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Transportation from Rio Grande City to UTRGV now available



Bryan Ramos/The Rider

The Jag Express Green Line will now travel from Rio Grande City to the UTRGV Edinburg campus after several students reached out to the Student Government Association with their concerns. The SGA met with university officials, who then spoke with representatives from Valley Metro to discuss a possible solution.

Jesus Sanchez

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

After presenting his concerns to the Student Government Association, kinesiology sophomore Rodrigo Ruiz's transportation request for students from Rio Grande City to UTRGV has been granted.

SGA President Alondra Galvan said there are many students from Rio Grande City who need transportation to the UTRGV Edinburg campus.

"We did have a student go to the senate meeting and present [his concerns]," Galvan said. "I did receive a lot of emails from students and a lot of SGA Vlink concern forms filled out regarding students wanting transportation from Rio Grande City."

During a Sept. 15 meeting, Ruiz asked the SGA to review his petition, which requests shuttle transportation from Rio Grande City to Edinburg and Brownsville.

Galvan told *The Rider* she and some members of

the SGA met with UTRGV President Guy Bailey, Finance and Administration Vice President Rick Anderson, Campus Auxiliary Services Assistant Vice President Letty Benavides, Auxiliary Business Services Executive Director Roberto Cantu and Parking and Transportation Services Director Rodney Gomez to discuss the issue.

The SGA presented emails it had received from Rio Grande City students, Vlink concern forms and previously published transportation

articles from *The Rider* to Bailey and his team, Galvan said.

"We did recommend to the department, 'Can you please go to Rio Grande City? Talk to the students. There, you'll be able to know how many students need it,'" she said. "The department did do that. ... They did go to Rio Grande City. They did an open house."

The SGA president said after gathering information from its visit to Rio Grande City, the university reached out to

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Debating the issues

Student organizations host Edinburg mayoral candidates

Zugay Treviño

THE RIDER

Last Wednesday, UTRGV held a debate for the Edinburg's mayoral candidates. Gina Alamia and Richard Molina are challenging incumbent Richard H. Garcia.

The Progressive Young Democrats and the College Republicans hosted the event and asked the candidates questions submitted by other UTRGV organizations. The questions varied from social to city infrastructure problems. The audience had the opportunity to ask questions and talk to the candidates after the debate.

"The objective of tonight's forum is to gain a better insight of where the candidates stand on issues that are of great concern to us as residents of Edinburg, as well as students at

UTRGV," Bianca Garcia, co-host and president of the College Republicans, told the audience gathered in the Student Union Theater.

The candidates answered a total of 13 questions in an hour and had two minutes each to respond. The first question the candidates were asked was submitted by the Environmental Awareness Club.

"As the Valley continues to grow, so do the amount of cars on the road," said Mimosa Thomas, co-host and president of Progressive Young Democrats. "Would Edinburg be able to implement public transportation systems that connects with Valley Metro and McAllen Metro to help ease traffic and lessen CO2 emissions?"

Other questions were submitted by UTRGV student organizations. The

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Joahana Segundo/The Rider

Edinburg's mayoral candidates (from left) Richard Molina, Gina Marie Alamia and incumbent Richard H. Garcia partake in a forum hosted by the College Republicans and the Progressive Young Democrats last Wednesday in the Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. During the forum, candidates answered questions submitted by multiple UTRGV student organizations regarding emergency preparedness, immigration, transportation and other topics.



Graduate & Professional SCHOOL FAIR

Meet with recruiters from healthcare/medical schools, law schools, and graduate programs. This event is open to the community.

UTRGV Brownsville Campus | Wednesday, Nov. 1, 2017

PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón (Student Union) | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

UTRGV Edinburg Campus | Thursday, Nov. 2, 2017

University Ballroom | 10 a.m. - 2 p.m.

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

Residents voice concern on Brownsville city officials Commission accepts city manager's retirement

Britney Valdez
THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission has accepted City Manager Charlie Cabler's letter of retirement despite the opposition voiced by some community members via social media, including a resident who spoke out against him.

Cabler's position was officially vacated during last Tuesday's commission meeting.

Brownsville resident Leticia Perez-Garzoria told the commission she believes Cabler, who had been city manager since 2004, should be fired, rather than receive the full-benefit package from his retirement.

"My take on this is with City Manager Cabler? Fire him. Does he deserve a benefit package with all the ribbons? I don't think so, but that's my take, and I'm sure a lot of people feel the same way," Perez-Garzoria said.

Perez-Garzoria's concerns come from an Audit and Oversight Committee Report released Oct. 2 on the Brownsville Fire Department and EMS Ambulance Services. The report contains findings regarding non-emergency transfer services throughout the City of Brownsville, according to an Oct. 2 statement made by Cabler.

In his statement, Cabler denied being interviewed or asked to provide any information regarding the committee's investigations and findings.

In an Oct. 3 meeting, District 4 City Commissioner Ben Neece disputed Cabler's



Robert Benavidez Jr./The Rider

Brownsville resident Leticia Perez-Garzoria addresses her issue with former City Manager Charlie Cabler retiring with full benefits. The city commission accepted Cabler's the letter of retirement.

statement.

Later in that meeting, the City Commission approved receiving the Commission Audit Committee report regarding the operations of the Fire Department and EMS Ambulance Services. District 1 City Commissioner Ricardo Longoria cast the sole dissenting vote.

Carlos Elizondo, the city's fire chief, was demoted to fire lieutenant last month.

Last week, a Cameron County grand jury returned an indictment against Elizondo, alleging that between May 22, 2010, and March 31, 2016, he unlawfully appropriated more

than \$1,500 but less than \$20,000 from the Brownsville Firefighters Association Political Action Committee "without effective consent of the owner, and with the intent to deprive the owner of the property, and the defendant was then and there a public servant, namely, a Brownsville firefighter, and such property appropriated by the defendant had theretofore come into his custody, possession, or control by virtue of his status as a public servant."

Count II of the indictment alleges that between May 22, 2010, and March 31, 2016, Elizondo "did then

and there intentionally, knowingly, and recklessly misapply property" with a value of more than \$20,000 but less than \$100,000 "by making expenditures from the Brownsville Firefighters for Responsible Government Political Action Committee bank account(s)."

On Oct. 17, Elizondo surrendered at the District Attorney's Office and was arraigned on two third-degree felony charges, theft by a public servant and misapplication of fiduciary property. Associate Judge Louis Sorola set bond at \$8,500 on each charge, according to a news release

from the Cameron County District Attorney's Office.

