

# THE RIDER

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## UTRGV, TSC honor Mr. Amigo 2016

**Nubia Reyna**  
THE RIDER

Mr. Amigo 2016, Fernando Landeros Verdugo, dedicated his recognition to all the children and people who have made Fundación Teletón what it is today.

Last Thursday, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley and Texas Southmost College joined to welcome the Mr. Amigo Association honoree.

The event was held in the 300-seat SET-B Lecture Hall, which was filled to capacity.

Landeros created the “CRIT system of children’s rehabilitative hospitals in Latin America and the United States, which is the largest private pediatric healthcare network in the world,” according to the teletonusa.org website. He talked about how in school we learn how people with disabilities

are essential to understand life as we know it.

He cited famous people with disabilities, such as Cervantes, who was badly wounded in the Battle of Lepanto; Beethoven, who became deaf; Borges, the award-winning Argentinian writer who became blind.

“We owe a lot to all of them,” Landeros said in Spanish. “... The world wouldn’t be understandable without them, and without many other extraordinary beings that we know, like for example Moi.”

Moises Diaz Gonzalez, who was on stage with Landeros and other dignitaries, is a beneficiary of the foundation.

Landeros said Moises represents hundreds of thousands children who have made one of the most difficult miracles of humanity, “joining two countries with the most beautiful background ... values, those values that

makes us feel human again.”

He said no one will be able to step on the dignity of human beings.

“We are dignity, that’s our essence,” he said. “If we

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MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER

## HOMECOMING ROUNDUP



CLARISSA MARTINEZ/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

**Marie Vallangca**  
THE RIDER

UTRGV celebrated its second annual Homecoming Week, building Vaquero spirit, tradition and pride on both campuses through a variety of activities and friendly competitions between student organizations.

The Edinburg and Brownsville campuses celebrated the Tip-Off party Feb. 20 with music from a DJ and the UTRGV Pep Band, free food and various activities, such as

bottle painting, a lip sync battle, temporary tattoos and mini-games provided by University Recreation Center and the Campus Programming Board.

The Vaquero

six members to hold ultimate bragging rights by completing different tasks and earning points.

The challenges were scattered around the Recreation Center. The

Center while the Lawn Medley obstacle course was played out on the outdoor basketball court.

Staverne Joseph, the intramural student supervisor, said the

indoor, outside and the lawn games,” Joseph said. “It’s just a way to connect with the students and have them have fun.”

Participating students were excited for the challenges ahead of them. Groups formed by organizations and groups of friends signed up for the competition.

“It’s a lot fun,” said Ruben Peña, a mechanical and electrical engineering freshman. “Me and some friends over here got together as a team, called ourselves the

See **ROUNDUP**, Page 6

*Homecoming Week,*

*Page 6*

Olympics began Feb. 20 in Edinburg, a competition for student organizations and groups of four to

Flag Football, Putt-Putt, Sink It, Survival Chess and Wall Climbing competitions took place inside the Rec

games are not just about serious sports but also for students to enjoy and connect with others.

“We have games

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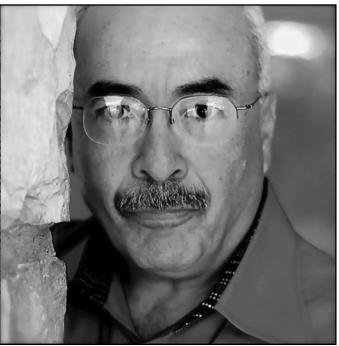
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# Poet laureate to speak at UTRGV



Juan Felipe Herrera

**Bryan Ramos**  
NEWS EDITOR

In today’s social climate, having open dialogue is of the utmost importance.

U.S. Poet Laureate Juan Felipe Herrera will deliver a keynote address and poetry reading with the theme of social justice. The event is at noon Thursday in the UTRGV Performing Arts Center on the Edinburg campus.

Herrera, who has written 30 books, was appointed as the Library of Congress’ 21st Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry on June 10, 2015, and was appointed to serve a second term on April 13 of last year. Herrera is the first Hispanic poet to serve as U.S. poet laureate and the son of migrant farmworkers.

“I look forward to continuing my first year’s momentum and sharing the inspiration tsunami given to me in every community that I visit throughout the U.S.A. as laureate,” Herrera said in a news release from the Library of Congress in April 2016.

UTRGV creative writing Professor Steven Schneider, who wrote the National Endowment for the Arts Big Read grant along with two books of his own, organized the visit from the poet laureate. Herrera comes to UTRGV during FESTIBA, the Festival of International Books and Arts, which promotes literacy and culture to residents of the Rio Grande Valley.

“I think it’s a very important time for somebody like Herrera to come to our university,” Schneider said. “He is the 21st poet laureate, so there are few poet laureates than there are presidents. He brings to our university and to FESTIBA a voice of tolerance and inclusiveness. He’s much more interested in building bridges than building walls.”

This is the second poet laureate Schneider has brought to the university. In 2005, then U.S. Poet Laureate Ted Kooser visited the University of Texas Pan American. Schneider will speak on Thursday about the NEA Big Read grant and movement to get more people excited to pick up a book.

“The NEA Big Read is a program which puts books back in the center of our culture,” Schneider said. “The connection is how literature addresses issues of social justice both in poetry and in fiction. The grant allows us to bring in a keynote speaker and we’re also sponsoring 25 community book discussion groups in libraries and schools throughout the Rio Grande

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# SGA application deadline Friday

**Rebeca Ortiz**

SPANISH EDITOR

The application to declare candidacy for the 43 positions in the executive and legislative branches of the Student Government Association is available through V link and is due by 5 p.m. Friday.

Last Tuesday, the SGA held information sessions on its upcoming elections, detailing open positions, eligibility requirements and deadlines.

David Marquez, assistant director of Student Rights and Responsibilities and adviser to the SGA, said the information sessions were held “to give students an opportunity to learn a little bit more about SGA.”

“How it looks like, what the eligibility requirements are and, most important, so students can ask any questions that they might have, so that they might consider running for a position in the upcoming SGA elections,” Marquez said.

Within the executive branch, the positions of president, vice president (Brownsville), and vice president (Edinburg) are available. Undergraduate and graduate candidates must have and maintain a 3.0 grade-point average.

A d d i t i o n a l l y , undergraduate candidates must have completed at least two fall or spring semesters at UTRGV and have completed or transferred a total of 30 or more credit hours.

Graduate candidates must



REBECA ORTIZ/THE RIDER

David Marquez, assistant director of Student Rights and Responsibilities, answers questions and provides an overview of the SGA election process during an information session last Tuesday on the Brownsville campus.

have completed at least one fall or spring semester or two consecutive summer sessions at UTRGV.

Vice presidents must be enrolled for at least six credit hours at the location they desire to represent at both the time of application or appointment and while holding office.

In the legislative branch, 40 slots for senators on both campuses are available: eight senators at large (four from each campus), four graduate senators (two from each campus) and four senators each for the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, the

College of Education and P-16 Integration, the College of Engineering and Computer Science, the College of Fine Arts, the College of Health Affairs, the College of Liberal Arts and the College of Sciences.

Senator candidates must have and maintain a 3.0 GPA if a graduate student and 2.5 if an undergraduate.

All candidates must meet the following requirements in order to hold an elected or appointed position:

Undergraduate students must be enrolled in at least 12 credit hours at the time of application and during their

term of office unless within 11 credit hours of graduation during the last semester of their current term.

Graduate students must be enrolled in at least six credit hours at the time of application and during their term of office unless within three credit hours during the last semester of their current term.

