen campuses.

--*Jesus Sanchez, Michelle Espinoza, Monica Gudiño and Lesley Robles contributed to this report.*

“ The one thing that we can reassure everybody is if you simply look at what's happened where campus carry is legal--like in Colorado--there are no problems at all and it's really ceased to be an issue at all.

Guy Bailey
UTRGV President

the Casa Bella apartments in Brownsville and the Village Apartments in Edinburg, which allow space to secure a handgun in private rooms.

The policy was distributed via email and is posted on the university website.

UTRGV COMMUNITY

Teaching and Learning Lecturer Carmen Garcia-Caceres said with all of what has gone on in our nation, such as the Orlando nightclub and Dallas shootings, makes one very nervous. She finds herself being cautious when she goes to public events.

The university has been offering

in the fall.

"[The trainings] will be presented by one of our police officers," Munguia said. "A lot of it is PowerPoint but it's also discussion. ... We show clips from past shootings and possible responses and basically ... give them tools to buy a couple of minutes to give law enforcement an opportunity to get there. When you look at these active-shooter events, the vast majority of them, as soon as the officers arrive, it's ended very, very quickly."

Asked if she would feel safer if the university provided a mock shoot training, Garcia-Caceres replied that

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The best and worst of E3 2016

Nathaniel Mata
SPORTS EDITOR

Last month in Los Angeles, gaming media, developers and fans converged on the biggest stage gaming has every year, E3. The Electronic Entertainment Expo (E3) allows video game companies to share their latest projects, newest technology or upcoming features with the crowds of attendees. The entire video game community tunes in to see if their favorite companies or game franchises have news for them.

E3's biggest surprise

During Sony's news conference, we saw two familiar names come together in an unexpected way when Insomniac Games ("Ratchet & Clank, Sunset Overdrive") announced it will develop a PlayStation 4 Spider-Man game. The gameplay shown was short but the reaction of the crowd during the video was indicative of excited gamers.

The iconic superhero has had an interesting history in films and video games. Sony Pictures has owned the rights to Spider-Man since 1999. His appearance in Marvel's "Captain America: Civil War" is the first time he has returned to Marvel since before the turn of the millennium.

It's possible the video game, which will be a Sony PS4 exclusive, had something to do with Sony Pictures returning the web-slinging hero to Marvel.

Biggest disappointments

A game that dazzled and impressed at last year's Microsoft E3 conference, "Scalebound," was not as good-looking as it was first shown. The game that's coming exclusively to Xbox One sure has promise. The game's designer, Hideki Kamiya, has seen great success with games like "Bayonetta," "Devil May Cry," "Resident Evil." However, my hype for this game was taken down a few notches after seeing more gameplay. The fighting

and combat looks just "OK" and from a company that has made games where the combat was the best part of the title, it's a disappointment.

The boss battle shown looked kind of cool, but also kind of lacking. A lot was going on, but nothing that really changes the game or indicates that Kamiya's game is one of his best. Even though he is on record with *The Telegraph*, a UK outlet, calling it the "biggest game of his career."

Another issue I had with the game is how corny the writing is. It almost takes you out of the moment as the generic-looking character repeats things like "Let's do this!" the whole fight.

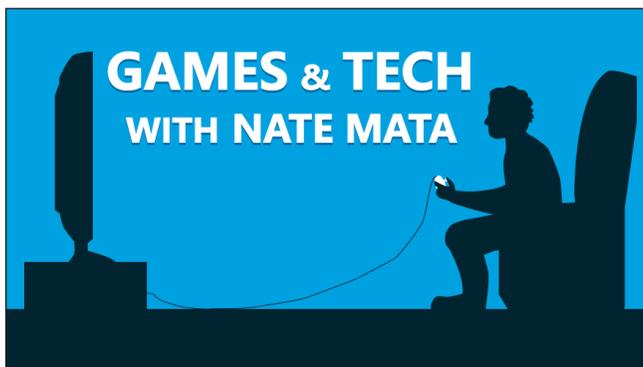
Japanese game developers have so much to offer to the landscape of gaming. I think Xbox is doing the right thing by trying to attract talented developers to bring ambitious games to the West. However, I think that "Scalebound" might be missing the mark a bit and might be a game to pick up in bargain bins.