Asked about Elizondo's arrest, District 4 City Commissioner Ben Neece declined to comment on the situation.

Brownsville blogger Erasmo Castro told the commission officials have been making a "circus attraction" out of the city's government, due to the increase in negative attention they have been bringing onto themselves, such as Cesar De Leon, City Commissioner At-Large "A," who revoked his resignation earlier this month following leaked audio recordings in which he used racial slurs against two Cameron County assistant district attorneys.

De Leon was absent from last Tuesday's meeting.

"Brownsville is making national headlines for all the wrong reasons," Castro said. "The residents of Brownsville are being fooled by individuals who claim to want change, only to find out that the only change they seek is the extra change in their pockets."

Asked about the city's plans to relocate the Jefferson Davis Highway Memorial, Neece told *The Rider* it will be put on hold until Mayor Tony Martinez calls a town hall meeting to further discuss the issue.

The commission also authorized the Brownsville Metro Department to offer a Free Ride Day on Wednesday to commemorate Public Transit Week.

The BMetro bus service will operate fare-free for a day in order to promote public transportation to the community.

Edinburg extends voting hours

Gabriel Galvan
THE RIDER

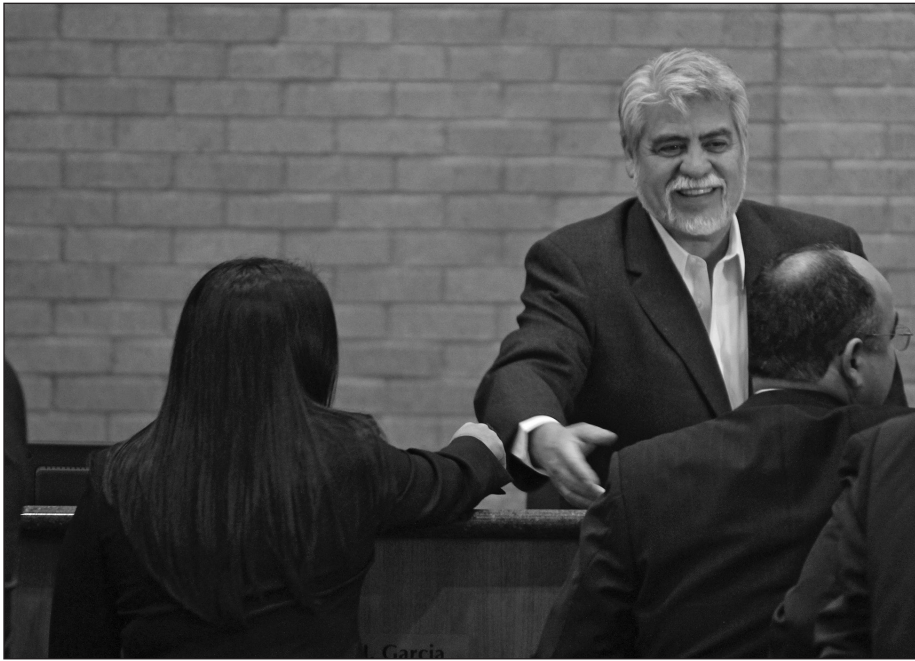
The Edinburg City Council has approved extending the hours of voting in the upcoming municipal election from 9 to 12.

The previous voting period was from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and now it will be from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"It needs to be amended, because we didn't know where the sites were going to be and the time was still showing 8 to 5 as the voting hours," City Manager Ramiro Garza told the council during its meeting last Tuesday night. "The voting hours are now 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. We're just amending the order so that its matches the same [time] we are doing, as far as the election."

The two early voting and election day sites in Edinburg are the Hidalgo County Elections Department, located at 101 S. 10th Ave., and the Student Union at UTRGV. Early voting begins today and continues through Nov. 3. Election Day is Nov. 7.

The City Council voted unanimously to hire an attorney for the city look over the contract with Texas Gas



Lesley Robles/The Rider

Edinburg Mayor Richard H. Garcia greets local funeral directors last Tuesday after he proclaimed Oct. 8-14 as Funeral Directors Week in appreciation of their services.

Service Co., a division of ONE Gas Inc. On June 15, Texas Gas Service filed a

statement of intent to increase rates within the incorporated areas of its Rio

Grande Valley Service Area, according to the texasgasservice.com website. The proposed effective date was July 20.

Garza said residents are likely to see an increase in their natural gas bills.

"Whenever we have any [dealings], whether it be with AP, AT&T, or Texas Gas Service, all the cities in the region get together and hire an attorney to look at the case for us, and that's what occurred," he said.

In other business, the council approved proclamations declaring Funeral Directors Week Oct. 8 to 14, and Texas Chamber of Commerce Week, Oct. 16 to 20.

"The finality of death brings great pain and sense of loss to family and friends," Mayor Richard H. Garcia said. "Citizens call upon funeral directors during their time of grieving, when they're in need of solace, guidance, passion and professional services."

He also recognized the city's chamber for its services.

"The Edinburg Chamber of Commerce was created in 1932 to lead the effort in advancing commerce and the quality life in Edinburg, and in the region," Garcia said.

CAMPUS Q&A

How are you preparing for midterms?



"Well, I try to study, but most of the times I fail at that. But, overall, I just look in the Blackboard. It helps me a lot with the reviews and chapter contents that it comes in, depending on the class it is."

Juan Camacho
Electrical engineering freshman

"[I] usually do, like, study groups and stuff, 'cause I really can't study by myself. So, I usually need someone to help me out like with studying, like, they test me and stuff like that."



Ana Bautista
Early childhood education sophomore

"Hago notes y luego las repaso en mi mente, y luego las estudio ... como si yo [estuviera] dando la clase. Y así es como yo me aprendo lo que debo de estudiar para el midterm".



Jonathan Ovando
Theatre freshman

"Reading a lot and just keeping myself up all the time. 'Cause I don't really—I can't stay focused, so I usually just read a lot and snap myself out of everything and just read. And that's honestly it. I read a lot."



Alondra Garcia
Nursing freshman

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy



Staying proud under rain clouds

An open letter to whoever



P.J. Hernandez
COPY EDITOR

Doubt is like a violin, always at my neck and pulling at my strings. The sharp notes always leave its markings around my neck when it tries to lynch me.

It's also similar to a rain cloud, just following me wherever I go.

My heart gets soaked and sinks like an anchor, or how former NBA player Jerry Stackhouse used to get low at the free-throw line. Every time I want to grasp the sun's rays, I'm just stuck in the moon's shade. Then when I think I'm going to shine, doubt just hides in its pitch-black alleyway waiting to jump me with sadder Blue Devils than Duke University. It seems they just rob me of my pocketful of stars and replaces them with stones to throw.