All students must complete 75 percent of attempted coursework per semester.

Alex Pepping, a psychology junior and member of the SGA elections committee, said the purpose of the SGA

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# Internship program seeks students, employers

**Macarena Martinez**

THE RIDER

A new program will offer paid internships to Texas Southmost College students and UTRGV students on the Brownsville campus.

Administered by United Way of Southern Cameron County, the All-In Internship Program will collaborate with Brownsville employers to provide 45 paid internships for each campus that will have “productive and meaningful work assignments with a learning component related to their major,” according to an information brochure.

Blanca Davila, post-secondary success coordinator for United Way of Cameron County, said the All-In program was created with the hope of placing students in a workplace before they graduate so they get experience. As soon as they graduate, they can market themselves because they have experience on their résumé.

“This program is going to help out outreach to other businesses in order for students to be experienced because, nowadays, many jobs require you to have two to three years’ experience once you graduate,” said Vicente Martinez, a senior majoring in accounting and marketing.

Andrea Torres, All-In Internship coordinator for the UTRGV Career Center, said to participate in the program, students must be enrolled at UTRGV or Texas Southmost College, meet satisfactory academic progress, be a junior or senior at UTRGV with a declared major (or in their last semester of their declared certificate or last year of their declared education program at TSC), meet employer qualifications



PHOTO COURTESY DIANA CANALES RODRIGUEZ

Frieda Linton, a facilitator for Workforce Solutions Cameron, teaches Texas Southmost College students soft skills during a workshop earlier this month at the TSC Camille Lightner Center.

for the internship and be eligible to work in the United States, according to the All-In Internship Program employer and student handbook.

Students who qualify and are interested in the program should visit the Career Center, located in Cortez Hall 129, and ensure that their profile is active and résumé is uploaded on Career Connection, Torres said.

“For some people that already have their profile, just make sure your information is all correct. ... Once your résumé is done and turned in on Career Connection, you email me,” Torres said. Torres’ email address is andrea.torres01@utrgv.edu.

The email should include the student’s name, major and classification. From there, the student’s applicant type will change to internship and he or she will be able to see and apply to available internships.

“After the employer posts the job, it’s up to them ...

to determine if you are the one that’s going to get hired,” Torres said. “You also need to make sure you meet the qualifications of your employer and those qualifications are going to be showcased in your résumé.”

The internship or placement the students obtain should be aligned to their degree, Davila said.

“Students can themselves, right now ... go scout for an employer, a company, within Brownsville,” Torres said.

The program requires the employer to pay the intern a minimum of \$10 an hour plus applicable employment taxes. The employer will be reimbursed \$5 for every hour the student works for up to 300 hours in a 15-week internship period.

“If the employer wants that specific student, then we just go to through the formal process really fast and they just hire the student,” Torres said.

Once the students start their internship, they will be paid by the employer, not UTRGV, Torres said.

“[This] is another reason it’s all up to the employer to do the interview, to hire them ... and to pay them,” she said.

After students are hired, they are required to complete a 16-hour non-paid soft skills training workshop conducted by Workforce Solutions Cameron. Ten students at TSC have already undergone the training, Torres said.

“We have two hours of résumé checks ... two hours of mock interviews and 12 hours of actual soft skills training in a classroom setting,” Torres said, adding that the workshop will train students on how to be a successful employee.

The training will be conducted by Frieda Linton, a facilitator for Workforce Solutions Cameron, Torres said.

For more information about the All-In internship program, visit [allininternships.com/wp/](http://allininternships.com/wp/) or email Davila at [blanca@unitedwayrgv.org](mailto:blanca@unitedwayrgv.org) and Torres at [andrea.torres01@utrgv.edu](mailto:andrea.torres01@utrgv.edu).

“The All In Partnership was established in Brownsville in 2011 through a grant from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,” according to a UTRGV news release. “The partnership includes leaders from 13 businesses and organizations united to create a shared agenda and strategic plan to strengthen and build partnerships, engage the local community to raise awareness about postsecondary completion rates, and remove barriers preventing students from enrolling, continuing and completing college, and gaining living wage employment.”

THE  
RIDER

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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ANNOUNCEMENTS

TODAY

Ceramic demos

The **Ceramic Organization** will conduct a demonstration of throwing on a wheel to promote the **Clay Organization** from noon to 1 p.m. at the North Quad in Edinburg. At the same time in the Student Union East Patio in Edinburg, the organization will demonstrate how to make vases on the wheel. For more information, email [veronica.anguiano01@utrgv.edu](mailto:veronica.anguiano01@utrgv.edu).

Symphony Orchestra

The **UTRGV Symphony Orchestra**, under the direction of **Peter Dabrowski**, will showcase outstanding music students from both campuses in a program of symphonic music starting at 7:30 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. The concert will present the winners of the annual concerto competition. Tickets (\$10 for adults and \$5 for students with ID and senior citizens) can be purchased at <http://patron.utrgv.edu> or at the door. For more information, call 882-7025 or email [patron@utrgv.edu](mailto:patron@utrgv.edu).

Wednesday

Ash Wednesday

The **Catholic Campus Ministry** will celebrate **Ash Wednesday** from 10 a.m. to 1:45 p.m. at the Chapel in Edinburg. For more information, email [jose.a.medina02@utrgv.edu](mailto:jose.a.medina02@utrgv.edu)

Thursday

Treble Thrivers performance

The **Treble Thrivers** will showcase songs they have been working on throughout the year from noon to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union Café in Edinburg. For more information, email [dianne.dublado01@utrgv.edu](mailto:dianne.dublado01@utrgv.edu).

FIFA 17 Tournament

**Phi Iota Alpha Fraternity Inc.** will host its first **FIFA 17 Tournament**, which is open to students and members of the community, from 6 to 8 p.m. in Student Academic Center Building

Rooms 1.112A, 1.112B and 1.112C in Edinburg. For more information, email [lawrenceearl.pabalinas01@utrgv.edu](mailto:lawrenceearl.pabalinas01@utrgv.edu).

Friday

Student activist training

The **Environmental Awareness Club** will host a training on precautionary principle, how to begin a campaign, how to talk about a campaign and why, when, where and how from 12:15 to 2 p.m. in the Student Academic Center Building in Edinburg. For more information, email [julissa.roman01@utrgv.edu](mailto:julissa.roman01@utrgv.edu).

Saturday

FESTIBA Mariachi concert

UTRGV will host the **FESTIBA 2017 Mariachi Concert**. Performers will include the internationally renowned **José Hernández** and **Mariachi Sol de México** and Grammy-award winner, La Reina de la Canción Ranchera, **Aida Cuevas**. The performance will start at 7:30 p.m. in the UTRGV Performing Arts Complex. The concert will also feature the first-place vocal competition winners, the group winners in the middle school level, the grand champion among the first-place winners of the high school varsity level, **Mariachi Juvenil Aztlán** and **Mariachi Aztlán**. Tickets (\$20) can be purchased at <http://patron.utrgv.edu> or at the door. For more information, call 665-3471 or email [music@utrgv.edu](mailto:music@utrgv.edu).

Food Sales

Green Stop

**ENACTUS** will sell salads from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday in the Library Courtyard in Edinburg. For more information, email [luis.velazquez01@utrgv.edu](mailto:luis.velazquez01@utrgv.edu).

Burger combos

The **American Criminal Justice Association** will sell burger combos from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Monday in the Quad BBQ Area in Edinburg. For more

information, email [saul.hernandez01@utrgv.edu](mailto:saul.hernandez01@utrgv.edu).