Most anticipated

"Horizon: Zero Dawn" was back at E3 after dazzling crowds in 2015. The action-RPG, which features mechanical creatures that serve as wildlife, enemies and resources, got a healthy amount of gameplay. The demo available began to detail how the combat system would work. More was shown of the game's protagonist, Aloy, as she exited a safe zone and explored a nearby area. The

combat was not only fluid but the types of weapons you can craft to take down dangerous machines are awesome. The game was colorful, the world looked large.

Sony's first-party lineup has been weak, to put it kindly. The console has been selling well, but probably not because of



CLARISSA MARTINEZ/ THE RIDER GRAPHIC

the games exclusively on PlayStation. With games such as "Horizon: Zero Dawn," "Spider-Man" or "Days Gone," the console seems to be changing as it's getting

some excellent exclusives soon.

Trying to compare "Horizon" to something else is challenging because it combines elements of existing games while at the same time looking like a completely fresh concept. Imagine "Far Cry" with RPG mechanics like those in "The Witcher," and don't forget the mechanized enemies. Yeah, I think it might be beneficial to just play it.

Most likely to bomb

When you make a pair of well-received games in a row such as "Ico" and "Shadow of the Colossus," the pressure is definitely on. Team Ico, the development team behind those PS2 classics, has been quite a mystery for a while. Its first two games were re-released on the PS3 in HD but other than that, it has been nearly a

decade since it finished a game.

"The Last Guardian" is the name of the game that will finally, and I mean finally, get in the hands of gamers this fall. The studio and game have been at the center of delays and rumors for many years. There had been rumblings that the game had been completely scrapped and before it resurfaced again, it started to feel like the game would never come out.

Now it's only a few months away from its October release. At E3, a small amount of the game was shown during Sony's news conference and nothing to go crazy over. The game will probably be decent, maybe even good. However, with nearly 10 years of excitement surrounding the title, it may be a victim of its own vices and unless it's one of the games of the year, it might disappoint many who are wondering "What the hell happened with this game?"

Give us this game already!

Maybe this is just an extension of the most anticipated section but I wanted to talk about another game I really can't wait for and that is "Cuphead." This game has one of the coolest art styles I have seen. The animation is like a 1930s cartoon with beautiful colors and detailed scenery. The character and level design in this 2D platformer really blew me away the first time I saw it.

Every time new gameplay is shown from "Cuphead," it's usually a well-made boss battle. It's coming exclusively to Xbox and it really has a hit on its hands. Local cooperative gameplay is one of the selling points of the game and I think friends will have many hours of an amazing release ahead of them. This one can't come soon enough.

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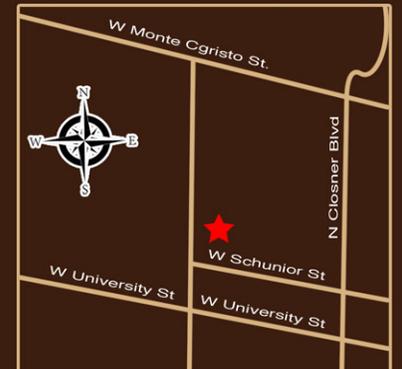
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Pokémon Go: It's super effective!

Mario Gonzalez
PHOTO EDITER

As you make your way to class, a wild Charmander has spawned right behind the Business Administration Building in Edinburg. At the same time in Brownsville, a group of students battle to take control of the Pokémon gym at the Biomedical Research Building.

Pokémon Go, the latest in the extensive list of Internet trends, is a location-based, augmented reality mobile game developed by Niantic.

At the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, like across the country, the sensation of the new Pokémon Go app has sparked an active trend among people of all ages.

Music education junior Justine Peña is a Pokémon Go player in Edinburg.

"It's fun. It's just real life. It's, like, out there you have to actually go get things," Peña said. "I never played Pokémon games until this, this was my first. It's really entertaining, especially if you're a fan."

The Brownsville and Edinburg campuses offer numerous Pokéstops, specific locations where players can receive items, eggs and experience points. The campuses are also the site of several Pokémon gyms, where players can battle for territorial dominance.

Once players reach Level 5, they can choose to join Team Instinct (yellow), Team Valor (red) or Team Mystic (blue).

Pokémon Go has made community members physically active as it encourages players to walk and explore their surroundings to catch Pokémon and hatch eggs. Hatching eggs will earn players more Pokémon.

At both campuses, groups of individuals can be seen walking around playing the game at different times throughout the day.