Sometimes, I feel like there's got to be more for me, like an ending that doesn't explain everything for the audience. Other times, it just feels like my six years in the university don't mean much. I studied

for two degrees, yet I don't associate myself as a bachelor, and I feel appalled when I'm told that I should slave for a master's. The reason is because I don't know if I can do it. That's probably why I abbreviate my name, to show everyone my shortcomings.

I wish my pride was on the level of Floyd Mayweather's, but if I was anything similar to him—I wouldn't be able to read between the lines.

Maybe I'm selling myself short like a pawn shop. Or perhaps, I'm just that coin that was tossed in a well and left to drown.

I'm tired of empty wishing, though.

Even though there wasn't a king in the home, I still became a prince, but regardless, I still envy those who have one. No father figure, but I still raised these words off the floor like a newborn. I owe everything to my mother. We grew up broke as a shattered vase, but the love was richer than a Rothschild.

I think we are all royalty. We just need people to remind us of that. Old friends of mine seemed to leave when I began to struggle. So, it's no joke when I say I know folk who

have gone missing on me like Roanoke.

It took a lot of new faces to remind me why I even started writing as my craft in the first place. Every day I have the world on my back like I'm Atlas, but the pride they give me helps ease the load off.

It's a never-ending struggle. Sometimes, I just want to don the villain's mask and other times, I feel I need to wear the hero's crown. It's as if everyone wants to see me shine in the shadow of a doubt.

Maybe they're onto something.

I think that's what you call love. Something that people spend their entire lives searching for and can never decipher it like an unfinished thesis.

The other week I wrote about how Hoodie Melo rocks his hoodie to protect himself from the raining doubt that's over him.

I should do the same.

Yesterday, I was drowning.

Today, I'm blossoming like the flower you give to your crush and over everyone's head like a cracked crown.

But you knew that already. Right?

Letter to the Editor: Students take action to stop border wall

This week, a bipartisan group of U.S. senators gave a glimmer of hope to immigrant youth currently permitted to remain in the U.S. under the DACA program. Unfortunately, that glimmer of hope comes with threats of increased militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border, and it remains a possibility that any potential relief for immigrant youth and families will be tied to funding for Trump's ludicrous border wall. Fortunately, there are students in Texas leading a movement to fight the

border wall within their own communities.

Passionate young people in Texas are working with city councils to pass local resolutions opposing the proposed border wall and Senate Bill 4, Texas' anti-immigrant "show me your papers" law. These young activists have built a movement that has created a chain reaction throughout Texas' Rio Grande Valley. Students oppose the border wall and Senate Bill 4 (SB4) for similar reasons: Neither the proposed wall nor the new

Texas law will do anything to address the need for comprehensive immigration reform. Instead, both are rooted in anti-immigrant hate and would cause real harm to immigrant youth and border communities.

A border wall would devastate our hometowns: Such a proposal is financially irresponsible, likely logistically impossible and environmentally disastrous. The existing wall has already taken land from local communities, endangered ecosystems, and

divided immigrant youth from families, economic opportunities and even health care. Instead of using resources on an ineffective border wall, we should use those resources to invest in our communities' health care and other necessities.

SB4, Texas' new anti-immigrant law, bans sanctuary cities and allows law enforcement to ask persons suspected of being immigrants for documentation during something as routine as a traffic stop. This policy—like the unconstitutional Arizona

law that inspired it—will only contribute to an atmosphere of fear and isolation that hurts women and young people.

The border wall and SB4 also affect our communities' sexual and reproductive health: Undocumented people are already limited in travel by immigration checkpoints, meaning our access to basic reproductive care like abortion and birth control can be cut off. How is an immigrant woman who's afraid to drive her car at all supposed to take her kids to

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Un gran legado

Eric Montoya
EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Este año es el 30 aniversario de “Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza” de la escritora Gloria E. Anzaldúa, nativa del Valle del Río Grande, y reconocido como uno de los 100 mejores libros del siglo XX.

A principios de este mes, el Center for Mexican American Studies y el Center for Bilingual Studies pagó tributo a la fallecida escritora chicana, feminista-lesbiana, teórica queer y activista política quien se convirtió en una de las representantes de la literatura mexicoamericana en la época de los ’90s y su impacto aún continúa.

Anzaldúa nació el 26 de septiembre de 1942 en Raymondville. Ella era la hermana mayor de cuatro hermanos pertenecientes a la sexta generación de una familia de trabajadores migrantes. Sus padres eran Urbano y Amalia (García) Anzaldúa, de acuerdo con el American National Biography Online.

Ella padecía de un raro desorden hormonal el cual le causó pubertad prematura. En 1949, se unió al sistema de educación de Texas en donde sufrió discriminación por no hablar el idioma inglés. Ocho años después, su padre falleció, dejando como consecuencia problemas financieros para su familia. Después de graduarse de la Escuela Preparatoria de Edinburg en 1962, Anzaldúa se mudó al norte de Texas en donde entró a estudiar en Texas Woman’s University. Sin embargo, después de un año tuvo que regresar al Valle por razones económicas. De 1965 a 1968, estudió en University of Texas-Pan American (ahora UTRGV) y después se graduó con una licenciatura en inglés y educación. Todo esto de acuerdo con American National Biography Online.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Cinthya Saavedra, directora académica del departamento de Estudios Mexicoamericanos, dijo que después de que Anzaldúa obtuviera su licenciatura, trabajó como maestra aquí en el Valle del Río Grande.

Saavedra también dijo que la autora tuvo varias dificultades por ser lesbiana.

“Ella desafiaba las ideas impuestas [que se tienen] de ser una mujer porque ella era lesbiana, era una feminista lesbiana chicana,” ella dijo. “... Imaginate en ese tiempo, e incluso ahora no creo que es tan fácil. ... Esas fueron unas de las dificultades. Entender su lesbianismo ... no querer hacer lo que todas las mujeres hacen, y [también] batalló cuando era niña porque ella solo hablaba español”.

No fue hasta 1972 cuando la escritora obtuvo su maestría en inglés y educación en University of Texas at Austin.

Anzaldúa trabajó en diferentes trabajos de medio tiempo mientras que a la misma vez se concentraba en su escritura. En 1987 su libro “Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza” fue publicado, con-



Foto Cortesía de K. Kendall

Gloria E. Anzaldúa

virtiéndose en la obra más conocida de la autora, de acuerdo con American National Biography Online.