Corn and tostaditas

The **American Criminal Justice Association** will sell tostadas with sauce and cheese, corn in a cup with options of cheese, sauce and butter condiments from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Tuesday in the Main Courtyard West Wing in Brownsville. For more information, email [saul.hernandez01@utrgv.edu](mailto:saul.hernandez01@utrgv.edu).

Fruit cups

The **Markmanship Society** will sell fruit cups from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Tuesday in the Library Courtyard in Edinburg. For more information, email [jose.montoya02@utrgv.edu](mailto:jose.montoya02@utrgv.edu).

Gummy bears with chamoy

The **Alpha Lambda Delta National Honor Society for First-Year Students** will sell gummy bears with chamoy for \$1 from noon to 2 p.m. Tuesday in the Library Courtyard in Edinburg. For more information, email [gregory.koneri01@utrgv.edu](mailto:gregory.koneri01@utrgv.edu).

Raspas

The **Korean International Social Syndicate** will sell raspas from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday in the Student Union South Patio in Edinburg. For more information, call 283-4220 or email [jassel.gonzalez01@utrgv.edu](mailto:jassel.gonzalez01@utrgv.edu).

Hamburger combos

The **Astronomy Club** will sell \$5 hamburger combos, which include a drink and chips, from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday at the Library BBQ Area in Edinburg. For more information, email [arianna.leal01@utrgv.edu](mailto:arianna.leal01@utrgv.edu).

Hot Cheetos/Frito pies

The **Aspiring Substance Abuse Professionals** will sell Hot Cheetos with cheese, nachos and drinks from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday in the Student Union in Edinburg. For more information, email [jayda.silva01@utrgv.edu](mailto:jayda.silva01@utrgv.edu).

--Compiled by Marie Vallangca

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Feb. 14 and 19.



Feb. 14

**10:48 a.m.:** A student injured his ankle after falling down the stairs in the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. He declined

emergency medical services.

**4:44 p.m.:** A student reported that his vehicle's window was shattered while it was parked in Lot E31 on the Edinburg campus. Video footage showed grounds personnel trimming grass with a weed trimmer in the area. The facilities ground supervisor was notified.

**8:54 p.m.:** A student reported receiving a computer-generated phone message from the UTRGV Police Department saying that she needed to contact the police about her driving at the Casa Bella student housing complex on the Brownsville campus. UTRGV Police did not contact her, but upon further investigation, it was discovered that three of the student's friends, who are Casa Bella residents, had pranked her with a phone application to deliver the computer-generated message. The incident was referred to UTRGV Students Rights and Responsibilities.

Feb. 15

**5:31 p.m.:** A student reported that a known male student threatened him verbally while exiting the University Library on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

**6:10p.m.:** Officers and the Brownsville Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at the old BookBee building on the Brownsville campus. The officers

found no signs of smoke or fire. The Fire Department cleared the building for re-entry.

Feb. 16

**10:24 a.m.:** Officers and the Edinburg Fire Department responded to a fire alarm at the Visual Arts Building on the Edinburg campus. The fire department determined that the alarm was triggered by popcorn burning in a microwave. The Fire Department cleared the building for re-entry.

**12:35 p.m.:** A student reported that her prescription eyeglasses were stolen from a locker room in the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus. The glasses were valued at \$400.

**1:45 p.m.:** Officers responded to a report of a suspicious female in the second floor women's restroom of the Biomedical Research and Health Professions Building on the Brownsville campus. The woman already had a current criminal trespass warning for all UTRGV properties. She was arrested on a charge of criminal trespass and booked into the Brownsville City Jail.

**5:43 p.m.:** A resident at the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus who was arguing and yelling at a family member via telephone threw a chair, breaking the window of her apartment and the chair. The incident was referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Feb. 17

**8:47 a.m.:** A student reported that his \$200 bicycle was stolen during the

winter break from the Health Affairs Building East on the Edinburg campus.

**4:34 p.m.:** A Brownsville Early College High School/UTRGV student reported that a fellow student spit on her face and used profanity toward her during an argument in Sabal Hall on the Brownsville campus. The Brownsville Independent School District Police Department was notified and the UTRGV Police Department is conducting a criminal investigation.

Feb. 18

**1:28 a.m.:** Officers responded to a report of an odor of marijuana at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus. A student said she and two female friends had been smoking marijuana in her room. One student was arrested on a misdemeanor charge of possession of marijuana. The other two student suspects were identified, but were not located at the scene. The incident was referred to Student Rights and Responsibilities.

Feb. 19

**8:19 a.m.:** An officer observed a Brownsville Fire Department vehicle leaving the Texas Southmost College Bookstore, which is one of the buildings leased by UTRGV. The Brownsville Fire Department responded and did not notify the UTRGV Police Department. Texas Southmost College security was contacted instead, but they did not contact UTRGV Police or relay the reason for the Fire Department being dispatched. Two attempts were made to contact the manager of the bookstore, but the calls were not answered.

--Compiled by Macarena Martinez

# Vaquero Voice

## Student Government Association



“Pienso que no están tan involucrados en la vida estudiantil a cómo deberían de estarlo. Me gustaría que tuvieran una presencia más fuerte en el campus”.

Alejandro Hernández  
Estudiante de último año de ciencias biomédicas

“For the SGA, I’ve actually never heard about it, really, and I’ve never seen them around, but ... I suppose that that is very helpful. That they actually go out and talk to the president about some things and to students. That seems very beneficial for us because sometimes we are not even heard. I think that it is something other people should know about.”



Jocell Rodriguez  
Anthropology freshman



I really don’t know that much about the student government. I don’t even know who the president is, who a single member is. I know nothing about it.”

Robert De la Rosa  
Computer science junior

“I know nothing about student government on campus. I mean, in high school, maybe I did. But in university, we’re all wrapped up in our studies.”