The University Police Department is aware of the game's popularity and the many Pokéstops on the campuses. Last Tuesday, the department tweeted safety tips for the campus community. They include:



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY MARIO GONZALEZ/ THE RIDER

- do not play while driving
- watch where you are walking at all times
- stop while you are catching a Pokémon
- do not play Pokémon Go in a secluded area
- be extra cautious when approached by strangers

Alfonso de la Fuente, a Brownsville Lopez Early College High School senior, said he enjoys playing the game at the university because of the multiple Pokéstops found on campus.

"You actually need to be outside and walking, which you can get some physical exercise and it really involves a lot of walking," de la Fuente said. "It's a really good game. I recommend it here [at the university] a lot."

edu/umc/public-relations/social-media/pokemon-go-tips.

Locations are not limited to university grounds. Pokémon can be found in parks, downtown areas, neighborhoods and anywhere across the country.

This is no ordinary application game in the world of mobile entertainment; this is the long-awaited expansion of the game many young adults played as children.

Pokémon Go was released on

July 6 and became immensely popular during its first 24 hours.

Pokémon is the brand of a successful series of video games and television shows. The first game was released for the Nintendo Gameboy in 1996 in Japan and two years later, for North America and the rest of the world.

Since its inception, the Pokémon brand has gained massive popularity around the world. The so-called

pocket monsters were present everywhere, from television spots to trading cards and fast-food toys.

It has been two decades since Pokémon was introduced and its original audience consisted of the "90s kids."

Now, people from all generations have the opportunity to "Catch 'em all!"

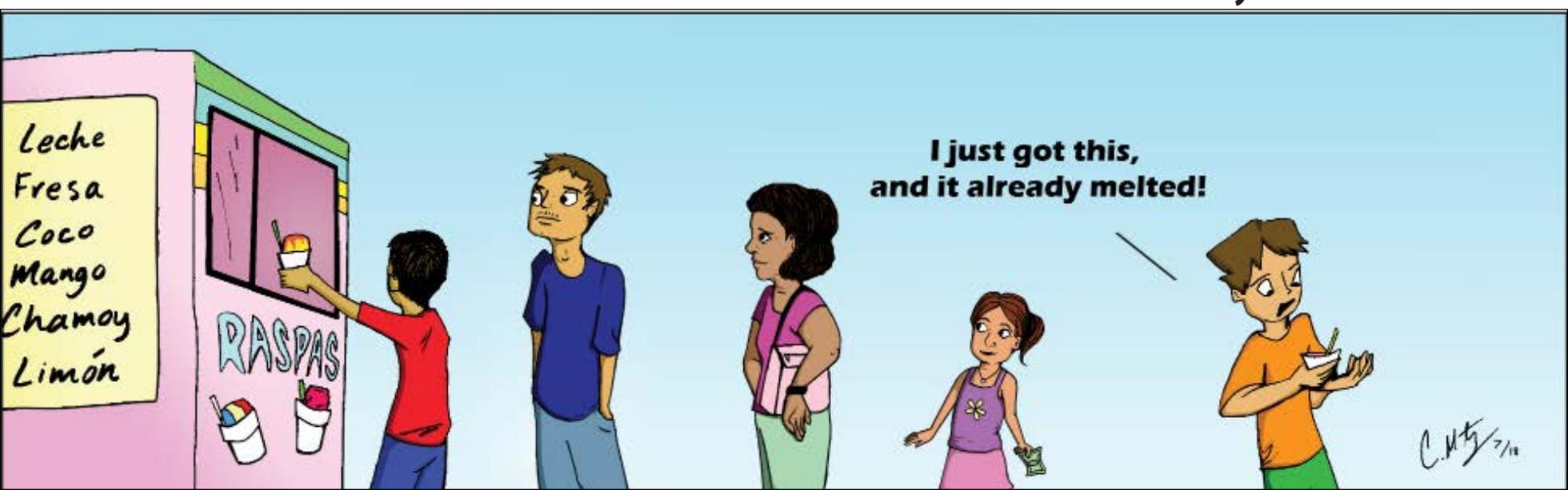
--Andrea Torres contributed to this report.




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VALLEY TOONS

By Clarissa Martinez



Vaquero Voice

Rio 2016 Olympics



“The Summer Olympics should be very interesting to watch because the U.S. always has a good amount of candidates for the gold medal. I’m cheering for the Mexican national team to get gold even though it’s a very difficult task at hand because they haven’t had a good performance in their last competitions, especially the last loss we had here in the U.S., 7-0 loss against Chile. So, hopefully they can give a good performance and come back with a gold medal.”