Saavedra dijo que en este libro Anzaldúa muestra a los lectores como es vivir en fronteras.

“Cuando yo leo “Borderlands” ... veo que ella está dándonos de sus experiencias”, ella dijo. “Nos está diciendo como navegar las fronteras. Como estar en lugares, y en medio de ellos. En su primer capítulo nos da un muy buen entendimiento de la historia del Valle. Desde la historia de mexicanos hasta los aztecas. ... Así que nos vuelve a contar la historia”.

Ella también dijo que la autora hace varias referencias a los aztecas y de la misma manera usa continuamente el idioma español en su libro.

“Hace mucha referencia ... a la mitología azteca para darse a entender”, Saavedra dijo. “Usa dioses y diosas, generalmente diosas, [de los] aztecas. Ella también habla acerca del idioma. ... Como los chicanos ... usamos el idioma, pero como también nosotros nos juzgamos entre nosotros ya sea por no hablar español muy bien o por mezclar los idiomas. ... Enton-

ces ella dice que deberíamos estar orgullosos por la mezcla, es importante para nosotros”.

A lo largo de su carrera, de acuerdo con el American National Biography Online, “Anzaldúa ganó varios premios, incluyendo el Before Columbus Foundation American Book Award, Lambda Literary Award for Lesbian Small Press, National Endowment for the Arts Fiction Award, Lesbian Rights Award, Sappho Award of Distinction y el American Studies Association Carl Bode-Norman Pearson Prize por los logros en su vida”.

Anzaldúa falleció en mayo del 2004 en su casa en Santa Cruz, California, por complicaciones relacionadas con diabetes.

Saavedra dijo que es importante que los estudiantes en UTRGV se expongan a este tipo de literatura.

“Ellos se pueden ver a sí mismos en cosas de las que ella habla”, ella dijo. “Por ejemplo, muchos de mis estudiantes, incluso los estudiantes hombres, hablan sobre la opresión de géneros. Ella habla bastante acerca de eso. Como ser una mujer, y no solo eso, una mujer que no se comporta, es malo en muchas comunidades”.

Ella también dijo que los estudiantes se conectan con la autora ya que ella hace uso del español en su obra, lo cual incita a los estudiantes a usar más el español y a entender que el mezclar los idiomas no es una razón para avergonzarse.

El pasado 11 de octubre UTRGV sostuvo una presentación en el campus de Edinburg donde Aida Hurtado, profesora y Luis Leal Endowed Chair en el Chicano and Chicana Studies Department en la University of California, Santa Barbara, dio una plática acerca de la vida y obras de Gloria Anzaldúa. Esto fue parte de la celebración del 30 aniversario de la publicación de “Borderlands/La Frontera: The New Mestiza”.

De la misma manera, en el día de su cumpleaños hace unas semanas, Google le rindió homenaje a Anzaldúa por medio de un *doodle*.

Saavedra dijo que esta obra de Anzaldúa fue clasificada en la lista de los mejores libros de 1997 en el lugar número 38 y también fue reconocida como uno de los 100 mejores libros del centenario.

Ella dijo que el legado de Anzaldúa es muy grande.

“Ella nos ayuda a navegar, a la gente que está en el margen,” ella dijo. “... Eso es uno de sus legados. El otro creo que sería [que nos hace] pensar dos veces lo que pensamos acerca de las fronteras. Ella reta la dicotomía de “nosotros-ellos”, tu sabes, como el “esos son ellos y estos nosotros”. Ella no quiere que hagamos eso. Y creo que su otro legado es que [nos enseñó que] podemos encontrar conocimiento, verdad y sabiduría en nuestras propias experiencias si las reflexionamos”.



Nombre: Yelbir Kazhykarim

Edad: 30

Clasificación: Estudiante de posgrado para la maestría en física

Lugar de origen: Karagandá, Kazakstán

Idiomas: Kazajo, ruso, inglés y japonés rudimentario

¿Por qué decidiste estudiar en los Estados Unidos? “Mi supervisor aquí, Dr. Malik Rakhmanov, es originario de Kazakstán, así que él vino a darme una conferencia acerca de LIGO [Laser Interferometer Gravitational-wave Observatory] Project, un proyecto [en el] cual esta universidad está sumamente involucrada, la cual fue una de las primeras universidades que de hecho empezaron todo esto. Así que, el me hizo que me interesara mucho, porque yo siempre estaba soñando sobre hacer algo fundamental en física, contribuir con algo que tenga que ver con los fundamentos mismos de la física, examinar algunas teorías básicas en vez de solo hacer cosas aplicadas. Es muy difícil encontrar estas investigaciones en física. La mayoría de las universidades y la gente hacen cosas aplicadas [física aplicada] simplemente porque hay más becas para eso. Yo estaba feliz de obtener esta oportunidad y venir a Brownsville”.

¿Cuánto tiempo has estado en los Estados Unidos? “Por dos años ya”.

¿Cuáles son algunas tradiciones de tu ciudad natal? “OK, vamos a empezar con una que causó la mayor-

ía de los problemas para mí: Nosotros comemos caballos. Comemos carne de caballo. Es una comida tradicional de todas las culturas nómadas, [y] una de ellas [es] Kazakstán”.

Menciona algunos platillos típicos de tu ciudad natal: “Mi favorito se llama kazy. Básicamente es, les quitan los intestinos a los caballos, los lavan, los hierven, para que quede como una salchicha y adentro de esta le ponen carne de las piernas de los caballos y de la nuca, son algunas de las mejores partes, y lo ponen adentro y termina siendo como una gran salchicha. Esto es extremadamente delicioso y, Dios, ¡lo extraño! Nos lo comemos como si fuera una pasta, como una capa delgada de pasta. Es como si tomaras todo lo que necesitas para hacer fideos y no lo cortaras en pequeñas partes, así que es como si fuera un gran fideo, por decirlo así”.

¿Cuál es tu platillo favorito de aquí? “Realmente amo el aguacate, y en mi país son raros. Lo que quiero decir es que los puedes comprar, pero no están tan ricos. Así que lo que sea que tenga que ver con aguacates aquí, como guacamole, unos tacos con guacamole, lo que sea que tenga guacamole”.

¿Cuáles son algunas atracciones turísticas de tu ciudad natal?

“Bueno, es una atracción turística, pero lo es de una manera desagradable. Karagandá es el lugar donde el famoso Karlag estaba localizado en los tiempos de Stalin, así que Kazakstán es parte de [la] Unión Soviética y el Karlag era un campo de concentración para las esposas de los enemigos de la nación. Así que, cualquiera que no le gustara a Stalin, los llamaba ‘enemigo de la gente’ y sus esposas eran enviadas a Karagandá, y ellos eran enviados a Siberia”.