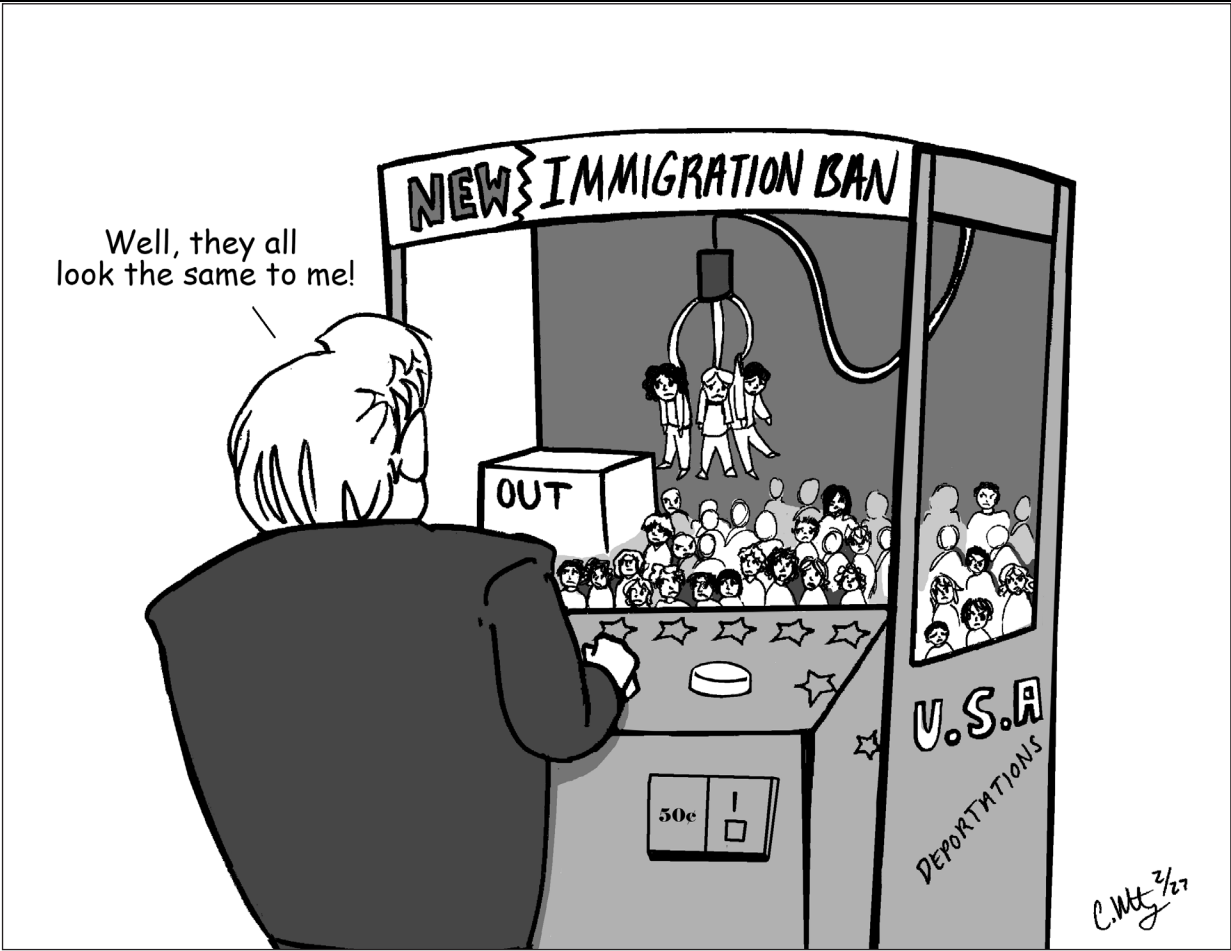
Nicole Hawk  
English senior

--Compiled by Ana Cahuiche and Gabriel Mata

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# Racism ain’t dope



J. Edward Medrano  
THE RIDER

Oftentimes, people mistake the conversation about legalizing marijuana as a conversation about drugs and morals. Whether or not you partake, there will always be people who do; therefore, the market will always exist. The questions lie more in where you want this market to be, and who is criminalizing marijuana truly going to affect?

During the Colonial period, hemp was one of the most prominent cash crops coming from America. Soon, cotton surpassed it in value, conveniently taking its place in your children’s history books as well. George Washington, Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin were all owners of hemp plantations, and some historians even say that the U.S. Constitution was written on hemp fibers!

A couple of centuries later in 1910, the Mexican revolution brought an influx of immigrants from Mexico fleeing violence that plagued their country. Some of those immigrants used marijuana recreationally, and at the time, it was not yet illegal in the U.S. Although the plant was already being consumed in the form of over-the-counter medicines, and hemp still held its capitalistic value, it lacked any type of negative connotation. It was then known only as “cannabis,” so when Spanish speakers came in referring to the plant as “marijuana,” people were quick to create a distinction.

Throughout the early 20th century, marijuana became even more associated with Mexican immigrants as well as the rising African-American jazz culture of the time. During the Great Depression, Mexican immigrants were blamed for the unemployment rate while simultaneously being labeled as lazy marijuana smokers. African-Americans began to be associated with rising crime rates and drug use in inner cities, which correlated more with general poverty than it did with race. Put simply, the plant became associated with marginalized minority group that, along with prejudice, birthed the stigma that we know today.

Harry Anslinger, the first commissioner of the Federal Bureau of Narcotics, is credited as one of the first people to begin the war against marijuana, which he ran on a clearly racist agenda. Despite the fact that 29 out of 30 scientists on his panel said that marijuana had no major negative effects on people, he still insisted that the drug should be prohibited.

In 1929, he wrote in a Federal Bureau of Narcotics report:

“There are 100,000 total marijuana smokers in the U.S., and most are Negroes, Hispanics, Filipinos and entertainers,” Anslinger said. “Their satanic music, jazz and swing result from marijuana use. This marijuana causes white women to seek sexual relations with Negroes, entertainers and any others. Reefer makes darkies think they’re as good as white men.”

Believe it or not, these comments truly hit home with most of the American population. Many white families were concerned about the effects marijuana could have on their children and were greatly in support of propaganda against the drug, such as the film “Reefer Madness.” (This film hilariously depicts false effects that marijuana has on young people. If you think you would enjoy a good laugh, I highly recommend you watch it.)

Thanks to this established narrative, today the U.S. has the highest incarceration rate in the world, half of which can be attributed to drug violations, according to a special report from the U.S. Department of Justice. Of the people incarcerated for drug offenses, three-fourths of them are non-violent offenses, and the overwhelming majority of them are racial minorities despite similar usage rates among white Americans.

Perhaps so many of these people are in prison not because our government believes they are a threat to public safety, but because of what they gain from keeping them there. Private for-profit prisons have grown exponentially every year since 1980, and they are only growing as our government continues to seek ways to cut spending on our massive prison system.

Not only would legalization change the lives of minority groups in America affected by mass incarceration, it could also benefit a much broader sect of people around the world. Today, Mexico and much of Latin America are afflicted by drug violence. “Bad hombres” tend to have the most autonomy in many of these nations, and it’s largely because they have their biggest market in their northern neighbors. If marijuana were to be legalized and regulated, not only would it benefit the public health of individuals already consuming the unregulated drug, it could also actively reduce violence in countries that find themselves run by drug cartels.

The history of marijuana prohibition is one of clear racism and systematic oppression, perpetrated by the claws of bigotry, which are found in our own society’s palms. The stigma that we’ve built ourselves was never supported by science; it has always been about oppression.



**ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER**  
Computer science sophomore Aldo Bañuelos paddleboards during the “Vaquero Olympics” last Tuesday at the Casa Bella student housing complex on the Brownsville campus.



**LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER**  
Education sophomores Sara Nu’no (from left) and Michelle Hernandez, electrical engineering freshman Ivania Chapa, pre-nursing freshman Daisy De los Reyes and psychology freshman Josue Gallegos decorate bottles during the Tip-Off Party for Homecoming festivities Feb. 20 at the Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.



**CLARISSA MARTINEZ/THE RIDER**  
Kiryat Castillo, a biology freshman, prepares to glue a feather on her UTRGV flag during the DIY Swag Party in El Comedor in Brownsville. She decorated her flag in the color scheme of the UTRGV College of Sciences.



**ANA CAHUICHE/THE RIDER**  
UTRGV MSA freshman Larry Muñoz and sophomores Anette Galvan (center) and Yancy Martinez help each other create a structure out of canned food during the “Can-Struction” event last Tuesday on the Student Union veranda in Brownsville.



**MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER**  
Hypnotist Sailesh Jiawan puts students to sleep during the “Come Sleep With Me” show last Wednesday on the Brownsville campus. About 50 people attended the show.

## ROUNDUP, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

‘Average Joes’ and it’s honestly one of the [most fun] things we’ve done all year, all semester actually. “For us to come out here and just hang out with some good friends and good company and get a little exercise in, it’s a lot of fun.”

Throughout the week, school activities continued to promote Vaquero pride and spirit. The Can-Struction event was both fun and beneficial, allowing student organizations to show their Vaquero pride and spirit through creative constructions of canned food, which was donated to the UTRGV Food Pantry.