Jaime U. Zarate
Exercise science senior



“Well, I go for USA the running, I guess that’s what I’m more into. I like to see the races and see how much they can endure and the speed they go. It’s amazing how they could be so young and famous. So, that’s what I go for most, running.”

Margarita Garcia
Business and accounting junior



“I think the Olympics host great events. I think it brings the world more together because we are all watching that one channel for sport competitions and take pride in our country. My favorite sport to watch is swimming because of Michael Phelps.”

Gina Garcia
Education junior

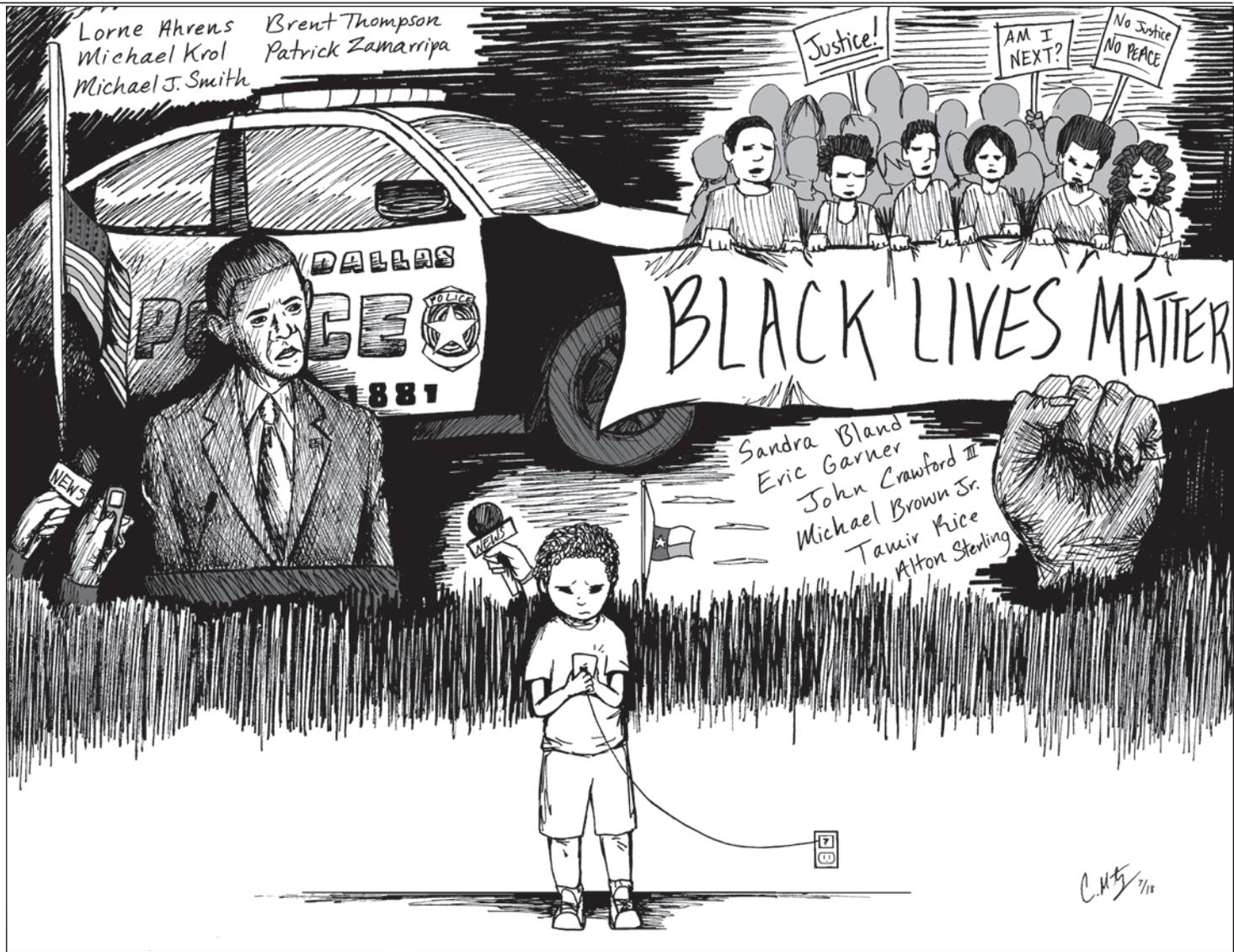


“Historically, the Olympics come from the Greeks. So the fact that we have been doing this for years is interesting enough. We have moments when World War II was going on and they still had

the Olympics. Even though the war was going on, people would actually send athletes to go compete. ... It kind of makes people [forget] what is going on in the world. Like right now with the Brazil [Olympics], it is mostly because of the Zika virus that is going on, and I think they found a body a couple of days ago. ... They are wasting too much money on construction instead of on what the people need. ... Still, I am going to watch some of the events because they are fun to watch. Mostly, I watch the water ones, like swimming and canoeing.”