¿Cuál es tu lugar favorito en Brownsville/Edinburg? “El labora-

torio. Segundo después del laboratorio, yo diría que [la cafetería] “El Hueso [de Fraile]. Hay muchos lugares que me gustan, pero lo que me gusta más acerca de El Hueso es que tiene la atmósfera del Valle y de la comunidad hispana y eso es [exclusivamente] de Brownsville. Otros lugares pueden ser buenos, pero puedes encontrar cientos de ellos en otros lugares y estos van a hacer completamente similares, pero El Hueso es algo que solo puedes encontrar aquí. Y el [Gladys Porter Zoo]. Me gusta mucho el zoológico”.

¿Qué diferencias encuentras entre tu ciudad nativa y los Estados Unidos? “Hay un número astronómico de diferencias, pero la primera de todas es que mi país es mucho más pobre que los Estados Unidos. Yo diría que la primera cosa que te das cuenta cuando vienes aquí es la diferencia en el clima, obviamente. Kazakstán tiene un clima extremoso, así que tenemos inviernos muy fríos y veranos muy calientes, así que obtienes extremos y es mucho más seco comparado con este lugar. Cuando acababa de llegar aquí, sentía que estaba en un sauna. ¡Y la gente! La gente aquí es mucho más amigable. Sonríen, te dicen hola cuando te ven. En mi casa, eso es completamente diferente, tenemos una mentalidad diferente. No es como si la gente fuera grosera o mala, solo que no es normal en la cultura, y serías un raro si te rieras con un extraño allá”.

¿Cuáles son algunas ideas erróneas que la gente tiene sobre tu país? “¡Eso es fácil! ¡Ese Borat [“Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious of Kazakhstan”, la película] no es de Kazakstán! La película fue filmada en Rumania, el tipo nunca ha estado en Kazakstán. ¡La película no tiene nada que ver con Kazakstán!”

¿Qué es lo que más extrañas de tu país natal? “Solamente mi familia, honestamente. Mi madre, hermano y mi padre. Honestamente eso es todo ... ¡y la carne de caballo!”



Ana Cahuiche/Foto The Rider

CLUB SPOTLIGHT



Lesley Robles/The Rider

Executive board members of the Filipino Student Association include (from left) Treasurers Elvin Nuñez and Marissa Jain, Student Adviser Ramya Puttagunta, President Liana Chee, Historian Rachael Lumba, Secretary Rogelio Rojas and Vice President Daniel Julian.

Name: Filipino Student Association

Purpose: To help each other develop intellectually, socially and culturally. Members promote the Filipino culture and provide peer support.

President: Liana Chee

Vice President: Daniel Julian

Secretary: Rogelio Rojas

Treasurers: Elvin Nuñez and Marissa Jain

Historian: Rachael Lumba

Student Adviser: Ramya Puttagunta

Activities: Aside from socializing, fundraising through Boba sales and learning more about the Filipino culture, members also compete in dance and intramural

sports. It has modern and traditional Filipino dance teams. The dance and intramural teams compete against other Filipino student associations across Texas in GoodPhil Games, a tournament held each March.

Awards: Bronc Madness 2013, 2014 and 2015 Modern Dance Team: First Place; UTRGV Madness 2016-Modern Dance Team: Best Attire; and UTRGV Madness 2017-Modern Dance Team: Best Choreography and Best Mix.

Meetings: 12:05 to 1:30 p.m. every first and third Tuesday of the month in Science Building 2.108 on the Edinburg campus.

Membership requirements: \$25 dues per school year.

For more information, email: fsa.utrgv@gmail.com.

--Compiled by Lesley Robles

Los Muertos Bailan

A CELEBRATION OF DIA DE LOS MUERTOS



FRIDAY • OCT. 27TH
6:00 P.M.

EDINBURG CITY HALL COURTYARD
415 W. UNIVERSITY DR. EDINBURG, TX

SPECIAL PRESENTATION BY THE
OAXACA DELEGATION

6:00 PM CALENDIA (STREET PARADE)
& THE GUELAGUETZA (TRADITIONAL DANCE FROM OAXACA)

CATRIN + CATRINA COSTUME CONTEST
8 PM CHILDREN'S CONTEST 9:20 PM ADULT CONTEST

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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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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

‘Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed’
The UTRGV Office of Public Art will host the “**Maya: Hidden Worlds Revealed**” exhibit from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays until Jan. 5, 2018, in the Visitors Center on the Edinburg campus. Admission is free. For more information, call 665-2353.

Opioid workshop
The UTRGV Collegiate Recovery Program will host an **opioid overdose prevention and education workshop** from 6 to 7:30 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2674.

Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament
The UTRGV Student Union will host a **Yu-Gi-Oh! Tournament** at noon in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.



Tuesday

Pumpkin Carving Contests
The UTRGV Student Union will host a **Pumpkin Carving Contest** at 9 a.m. at the Student Union East Patio on the Edinburg campus. The contest

Have an announcement?

**Email us at
TheRider@utrgv.edu**

will be held at 11 a.m. Wednesday in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Environmental Symposium
The **Environmental Studies Program** will host an **Environmental Studies Symposium** from 3 to 7 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call

882-5055.

Movie Showing: ‘It’
The UTRGV **Campus Programming Board** will show the movie “**It**” from 6 to 9 p.m. in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-5111.

Master Chorale Performance
The UTRGV **Patron of the Arts** will host the UTRGV **Master Chorale** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. For more information, call 882-7025.

Wednesday

CAVE Conference
The UTRGV Office for Victim Advocacy & Violence Prevention will host its second annual **CAVE Conference** from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-8287.

--Compiled by Sergio Garcia

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 9 and 14.



Oct. 9 5:46 p.m.: A student requested a police escort after seeing her sister’s ex-boyfriend on the Edinburg campus earlier that day. The man, who is not affiliated with the university, has a history of assault against her sister. The student requested a criminal trespass warning be issued to him if later identified.

Oct. 10 12:10 p.m.: An officer was dispatched to Texas Southmost College Cavalry Hall in Brownsville in regard to a suspicious telephone call received by a UTRGV staff member. The caller was attempting to extort money. The staff member hung up and no money was exchanged.