Nominated Royals campaigned throughout the week to earn the students’ vote as the election was held and students voted online.

The candidates were Amanda Aguilar, Abigail Alfaro, Cynthia Cantu, Maria Neyra, Jose Quintanilla, Daniel Ruiz and Gisela Saldana.

Glitter, mini-pompoms and fabric glue were laid out on the tables in the Student Union on both campuses for the DIY Swag Party, an event where students and student organizations created their own spirit flag while listening to live music.

On Wednesday, about 50 Brownsville students interacted with hypnotist Sailesh. During last year’s Homecoming Week, Sailesh hypnotized students on the Edinburg campus.

Athletes from the UTRGV tennis and baseball teams served free pizza, Hot Cheetos with cheese and drinks during the Vaqueros Luncheon. Decorative mini-megaphones were displayed and given away. The students and athletes sang karaoke during the luncheon.

Meanwhile, the Brownsville campus celebrated Charro Days with the Charreada and welcomed Mr. Amigo 2016, Fernando Landeros Verdugo.

The Al and Joan Ogletree Plaza was unveiled last Friday before the UTRGV Baseball Team took on Prairie View A&M University in the Al Ogletree Classic on Coach Al Night. Ogletree is the legendary baseball head coach emeritus. He retired in 1997 with 1,217 career wins, and currently stands as the 30th winningest coach in NCAA history, according to the goutrgv.com website.

UTRGV Athletics inducted members into the school’s Hall of Fame last Saturday morning. The inductees were the 1980-81 men’s basketball team, former men’s basketball player Kenneth “Apple” Green, former women’s basketball player Becky (Dube) Thomas, former baseball players Jack Ewing and Jim Proctor, and former women’s tennis player Ellen Nelissen.

The Homecoming Cook-off and Tailgate took place all day Saturday, leading up to the men’s basketball team’s home game against Utah Valley University. Results were not available at press time. Student organizations and university departments entered their dishes of fajita, guacamole and *elote* for everyone to taste and vote on. The band Run With It played music during the celebration while various activities, such as face painting, dance competitions and free games, were going on. The Homecoming festivities ended with the burning of the UTRGV letters on the Edinburg campus.

Names of the winners in the 2017 Homecoming Royals election and the grand champion were unavailable at press time Thursday. They were scheduled to be announced on Saturday.

All events during Homecoming Week were sponsored and hosted by collaborations among the Student Union, Campus Programming Board, UTRGV Athletics, University Recreation and Housing and Residential Life.



**GABRIEL MATA/THE RIDER**  
Criminal justice senior Luis Meza sprints with a football during the Vaquero Olympics, where students participated in a variety of events at the University Recreation Center in Edinburg.



**MICHELLE ESPINOZA/THE RIDER**  
Yazmin Sanchez (left), a marketing freshman, and Elsa Torres, a psychology junior, take a photo with a selfie stick during the Tip-Off Party Feb. 20 on the Brownsville campus. The Tip-Off Party was the first event to kick off UTRGV Homecoming Week on both campuses.



**SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER**  
Rehabilitation services sophomore and Rehab Club Treasurer Marcela Terrazas works on her banner during the DIY Swag Party last Tuesday in the Student Union in Edinburg. Student organizations were given a chance to be in the UTRGV Grand Champ competition to win \$300.



**MARIO GONZALEZ/THE RIDER**  
UTRGV Mathematics and Science Academy (MSA) students Erick Reyes and Ari Munoz decorate and assemble canned food collected by their organization last Tuesday during the Can-Struction event at the University Center Circle in Edinburg.



**JESUS SANCHEZ**/THE RIDER  
Members of Colegio Juvenal Rendón of Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, march toward Ringgold Road last Thursday for the welcoming of Mr. Amigo 2016, Fernando Landeros Verdugo.



**JESUS SANCHEZ**/THE RIDER  
The Charreada Walking Parade came to an end across from Texas Southmost College's Science and Engineering Technology Building. A standing-room-only ceremony honoring Mr. Amigo 2016, Fernando Landeros Verdugo, took place in the SET-B Lecture Hall shortly afterward.



**KARINA AGUIRRE**/THE RIDER  
Members of Mariachi 7 Leguas perform before the Mr. Amigo Recognition Program in the SET-B Lecture Hall on the Texas Southmost College campus.



**ANA CAHUICHE**/THE RIDER  
UTRGV Student Government Association President Denisse Molina-Castro presents an official Mr. Amigo poster to Fernando Landeros Verdugo. Shown at the lectern is Brandon Sanchez, Texas Southmost College Student Leadership Academy representative.



**KARINA AGUIRRE**/THE RIDER  
During the Charreada at UTRGV and TSC, members of both campuses dance to "Payaso de Rodeo" by Caballo Dorado.



**ANA CAHUICHE**/THE RIDER



**MARIO GONZALEZ**/THE RIDER  
Brownsville Mayor Tony Martínez and Mr. Amigo 2016, Fernando Landeros, Verdugo, show the T-shirts given to them by the Mr. Amigo Association during the "Hands Across the Border" ceremony last Thursday on the International Gateway Bridge.



**MARIO GONZALEZ**/THE RIDER

**AMIGO**, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

check history, no one has ever reached a good ending when trying to oppress the rights of humans and human dignity. That is something we need to say and we need to say it out loud."

Landeros mentioned that children with disabilities show the world how we cannot live with barriers and obstacles.

"If we really think about it, all conflicts, human confrontations, independent of nationality or flag, they all become a civil war," he said. "Not a war between two countries, a civil war because in the end, we are all human and that is above all nationalities."

Landeros said when he was on the Gateway International Bridge for the Hands Across the Border ceremony earlier in the day, he wondered what it really means to be Mr. Amigo.

"When I was thinking about what it really means to be Mr. Amigo and why am I on this bridge so happy, so proud, it's because I want my three children, my wife, my family, my brothers, my nephews, to walk on a safe bridge, a bridge that unites us," he said, choking back tears.

Landeros urged the audience to never lose hope on what we can build.

"We can build and live in a better world," he said.

Before the ceremony began, Mariachi Siete Leguas welcomed attendees outside the lecture hall with traditional Mexican music.

"Today, we celebrate friendship, traditions and the strong collaborations that we have with Mexico," said Tania Leal, the ceremony's host and weather anchor at Telemundo 40.

The UTRGV Army ROTC presented the colors and TSC student Yahaira Guerra sang the national anthem.

Students from Colegio Juvenal Rendón in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico, presented the colors and UTRGV student Doris Vanessa Cedillo sang the Mexican national anthem.

More than 15 children from TSC's Raúl J. Guerra Early Childhood Center, ages 4 and 5, danced "El Jarabe Tapatío."

The group of children were dressed in charro costumes.

"They say great things come in small packages," Leal said.

The children were followed by Grupo Folklórico Tizatlán at UTRGV, which performed the polka "Tamaulipas Norte."

On stage with Mr. Amigo were Melinda Rodriguez,

TSC vice president of Institutional Advancement and Workforce Training; U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela (D-Texas); Veronica Gonzales, UTRGV vice president for Governmental and Community Relations; Landeros' wife Paola Albarran Landeros; TSC board of trustees Chair Adela Garza; Mr. Amigo Association President Richard Garza; TSC Student Leadership Academy representative Brandon Sanchez; UTRGV Student Government Association President Denisse Molina-Castro; and Lisardo Guarinos, guest of Matamoros' Fiestas Mexicanas.

In the audience were Brownsville Mayor Tony Martinez and Matamoros Mayor Jesús de la Garza.