Josue Puente
History junior

--Compiled by Michelle Espinoza and Lesley Robles



Media: ‘It’s what the pictures in our heads are about’

Andrea Torres
THE RIDER



Media . Dictionary.com defines the word as “the means of communication as radio and television, newspapers and magazines, that reach and influence people widely.”

The keyword here is influence. We all have our opinions regarding what the

media are and what they do or not do.

Technology has evolved the media in a way that gives us immediate access to information.

Amid the many recent movements in our country, such as #BlackLivesMatter and #WeAreOrlando, we’ve seen stories go viral on social media.

Now, you might be thinking what I am leading to.

Well, as I mentioned before, we all have our opinions.

Social media allows people to express their views on these stories and because of this, news outlets can gain a certain kind of reputation when covering these events.

I have seen people comment on Facebook on how the media are covering the wrong side of these stories or how the media aren’t covering enough.

Now, although we all have different

backgrounds, the opinions generated on mass media can be explained by the agenda-setting theory.

This theory was first presented in 1972 by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw in an article titled “The Agenda-Setting Function of Mass Media.”

Before I go any further, let me explain why I am even mentioning the theory.

I have recently discovered that people are believing less and less in the news media.

A poll conducted last September by Gallup.com states that four in 10 Americans say they have “a great deal” or “a fair amount” of trust and confidence in the mass media to report the news fully, accurately and fairly.”

For millennials the trust rate is at 36 percent.

As a student journalist, I see this locally. I was at an orientation resource fair recently, where I talked to a group of incoming freshmen and asked one of them if he wanted to learn more about the media. He replied, “No, it’s fine. I don’t trust the media.”

When I asked him why not, he replied he just felt the media was being biased and reporting unfairly.

That leads me back to the agenda-setting theory, which explains how news media can influence the prominence of topics being discussed on the public’s agenda.

For example, if a story is seen frequently in a newspaper or in the first half-hour of a newscast, the audience will regard it as important.

In “The Agenda-Setting Role of the Mass Media in the Shaping of Public Opinion,” McCombs says there is “no pejorative implication” news organizations have a set an agenda; rather, they present us with “results from countless day-to-day decisions by many different journalists and their supervisors about the news of the moment.”

Of course, these decisions are made by editors and producers but some questions they might ask when deciding what to publish or broadcast are how is this news relevant to their readers/viewers? And, was anyone locally affected by this event? If so, how?

Now, I do understand that another factor they might consider are ratings for a station or the number readers for a print publication.

McCombs says the “presence or absence of agenda-setting effects” can be explained by our need for orientation.

Some of us need a higher level of orientation than others, which explains why some of us might monitor the media more than others.

Two weeks ago, after the shooting of the police officers in Dallas, I kept seeing this article pop up on my Facebook newsfeed with the headline “Six Latinos Killed by US Cops This Week and the Media Ignored It.”

People who don’t follow a specific news organization frequently might question its credibility. Since the source of this article isn’t familiar to me, I don’t deem it too trustworthy; however, other people might.

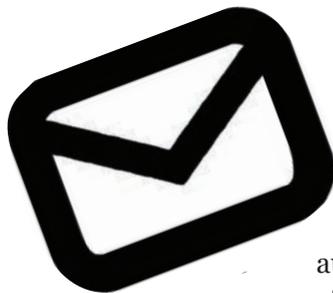
McCombs quotes the 1922 book, “Public Opinion,” in which its author Walter Lippmann notes that the news media is the “primary source of those pictures in our heads about the larger world of public affairs.”

Although they are the primary source, the media do not tell you what to think or even how to think of a story.

As a student journalist, I have been taught to not be biased, not express an opinion and always show all sides of a story.