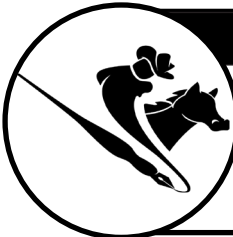
1:06 p.m.: A staff member at Texas Southmost College Cavalry Hall reported an unauthorized charge made to his UTRGV issued procurement card. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 11 1:50 p.m.: A student reported that her vehicle license plate was stolen while parked in Lot E31. After reviewing video footage, it was determined that

the incident did not occur on campus.

Oct. 12 8:43 a.m.: A staff member reported discovering a wireless printer damaged on the first floor hallway of the STAC building on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

9:25 a.m.: A non-affiliated woman reported that she slipped and fell



University Police

Brownsville

Dispatch

882-8232

Edinburg

Dispatch

665-7151

Email: Police@utrgv.edu
Campus Emergency: 882-2222

on the Lozano-Banco bridge on the Brownsville campus. She refused emergency medical services and left campus with a family member.

10:48 a.m.: A student reported she lost her wallet containing IDs, along with some debit and credit cards in Lot B6.

5:57 p.m.: A student reported her vehicle was damaged while parked in Lot E16. The vehicle sustained visible damage to the driver’s side.

5:57 p.m.: A non-affiliated woman reported she was assaulted by her 13-year-old son in Lot E2. She stated that he hit her on the head with his

fist several times. She drove to the Edinburg Police Department to file the initial police report and was referred to University Police. The Edinburg Police Department conducted an emergency mental health detention on her son, who was then admitted to the South Texas Behavioral Health Center for an evaluation. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 13 9:33 a.m.: A staff member reported a water leak in a room in the Biomedical Research & Health Building on the Brownsville campus. The only damage was to the ceiling tiles.

Oct. 14 12:40 p.m.: A non-affiliated woman ran into the Medical Library on the Harlingen campus asking to use the phone to call 911, saying she was running from her boyfriend who would beat her if she returned to him. Officers from the Harlingen Police Department were contacted and a UTRGV Public Safety Officer stayed with her until they arrived. She said she was not injured. The Harlingen Police Department arrived and transported her to their police station. The initial incident occurred off campus.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

SHUTTLE

Continued from Page 1

Valley Metro to discuss a solution.

“There is a current bus called Jag Express Green Line and that line, actually, goes already from [South Texas College], which is right next to the Rio Grande City campus for UTRGV,” Galvan said. “That route already exists. However, it just doesn’t arrive [to] the UTRGV Edinburg campus.”

University officials spoke with Valley Metro representatives to see if the Jag Express shuttle can make a stop on the Edinburg campus.

The service is scheduled to be available today.

Galvan said the service will have two routes available in the morning and afternoon.

“The Jag Express is going to go to the Rio Grande [City] campus,” she said. “At 6 a.m., it’s going to leave. Then, it’ll arrive at 7:30 a.m. at the McAllen STC Pecan campus and it’ll arrive at the UTRGV campus at 8 a.m.”

The other route will leave the Rio Grande City campus at 6:40 a.m. and arrive at 8:10 a.m. in McAllen. The shuttle is expected to arrive at UTRGV at 8:40 a.m.

In the afternoon, the shuttle will

depart from the UTRGV Edinburg campus at 4:45 p.m. It is scheduled to arrive in McAllen at 5:35 p.m. and in Rio Grande City at 7:05 p.m.

Another shuttle will leave at 5:50 p.m. from Edinburg and at 6:30 p.m. from McAllen. The shuttle is scheduled to arrive in Rio Grande City at 8 p.m.

Galvan told *The Rider* students needed the most help getting to Edinburg from Rio Grande City, according to the information gathered at the open house.

Asked if the new service would make a stop on the Brownsville campus, the SGA president replied, “[The Parking and Transportation Department] said no one requested [the service] from Brownsville.”

Gomez confirmed this to *The Rider*. The parking and transportation director said the new service would cost his department about \$8,000 in labor and maintenance for the remainder of the fall semester.

In other transportation concerns, the SGA requested the placement of tents by the shuttle stop on each campus.

“That way, [the tents] can act like a little shelter,” Galvan said. “That won’t only help us with rain, but also with the heat. In Brownsville, there’s no trees that help us. In Edinburg, there is but

you’re far from the line.”

The SGA also recommended a staff member to be present during shuttle arrivals to help organize a line and maintain safety, even though no safety concerns have been raised.

Another recommendation made to the Parking and Transportation department was adding stanchions to keep the line organized, said Gabriela Castorena, the SGA vice president for the Brownsville campus.

Galvan and Castorena said the SGA will continue to do its best to identify student concerns in an effort to resolve them.

“We’re already in mid-semester but we’re very excited [for] what’s coming up,” Castorena said. “We’re working very hard with [several] departments and we’re trying to improve for students to have the best services that they can. ... Whatever concerns [students] have, [they] can always come to us, so we can have another approach toward it and to work with them.”

The SGA office is located in Student Union 1.28 on the Brownsville campus and in University Center 218 on the Edinburg campus.

For more information, call 665-2514 in Edinburg and 882-5111 in Brownsville or email sga@utrgv.edu.

Cross-country teams ready for WAC Championships



Bryan Ramos/The Rider Photos

Members of the women’s and men’s cross-country teams practice at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex last Friday in preparation for the WAC Championships Saturday in New Mexico.

Bryan Ramos
SPORTS EDITOR

The finish line is quickly approaching for the UTRGV Cross Country Teams as the end of October nears, and with it, the Western Athletic Conference Championships.

First-year Head Coach Darren Flowers and his group head to Las Cruces, N.M., on Saturday to compete against runners from the six other WAC cross-country programs. The teams have spent the last few months ramping up their preparation, and now finally at full strength, Flowers is hopeful UTRGV can have its best showing with a conference title on the line.

“I’ve been really proud of the way they’ve worked this year,” he said. “You have to find the mix between keeping them healthy, getting them to the line, try and push the issue and really train hard, and also getting them better week in and week out. I don’t even know if we’ve run full strength with both squads at one time yet. This may be the first time going into the WAC Championships that we’re running full out, with everyone healthy and at full strength. Training’s been good and attitudes have been good, so I think we’re in a decent place going into the WAC.”

The road up to this point has been long and winding, but UTRGV has put forth solid effort and performance in its four races this year.

UTRGV’s best finish as a team came in the Islander

Splash hosted by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi on Sept. 23. The race was part of the South Texas Showdown, the yearlong competition against TAMUCC, as the men’s team took home a first-place finish, while the women’s team came in second.

Junior Alberto Herrera led the men’s team with a first-place finish and a time of 19:29.3 in the four-mile race, which was four seconds faster than the second-place finisher. As a team, three Vaqueros placed in the top five as junior Brian Yanez posted a fourth-place finish with a time of 19:59.4 and sophomore Ricardo Mendoza finished in fifth place with a time of 20:03.0.