"Today, we celebrate our Mexican heritage and commemorate generational bonds that cannot be broken by a river, economic strife or political rhetoric," Rodriguez said.

She is proud of continuing the legacy of celebrating the Valley's diversity.

"Our college is your college, *viva* our unity, prosperity and Charro Days," she said in Spanish.

Gonzales spoke on behalf of UTRGV President Guy Bailey, who was attending his son's wedding.

"We want to welcome you at the campus that we share with TSC," Gonzales said.

# Dos naciones se entrelazan en ‘Encuentro Binacional’



Mario Gonzalez/FOTOS RIDER

Mr. Amigo 2016, Fernando Landeros Verdugo, y su esposa, Paola Albarrán de Landeros, aplauden después de la liberación de las palomas al final de la ceremonia “Encuentro Binacional”.

**Monika Garza**  
THE RIDER

Mr. Amigo 2016, Fernando Landeros Verdugo, cedió una placa honorífica a Moisés Díaz González, un niño beneficiario de los servicios del Teletón USA, durante el “Encuentro Binacional” el pasado jueves en el Puente Internacional Gateway.

La placa fue originalmente obsequiada a Landeros por parte de Tony Martínez, alcalde de Brownsville. “Tenemos que defender amorosamente firmes ... los principios de libertad, inclusión y sobre todo de dignidad”, dijo Landeros. “Este reconocimiento va para miles y millones de mexicanos y millones de hispanos que han hecho posible el Teletón USA y el Teletón México, porque hemos creído que no hay muro ni barrera que el amor no pueda derribar.

“Hoy este reconocimiento va para ellos y va para todos aquellos que seguimos creyendo en estos valores. ... Por eso, con todo el respeto que merece esta medalla y al mismo tiempo con todo el orgullo, quiero que entreguemos todos esta medalla a nuestro querido Moisés por que el representa todo los valores que necesitamos entre nuestros dos países.”

La ceremonia se llevó a cabo alrededor de las 10 a.m. cuando llegó Mr.Amigo 2016 acompañado de su esposa Paola Albarrán de Landeros y sus trillizos Pablo, Fernando y Natalia,

nacidos en 2015.

Landeros es el presidente y fundador de Teletón México y Teletón USA e impulsador del sistema CRIT para los hospitales de rehabilitación para niños en Latinoamérica y en Estados Unidos.

Durante la ceremonia, funcionarios de Brownsville y Matamoros vestidos de cueras tamaulipecas y tradicionales trajes mexicanos dieron inicio a la ceremonia agradeciendo a todos los asistentes por su presencia.

“Damos la bienvenida a todos a esta prestigiosa reunión internacional llevada a cabo por las dos ciudades hermanas, Brownsville, Texas, y Matamoros, Tamaulipas, México. Esta tradición se ha llevado a cabo por más de ocho décadas”, dijo el expresidente de la Asociación Mr. Amigo, Bob Torres Jr., quien a su vez, fungió como maestro de ceremonia.

El Encuentro Binacional fue inaugurado con la tradicional escolta conformada por cinco estudiantes de las escuelas Rosaura Zapata y Guadalupe Mainero de Matamoros. El Himno Nacional Mexicano fue dirigido por la Escuela Secundaria General No. 2.

La bandera de los Estados Unidos fue portada por los oficiales del Departamento de Policía de Brownsville, Albert Gutiérrez, J.J. García y Chris Arroyo. El himno nacional, “The Star-Spangled Banner”, fue dirigido por Nick Garza.

Después de las presentaciones de las banderas, Torres hizo referencia al presidente número trigésimo segundo de Estados Unidos, Franklin D.



Mr. Amigo 2016, Fernando Landeros Verdugo, y Moisés Díaz González, un beneficiario de Teletón USA, posan durante el “Encuentro Binacional” el pasado jueves en el puente internacional Gateway.

Roosevelt, quien una vez dijo: “Dios nos hizo vecinos. Nos toca a nosotros ser amigos”.

Los niños Luis Sebastián Gómez (Matamoros) y Nathaly Garza (Brownsville) se reunieron en medio del escenario para dar inicio al tradicional intercambio de banderas y obsequios entre las dos naciones, seguido por funcionarios de sus respectivos países.

“Es una cosa hermosa el amor que estamos compartiendo hoy. ... Aunque los tiempos estén cambiando, lo importante es que los valores más importantes se queden igual: la familia, integridad, determinación y fé”, dijo Martínez.

Posteriormente, Martínez obsequió al alcalde de Matamoros, Jesús de la Garza Díaz del Guante, dos placas de reconocimiento para reafirmar dicha amistad entre las dos naciones. A cambio, de la Garza le entregó una reproducción de un cuadro del artista matamorenses, Marco Martínez Sarabia. Las primeras damas intercambiaron ramos de flores.

De igual manera, de la Garza les obsequió cueras tamaulipecas al Mr. Amigo, Landeros, y al Huésped Distinguido de Matamoros, Lisardo Guarinos.

“Como español y mexicano que soy, estoy muy enamorado de esta tierra”, dijo Guarinos. “Muchas gracias por invitarme a este maravilloso evento que solo se demuestra el amor y nada más”.

El congresista demócrata de los Estados Unidos, Filemon Vela, dijo en inglés: “Si tuviera que describir como

me siento el día de hoy diría que este es uno de los eventos más cálidos que he presenciado en mucho tiempo”.

Vicente Gonzalez, otro congresista demócrata de los Estados Unidos, dijo que ambas naciones son una sola comunidad, la cual se ha beneficiado recíprocamente.

“¿Qué diría Washington si nos pudiera ver en este momento? Esta es la verdadera amistad y familia que tenemos en el Rio Grande Valley, en la que en los dos lados de la frontera somos una familia, somos una comunidad y somos un centro económico que hemos impactado a los dos países y lo seguiremos haciendo. ... Los romanos decían, ‘Con unidad hay victoria’ y yo veo la victoria”.

Entre los invitados del evento se encontraban la Cónsul General de los Estados Unidos en México, Angela Kerwin; la Presidenta del patronato DIF Matamoros, Blanca Treviño; el Presidente de la Asociación Mr. Amigo, Richard Garza, y su esposa, Nancy Garza; la Presidenta de Charro Days, Lucy Escamilla, y su esposo, René Escamilla.

Cada año, la asociación de Mr. Amigo de Brownsville reconoce la contribución de amistad de un mexicano hacia los Estados Unidos. La asociación fue creada en 1964. Mr. Amigos anteriores incluyen Cantinflas, Juan Gabriel, Verónica Castro, Lucha Villa y Arath de la Torre.

Para culminar el evento, funcionarios de las ambas ciudades liberaron palomas blancas en simbolismo de paz entre las dos naciones.



El alcalde de Matamoros, Jesús de la Garza Díaz del Guante, muestra la placa obsequiada por el alcalde de Brownsville, Tony Martínez (izquierda) el pasado jueves.

# Into the sunset

## UTRGV women's hoops will soon lose a legend



LESLEY ROBLES/THE RIDER

Shawnte' Goff poses after practice last Tuesday at the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Goff is a senior and will graduate as the program record-holder in points, field goals made, defensive rebounds and games started.

### Nathaniel Mata

SPORTS EDITOR

Shawnte' Goff can walk around campus freely. She isn't mobbed by fans or anything of that sort. That doesn't bother Goff; she's able to work in a crowd or wide open.

The 5-foot-8 guard has proved that for four straight seasons, slashing to the hoop, shooting from anywhere on the court or drawing defenders and dishing to a teammate.