I have been criticized for my writing and reporting, but like McCombs states, “the agenda of issues or other objects presented by the news media influence what the ‘pictures in our heads are about.’”

Submit a Letter to the Editor



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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.

UTRGV soccer continues to build Vaqueros ready to kick off the 2016-2017 season

Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER

Building a soccer program from the ground up is no easy process. It requires hard work, patience, and commitment from the student-athletes and coaching staff who comprise the program.

With the men's soccer team entering its second year and the women's team set to begin its third year of existence, the foundation has been laid for UTRGV to become a force in the Western Athletic Conference and a geographical area like the Rio Grande Valley that loves its soccer.

In a recent interview, men's soccer Head Coach Paul Leese, who now has 14 seasons of coaching under his belt, described the experiences the team encountered in its inaugural season.

"The first year was a mix of tremendous excitement literally from everywhere we went. Whether it was on campus, within our own staff, within the students, within the community, or when we were out recruiting and playing against opponents, everyone was tremendously excited that men's soccer was back at a Division I level," Leese said. "From my part, there was certainly a sense of anxiousness. This was the first time I've started a program from scratch. We came in having 24 players arrive all on the same day, never having played with each other, never having played for me. I knew we had to learn very quickly to represent the university in a positive light."

Women's soccer Head Coach Glad Bugariu and his third-year squad have qualified for the WAC tournament in back-to-back seasons and have racked up 13 victories in their first two years, an



PHOTO COURTESY JESICA GONZALEZ

Senior captain and midfielder Juanito Garcia looks to create a scoring opportunity against Laredo Community College in March at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex.

impressive number when compared to other recently started programs such as Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi, which won 11 games in their first three years, and Sam Houston State University, which didn't reach 13 victories until its fourth year.

Bugariu is ready to see how his young team of incoming and returning players mesh and perform together. He explained

how the team has grown and goals set for the upcoming 2016-2017 season.

"We had to create our own culture and our own standards, and going into year three, with players that have now been here for two seasons, I finally think we can say that we have enough leadership and experience to move the program forward," Bugariu said in an email last Tuesday. "As usual, we want to make

the conference playoffs and continue to improve both in and out of conference play. We are already miles ahead in terms of overall wins in the first two seasons of existence when you compare us to other programs at the same stage."

With 11 new student-athletes coming in for the 2016-2017 season and 13 student-athletes returning, more than half of the team has spent a year working together to build a good, competitive team setting for the new additions.

Looking forward to the upcoming season, Leese talked about the expectations and challenges lying ahead in the team's second year of existence.

"We've got the next step in the process for us to become a more cohesive team, the challenge is not trying to do too much all at once and achieving nothing in the process. Preseason is vital. Hopefully, we can accomplish teaching them tactically what we do, teaching them the identity of the team so they're building character and V-chemistry," Leese explained. "Within conference last year, we played eight out of 10 games where one goal determined the difference; this year we could perform very well in this game or that game, but consistency when you're still a young program is one of the keywords for this year."

The women's soccer team begins practice Aug. 4 while the men's team starts Aug. 11. The women's home opener is at 7 p.m. Aug. 19 against Texas A&M Corpus Christi. The men's team official home opener is set for 7 p.m. Sept. 2 against Presbyterian University. Both games will take place at the UTRGV Soccer Complex.

State of the Association NBA: Year in Review

Bryan Ramos
THE RIDER



Greek philosopher Heraclitus once said, "The only thing that is constant is change."

The same can be said for the National Basketball Association as the past year in the league has been a roller coaster of

record-breaking achievements, saying goodbye to legends of the game, and as unpredictable as an offseason as the NBA has seen since LeBron James made his "decision," bolting from Cleveland for Miami in 2010.

The Golden State Warriors and Steph Curry shattered numerous NBA records, both as a team and individually, on their way to a 73-9 record on the season, breaking the previous 72-10 mark that seemed unbreakable set by Michael Jordan's 1996 Chicago Bulls. Curry, the Warriors' golden boy, became the first player in league history to win the Most Valuable Player award by a unanimous vote on his way to a record-setting 402 3-pointers in the regular season. The Warriors, with their sniperlike long-range shooting and style of "small-ball," were the clear favorite to win the NBA Championship for the second year in a row until they encountered a king and his company.