Four women finished in the top 10 of the 5,000-meter run, as sophomore Krysta Martinez led UTRGV with a time of 20:05.8, which was good enough for fifth place. Junior Thalia Polanco finished in seventh (20:14.8), sophomore Alma Villanueva in ninth (20:30.6) and freshman Kelly Aguinaga (20:39.5) rounded out the top 10 for UTRGV.

Last season at the WAC Championships in Seattle, the women’s team finished in fourth place while the men’s team finished in sixth, just one place above last. This year, the returners who have had a taste of the WAC Championships are looking to improve individually while leading both the UTRGV men’s and women’s teams.

Herrera, a Weslaco East graduate and University of Arkansas at Little Rock transfer, said he’s ready for

his second WAC Championship and is looking for a top-five finish after placing 19th a year ago.

“I feel like Corpus gave us a little bit of confidence, Chili Pepper gave me a good amount of confidence,” he said. “Overall, I think we’ve been improving and getting more confident as a team going into conference. Last year, it was a good experience. I think I raced all right, but this year, there’s certainly new goals and we’d like to finish a lot higher than what we finished last year and, individually, I’d like to help the team and finish in the top five.”

Polanco, who gets hyped for races by listening to AC/DC and puts teammates at ease by making them laugh, missed receiving a plaque at the WAC Championships a year ago when she finished in 15th place, as only the top 14 are awarded. This year, with the race in her home state of New Mexico, she is determined to bring a plaque back to Edinburg with a good showing for UTRGV.

“I really do want to place higher,” she said. “I missed getting a plaque last year because of that 15th place, which is still a little aggravating, but I hope for better this year. Chasing that plaque, especially since we’re going to be running in my hometown, so hopefully we can do something good.”

The UTRGV Men’s and Women’s Cross Country Teams are ready and set for the WAC Championships this Saturday in Las Cruces, N.M. For up-to-date race action, visit GoUTRGV.com.

■ COLUMN



Bryan Ramos
SPORTS EDITOR

Gregg Popovich, the long-time head coach of the San Antonio Spurs, has always been the type to let you know exactly how he feels. Ask him a stupid question in a sideline interview and prepare to be flamed, wear an ugly suit and be ready to get roasted (shoutout to Craig Sager), or be the worst president in the history of the United States and get completely eviscerated by the most interesting man in the world.

Pop is widely regarded as one of the greatest coaches in all of sports, thanks to the model of consistency he’s built on the hardwood in San Antonio. The accomplishments are endless--five NBA championships, four-time coach of the Western Conference All-Stars, three Coach of the Year awards, and most recently, being named the next Head Coach of the USA Men’s Basketball National Team and an opportunity to represent his country.

Representing his country is something Popovich is used to, having graduated from the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1970 with a degree

Popovich for president

in Soviet Studies (he’s on to you, Trump). He played four seasons for the academy and was the team’s captain and leading scorer in his senior season. After that, he served his five-year military commitment, went back to the academy to jump on as an assistant coach, and the rest is history.

With that sort of experience and leadership under his belt, I think it’s pretty safe to say Pop knows what’s up with the what’s up. He’s a level of woke people aspire to be. So, when he made his most recent comments about Donald Trump to The Nation after the idiot-in-chief blatantly lied about Presidents Obama and Bush never contacting families who lost loved ones fighting for our country, people listened.

“This man in the Oval Office is a soulless coward who thinks that he can only become large by belittling others. This has of course been a common practice of his, but to do it in this manner--and to lie about how previous presidents responded to the deaths of soldiers--is as low as it gets. We have a pathological liar in the White House, unfit intellectually, emotionally, and

psychologically to hold this office, and the whole world knows it, especially those around him every day. The people who work with this president should be ashamed, because they know better than anyone just how unfit he is, and yet they choose to do nothing about it. This is their shame most of all.”

Well said, Pop.

He’s the perfect example of a white male using his privilege and platform to speak out for those who are afraid to do so, against the division our country is facing. That’s why I think Gregg Popovich would make a great next president of the United States. If you speak to those who know him when the cameras are off, they’ll tell you what a great guy he is, and just how funny he can be. Popovich is a big wine drinker, which I would prefer my president drank, as opposed to the dude in office who chugs self-tanner.

People pay attention when Popovich speaks.

His players ride-or-die for him, and he rides for them, just like he’ll ride for the U.S. Tough love is necessary sometimes, and Pop knows how to

navigate that, dealing with characters like the timid Tim Duncan, the eccentric Manu Ginobili, and in-your-face Stephen Jackson. I don’t think Kim Jong Un and Trump’s owner, Russian Vlad, could take Popovich’s ice grills, wine breath and mind games; count that as a win for America.

I even know the perfect person to be Pop’s running mate--a relatively unknown woman who goes by the name of Winfrey, Oprah Winfrey. With her and Pop together, they’d be the most dynamic duo since peanut butter and jelly linked up. Think about all the white women who voted for Trump, now think about all the white women who go crazy at Oprah’s shows when she’s handing out cars like candy. Who do you think they’ll vote for? Wait, racism is still more important than free cars? Damn.

So, that’s why I feel Pop would make a great 46th president of the United States. And don’t worry, wine will quickly remove the bad taste 45 has left in our mouths. Wait, that’s gross.

Anyways, Popovich-Winfrey 2020.

What should I major in?

Throughout this academic year, The Rider will explore the programs of study at UTRGV. This is the third in our second annual series. The Rider

interviewed Robert Freeman, professor and interim department chair of mechanical engineering, for information.

Major: Mechanical engineering
School: College of Engineering and Computer Science
Interim Department Chair: Professor Robert Freeman
Prerequisites: None
Total credit hours needed to graduate: 129

What is mechanical engineering? “Mechanical engineering is probably the broadest engineering department or discipline that there is. ... Part of the discipline is in the area of thermal fluids, which is the area that would apply most directly to the combustion engines in that process. The other part of the automotive systems, like the suspension system and stirring, are actually on the other side of mechanical engineering, which is mechanism, design and control. So, in the automotive industry, or in a car, you have mechanical engineering being applied throughout the mechanism itself and the engine. In terms of other typical types of applications, you would look into robotics and automation. Mechanical engineering would be the discipline that’s most responsible of making the physical robot itself and the control of the system. There’s a lot of materials that goes in mechanical engineering: robotics, automotive, and heating, air conditioning and ventilation. ... Mechanical engineering is fairly broad.”