Her freshman season was the only one in which she wasn't a top-five scorer in the conference. That season, she finished ninth and was named Western Athletic Conference Freshman of the Year.

It's hard to believe 13.3 points per game in her first collegiate season could be considered a down year.

For Goff, growth has been somewhat of a theme her whole life. In high school, she was a special talent as well, but some discipline issues saw her off the Copperas Cove varsity roster her junior year.

"We kind of got off to a little bit of a rocky start, but it was a

kid that just loved basketball," said Teresa Durham, Goff's high school coach. "When it came down to it and she might have not had the opportunity to play, she just decided she would do whatever it took in order to play."

After rejoining Copperas Cove as a senior, she never looked back. Her coach praised her growth as a teenager to a young adult dedicated to the game. Now Durham, coach of the Allen High School girls basketball team, has a chance to be a fan of her game.

"A lot of that goes back to having the strong support of her parents and just Shawnte' as a person she grew and matured and realized how valuable basketball could be to her," Durham said. "It's just fun to watch her play. ... I've seen her play on TV several times. It's just fun knowing I knew that kid way back when."

Her evolution as a college player has coincided with the improvement of UTPA/UTRGV women's hoops.

The team's record in the year prior to Goff joining was

12-16; the top scorer on the team averaged only 8.6 per contest. UTPA scored 59.7 ppg as a team, 3.9 less than its opponents.

In women's basketball's four years with Goff, the team has averaged 63.8 points per game, and they outscored opponents in those seasons by a slim margin. The senior guard led the team in scoring each of those seasons.

The Broncs in 2014-15 reached postseason play for the first time at the Division I level. The trip to the Women's Basketball Invitational also led to the first banner hung in the rafters in program history. UTRGV added another banner last season, as it qualified for the Women's National Invitational Tournament.

"I look back at my time and say, 'Regardless of what the outcome would be this year we did some really great things,'" Goff said. "We've had the chance to hang two banners, and maybe we'll hang one more. I'll be happy with what I've done here."

At the end of the 2015-16 campaign, Goff was named WAC Player of the Year. Her 16.1 ppg led the conference as she pushed UTRGV to a second consecutive conference championship game.

"It's been really cool to watch her develop as a player and a person," Head Coach Larry Tidwell said. "She's going to be very hard to replace. We just appreciate what she's done for the last four years."

Tidwell complimented the impact Goff has had on young guards such as Nichele Hyman and Bernesha Peters, two sophomores who will be called on to try to replace Goff by association.

Peters said the influence of her teammate had a lot to

do with attitude and staying levelheaded.

"She taught me how not to be afraid and to play with confidence and to play with poise, to never let the crowd or the other team or the opponent get the best of my emotions," Peters said. "So she's a big impact and role model to me."

Goff will leave UTRGV as the program leader in games started, points (1,790) and field goals made (613). She's also in the top three in steals (186), assists (327) and three-point field goals made.

"You've definitely seen her grow not only as a player, but also promoting the game," Tidwell said about Goff's impact away from the hardwood. "She's one of our leaders with community service, she's one of our leaders in the classroom."

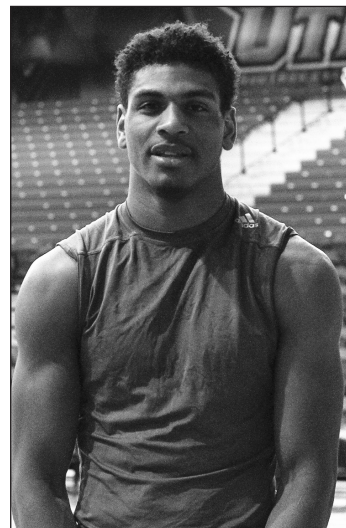
Women's basketball will not easily fill the hole that No. 11 will leave when she moves on from the NCAA game. The Copperas Cove native has aspirations to continue playing hoops after college.

Goff hopes to play overseas, possibly in Spain. Her head coach said that would be a great start. Tidwell sees her playing overseas for a few years but wouldn't be too surprised if she had a shot at the WNBA.

Only time will tell for Shawnte' Goff's future. In the present, she still has some WAC business to handle. UTRGV will play its last home game of the season against New Mexico State at 7 p.m. Saturday.

After Senior Day, she'll lead UTRGV into the WAC tournament March 8 in Las Vegas, where they'll try to take the last two seasons one step further and earn a WAC championship for the first time in program history.

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



SARAH CARVAJAL/THE RIDER

**Name:** Xavier McDaniel Jr.

**Sport:** Basketball

**Position:** Guard

**Classification:** Freshman

**Major:** Undeclared

**Age:** 19

**Hometown:** Columbia, S.C.

**Who is your favorite athlete?** "Jamal Crawford, because I grew up in Seattle before I moved to South Carolina. I used to see him around the parks and always thought he was kind of cool."

**Who is your role model?**

"My parents, because they taught me a lot about life in general. A lot of things, you know, and just being good parents." McDaniel's father played 870 games in the NBA and was named an all-star during the 1988 season.

**What is the best advice you've been given and by whom?** "My dad always tells me do what you want to do. Don't do anything for anyone else, do what makes you happy."

**When did you begin playing basketball, and why?** "Around age 7, I started taking it more serious. I was always shooting outside with my dad."

**What's your favorite place to hang out on campus?**

"My room, because I like to sleep. Every chance I get, I try to get some rest."

**What are your academic goals?** "This semester I am just trying to get a 3.0 and getting the best grades possible."

**How do you feel about being part of this team?**

"Right now we're going through a kind of low time. We've got enough here to win, we just need to put everything together. We score enough points; we just need to get more defensive stops."

**What are your personal goals for this season?** "I want to try get Freshman of the Year for conference, but I don't know, it's a little shaky right now."

--Compiled by Sarah Carvajal



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# A wild ride with ‘Bonnie & Clyde’

**Bryan Ramos**  
NEWS EDITOR

University Productions is ready to embark on a wild ride as “Bonnie & Clyde The Musical” is set to open Wednesday and run through Sunday in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

Bonnie Parker and Clyde Barrow led authorities on one of America’s most notorious manhunts in the 1930s as they went on a crime spree across the Southern states, mainly Texas, leaving a trail of robberies, burglaries and murder behind them.

The story of love and crime will come to the stage at 7:30 p.m. Wednesday under the direction of UTRGV Assistant Professor Brian Warren.

Warren, who has been with the University of Texas Pan American and UTRGV since 2002, has directed 31 productions with the university. He said “Bonnie & Clyde” was chosen because it’s a fun musical that hits close to home.

“It’s a Texas legend,” he said. “These two were born and raised in Texas, outside of Dallas. It’s always a joy to see the collaboration between the designers and the performers, and in this case, the musicians, to see how it all comes together from a variety of different kinds of talent.”

The 2009 musical was written by Ivan Menchell, with music composed by Frank Wildhorn and lyrics by Don Black. It brings a modernized touch to the stage.

The role of Bonnie Parker is played by Zoe Sesin, a junior theater major and Sharyland High School alum. Sesin said “Bonnie & Clyde The Musical” is an engaging fresh take on a



Bryan Ramos/The Rider

Julian David Ramirez and Zoe Sesin, a junior theater major, sing during rehearsal of University Productions’ “Bonnie & Clyde The Musical” in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre last Wednesday.

story from the 1930s brought to life.