In the NBA Finals, the Warriors met LeBron James' Cleveland Cavaliers in what was one of the most dramatic and controversial championship series in recent years. Curry, along with Klay Thompson, carried the Warriors to a 3-1 series lead over James and Kyrie Irving in what looked like a sure victory

for the Warriors. Everything was fine until Draymond Green delivered the nut shot heard around the world that would change NBA history forever. King James and the Cavaliers fought back to win

three straight games and win the series 4-3 in what was a display of dominance by James to re-establish himself as the best player in the world over Curry and the record-breaking Warriors.

The drama didn't stop at the end of the NBA finals, it was only the beginning.

Kevin Durant, former league MVP and top five player today, decided to leave the Oklahoma City Thunder after eight years and being one game away from reaching the NBA finals before losing to the Golden State Warriors in the Western Conference Finals.

So what team did Durant join in search of his first championship ring? The very team that eliminated him from the playoffs, the Warriors, to join the already historic team. They now form an Avengers-like squad that has the ability to knock down 3-pointers as soon as they step off the bus and will be the odds-on favorite to win the 2017 championship and dethrone King James and the Cavaliers.

Durant isn't the only star changing teams this offseason.

Dwyane Wade, who played his entire 13-year career with the Miami Heat, ditched the Heat for not being loyal financially

to their franchise player and joined the Chicago Bulls, Wade's hometown team as a kid from Chicago. Derrick Rose, former league MVP and Chicago Bulls star, is moving on from his hometown

of Chicago as they traded him to the New York Knicks to hopefully rebuild his career and overcome injuries that have plagued him since being named MVP.

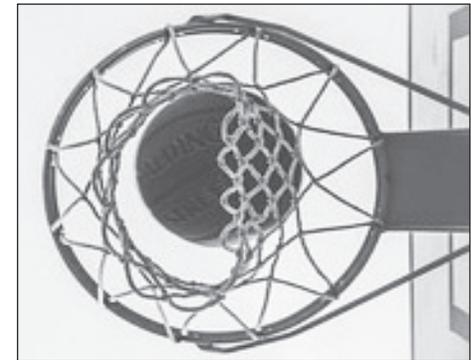
It was the end of an era for two other teams, as the Los Angeles Lakers and San

Antonio Spurs said goodbye to legends who played in 13 of the last 18 NBA Finals.

Kobe Bryant, this generation's Michael Jordan and five-time NBA champion, announced his retirement early on in the NBA season as he felt his body could no longer meet the demands of the grueling 82-game season. Kobe's final year was spent as a goodbye tour that featured opposing teams honoring the Lakers icon for his competitiveness and numerous accomplishments, including an unbelievable 81-point game versus the Toronto Raptors in 2006 and the final game of his career, dropping 60 points on the Utah Jazz in an unforgettable farewell performance in the Staples Center.

Tim Duncan, widely regarded as the greatest power forward of all time, has announced his retirement, literally as I'm writing this on a teary-eyed Monday morning of July 11. The greatest Spur of all time and my favorite player ever is hanging it up after winning

“Everything was fine until Draymond Green delivered the nut shot heard around the world that would change NBA history forever.”



five championships in three different decades over his 19-year career. A nickname was never so fitting as the "Big Fundamental" was for Duncan, who displayed greatness while being humble, competitiveness while being honorable, and the foundation that built the San Antonio Spurs into what is seen as the model franchise for other teams to follow. Duncan says goodbye without the fanfare, without the celebratory last game send-off, and without even a news conference to speak to the media, staying true to himself, the quiet, selfless superstar who showed that you don't always have to be loud to lead, you just have to be a leader.

Sports are meant to be entertaining. I like to consider sports the greatest reality show on television. Sure, there may not be any Kardashians or rose-giving ceremonies, but the unpredictable nature and drama of the 2015-2016 NBA season provided theatrics from beginning to end.

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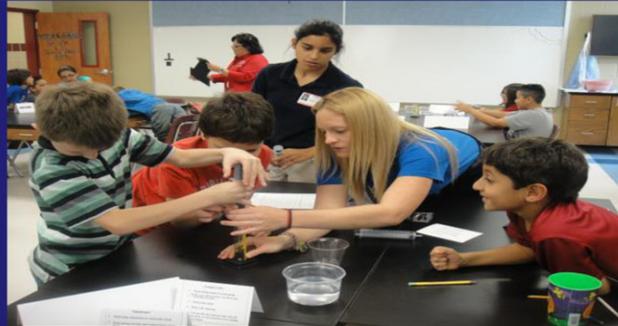
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