“I think that the ‘Bonnie & Clyde’ musical allows people who don’t know that much about theater or who have a narrow-minded perspective about theater, ‘Bonnie & Clyde’ kind of breaks those standards with these heavy guitar songs, these rockish and very modern songs,”

Sesin said. “I think it was a great choice to do because it breaks the stereotype because it’s very engaging and there’s action that grabs you and draws you in and that’s what makes it so fresh.

Julian David Ramirez, who will play the role of Clyde Barrow, got his theater start in third grade when he played the prince in “Snow White.”

He said the audience should be prepared to be taken on a ride when watching “Bonnie & Clyde.”

“The thought of robbing banks on stage seemed so adrenaline worthy,” Ramirez said. “It’s one hell of a ride.”

The musical will be presented again at 7:30 p.m. Thursday through Saturday and 2 p.m. Sunday.

Tickets are \$10 for UTRGV students, faculty and staff, \$15 for non-UTRGV students with ID, \$20 for general admission and \$25 for reserve seating.

For more information or special accommodations, call University Productions at 665-3581 or visit [utrgv.edu/theatre](http://utrgv.edu/theatre).

# ‘SPLIT’: a refreshing and original psychological thriller

**Mario Gonzalez**  
PHOTO EDITOR

You know that feeling of relief when you get off a mechanical ride? That is the type of feeling you get after you experience a mixture of emotions at the same time. It is something similar to what I felt at the end of “SPLIT.”

Written and directed by M. “Night” Shyamalan, this film narrates the story of Kevin Wendell, a mysterious man who suffers severe dissociative identity disorder, and a group of three girls he abducted.

With 23 different personalities within, the antagonist Wendell, played by James McAvoy, portrays a wide range of characters, each unique in behavior, demeanor, age and even gender. I would not disclose more details about them; however, I believe this has been one of McAvoy’s most unique and well-executed performances that I have seen from him.

Throughout the film, we get to see McAvoy’s characters interacting with the girls inside the basement, where he keeps them captive, and with his psychiatrist, Dr. Karen Fletcher (played by Betty Buckley).

Dr. Fletcher plays an important role in the story because she is an expert in the field of identity disorder, and believes that these



Mario Gonzalez/The Rider Graphic

people could be the key to understanding the power of the mind and the limits of human physiology.

“SPLIT” is one of those films that will keep you entertained from start to end. I like how the pacing never seemed to drag; there are always new pieces of information that unfold and build the complexity of most characters.

Here is my only complaint

about the movie; in regard to the three girls, the film focuses primarily on the character of Casey Cooke (played by Anya Taylor-Joy). The audience doesn’t get to know and connect with them enough, and I was not able to care as much as I did for Casey.

The director did an excellent job of developing the complexity of the main characters, and as so, I

understand why some others felt bland in comparison.

Even though this could be a tense movie, I found that the director balanced the mood when it was needed. Yes, there are some scenes that made the audience laugh out loud. That level of audience engagement was possible thanks to McAvoy’s excellent performances. It is remarkable the way he could

be witty and startling in the next scene.

I had a great time watching this movie and am glad to know that Shyamalan is back in the game, making splendid movies again. If you had doubts about this film or needed a recommendation for something original and thrilling, “SPLIT” is definitely a must watch.

## AMIGO

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 7

She gave a brief explanation of how Charro Days was born out of the Great Depression.

“Those were dark days and local business leaders were looking for something to lift the spirits of the community. It worked because 80 years later, Charro Days continues,” Gonzales said.

She thanked the students for representing the university with pride. “Congratulations to everyone involved in the festivities that celebrate the long-standing friendship between our two countries,” she said.

Gonzales then invited Vela to the lectern.

Vela asked fellow Democratic U.S. Representatives Beto O’Rourke of El Paso and Vicente Gonzalez of McAllen to join him on the stage.

“The significance of having my colleagues here on stage is that together, the three of us represent over one half of the United States population who live in the United States-Mexico

border,” Vela said. “I cannot think of a greater moment in the United States’ history to celebrate Charro Days the way the city of Brownsville and the city of Matamoros are doing today.”

Vela said everyone should work together to make Matamoros safer, like it was 10 years ago.

“I love Matamoros,” he said.

Vela launched the social media campaign, #TamauliPazAhora.

“Fernando Landeros has founded one of the most important institutions in the Mexican society, Fundación Teletón, which has raised funds for over 20 years to support children with disabilities and cancer,” Leal said.

The foundation has helped many people in Mexico and the United States.

After Landeros’ speech, Molina-Castro and Sanchez thanked him for coming and gave him the official poster of Mr. Amigo 2016 and a basket with gifts from both UTRGV and TSC.

“We hope you remember the new family and friends you have in the Valley,” Sanchez said to Mr. Amigo 2016.

## SGA

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

is to “represent the whole student body ... and so there are many concerns that individual students may have but also many other concerns that they all share together, as a whole.”

“So, what is the SGA’s responsibility? To address those concerns to the appropriate departments of the university to help better address this problem and fix anything,” Pepping said.

He also said new students can join the SGA as interns to get better acquainted with the organization.

José Antonio Escobedo, an undeclared freshman, would like to start off as an intern before working

his way up.

“I’m interested, I guess, in government service, maybe as a career later on, so I might as well start now, some experience,” Escobedo said. “Well, besides getting the students involved in ... government processes, it also helps the student body get things done, change things.”

Applicants will be notified of their eligibility on March 7. The official campaign period will start March 27 and conclude April 6.

Online voting will begin at 8 p.m. April 4 through myUTRGV and will close at 11:59 p.m. April 6. Election results will be announced April 7.

Students who missed the information session may send an email to [sga@utrgv.edu](mailto:sga@utrgv.edu) or contact the Office of Student Involvement.

## POET

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Valley. We’ve given out 225 free books, from Peñitas to Mission, all the way to Weslaco at these discussions in libraries.”

The two will speak about “In the Time of the Butterflies,” a novel by Julia Alvarez, of which NEA Big Read has given out 225 copies throughout the Valley. There will also be a dramatic performance of the novel by the Lucia Macias Theater Production Company at 9 p.m. Friday in the Edinburg City

Auditorium as part of the community day event for FESTIBA.

Writer, musician and prominent literary publisher Bryce Milligan will also be on hand Thursday to speak about literature and social justice issues. Milligan owns Wingpress, a small publishing company in San Antonio that published Schneider’s second book, “The Magic of Mariachi.”

Herrera’s keynote address and poetry reading will run from noon to 1:30 p.m. Admission is free.

For more information about FESTIBA, visit [utrgv.edu/festiba](http://utrgv.edu/festiba).

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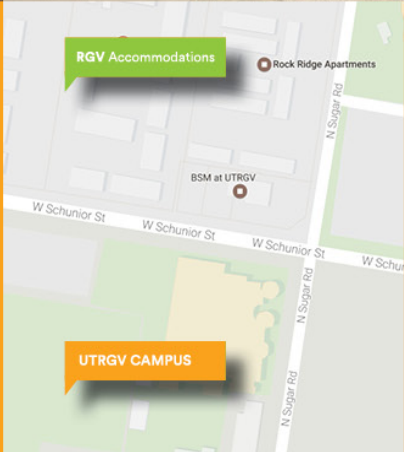
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### Edinburg Campus

Tues., March 7, 2017 | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m.

Fieldhouse (EHPE 1)

### Brownsville Campus

Wed., March 8, 2017 | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

El Gran Salon (Student Union)

For more information or if special accommodations are needed,  
please contact the Career Center at (956) 882-5627 or (956) 665-2243.

Visit us at [utrgv.edu/careercenter](http://utrgv.edu/careercenter).

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