Which classes can students expect to take? “They can expect to take quite a bit of math. So, there’s calculus, various engineering analysis courses. So, there’s a sequence of five math courses that you take that start with Calculus 1. Then you have physics, some specific applications of physics, thermodynamics, fluid dynamics, heat transfer courses, materials courses, manufacturing processes, machine elements, and dynamic systems modeling and controls, and a number of electives. It’s all capped off with

a senior design; it’s a two-course sequence where you select a project and then you design a prototype.”
What skills will students learn by the time they graduate? “They’ll learn the basic skills in terms of science and engineering. So, the math that’s involved, physics, chemistry and then specific applications into the different parts of engineering, but primarily, we hope that they learn a way of thinking and behaving and critical thinking and then applying that to the design of products that will assist humanity.”

What are some possible careers? “Automotive industry, aircraft industry, bioengineering, biomechanics, biomedical, and oil and gas careers. ... We have a lot of our students end up going to Toyota in San Antonio. We have a number of students that have gone to Procter & Gamble, all over the country and some of those have even come back and are working in the H-E-B manufacturing plant in San Antonio and Corpus. We have students that are working for SpaceX, Boeing and Raytheon up in Dallas. ... So, basically, all over the place.”
What salary can a student expect to earn after graduation? “It kind of varies, but I’m not sure exactly what the numbers are right now, but probably \$70,000 or more.”
Are there any student organizations related to mechanical engineering? “We have the student chapter of American Society of Mechanical Engineers. We also have a lot of students that are involved in S.H.P.E., Society of Hispanic of Professional Engineers, M.A.E.S., which is Mexican American Engineers and Scientists. Also, we have S.W.E., which is Society of Women Engineers. We also have a group called Materials Advantage. ... We also have Society of Automotive Engineers. We have a rocket club, which in a way is connected with SpaceX very loosely.”
--Compiled by Joahana Segundo

LETTER Continued from Page 4

school or see a doctor when she needs to?
Texas students have led successful campaigns to pass local resolutions against both the border wall and SB4. The Rio Grande Valley has seen successful resolutions against the border wall passed in Brownsville, Hidalgo County, La Joya, Mission and Weslaco. Seven cities have passed a resolution against Texas’ SB4. In total, 12 resolutions have passed because of the effort of motivated students.
The first resolution to pass was in Brownsville, and it was led by URGE:

Unite for Reproductive & Gender Equity’s youth activists. Gabby Zavala, the campaign manager for the Brownsville team, says, “You learn more about who to contact and who can link you to city council members by actually getting in your car and visiting the city offices and asking people how you can get a meeting with the commissioners.”
Ultimately, the most important thing activists brought to their work was passion. Young people took a proactive approach, pressuring city officials with one-on-one outreach. In the case of border wall resolutions, young activists in the Rio Grande Valley found their champions by appealing

to the commissioner’s sense of home, identity and community. Through persistence, coalition building and community support, the resolution made it to the city commissioner agenda.
Not only did young activists and students start these resolutions, they inspired other cities along the border to pass their own. Organizations like the Lower Rio Grande Valley Sierra Club and ARISE joined URGE to help these resolutions gain traction across the Rio Grande Valley. The students recognized the connections among immigrant rights, protecting the planet and ensuring that every person has the ability to raise safe and healthy

families, and leveraged relationships with diverse allies to get the job done.
But the fight isn’t over. We need Texans who support these efforts to take action. Student activists who want to get involved can learn more at www.URGE.org. Young people have tremendous power, and we need to make sure our cities and universities know that we are here, our communities deserve respect, and we won’t let the Trump administration play politics with our homes, or our health.

Ofelia Alonso
UTRGV history senior

DEBATE Continued from Page 1

candidates were asked about their stance on subjects, including taxes, flooding, student parking, disaster preparation, equal justice, recycling, immigration and drainage systems.
Asked about the city’s financial state, Mayor Garcia replied, “The city is doing very, very well. ... The city received statewide and nationwide recognition for financial management, for recording, for accountability.”
Garcia, who is an attorney, said the city has \$10 million more than required in reserves. Last year, Edinburg had the best credit rate it has ever had.
“It’s hard for me to understand that we’re doing so well if we have 75 percent of our employees here in the city that make below a living wage,” said Alamia, who works for her father Richard R. Alamia’s law firm as an immigration consultant, brief writer and office manager.
Alamia also said the living wage is currently \$10.03 per hour for someone who does not have a child.
“So, if we have that many reserves, if we’re doing well, why are we not paying the citizens that have these jobs something that they can adequately live on?” she said.

Molina, the current Place 1 City Council member, said, “The City of Edinburg right now, financially, is

surviving. It’s doing OK, but it can do a lot better. ... Are we going to survive? Yes. Are we going to live? Yes, but we can do much better. We’re nowhere near where the City of McAllen is.”
He owns Molina Rental Properties and Odyssey Home Health Care.
Some of the candidates also discussed Proposition 1, “the constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to provide for an exemption from ad valorem taxation of part of the market value of the residence homestead of a partially disabled veteran or the surviving spouse of a partially disabled veteran if the residence homestead was donated to the disabled veteran by a charitable organization for less than the market value of the residence homestead and harmonizing certain related provisions of the Texas Constitution,” according to the Texas Secretary of State website. They also spoke about Senate Bill 4, which “requires local government entities and law enforcement officials to comply with federal immigration laws and detainer requests, and creates criminal penalties for entities that do not enforce the law,” according to the Office of the Texas Governor website.
Early voting starts today and ends Nov. 3. Election Day is Nov. 7.
For more information on the debate, contact the Progressive Young Democrats or the College Republicans at their Facebook pages.

VISIÓN Continúa de Página 5

¿Cuáles fueron algunos obstáculos que tuviste que sobrepasar para poder venir a los Estados Unidos? “Tuve que pasar por bastantes dificultades. Decidí ir a la escuela de posgrado en los Estados Unidos como desde hace siete años; sin embargo, no lo podía hacer en ese tiempo porque no tenía el dinero suficiente o conocimiento [de] inglés o física, porque estaba estudiando ingeniería. Así que, para mejorar mi inglés tuve que agarrar un tiempo libre para concentrarme solamente en inglés. Entonces, tuve que terminar un año de estudios en un semestre, lo cual fue extremadamente difícil. En aquel tiempo me sentía como si me fuera a morir, pero, que importa, de alguna manera lo logré. Así que, tuve como, un semestre libre. Así que, para usar ese tiempo fui a Malta por algunos meses, la cual es una antigua colonia inglesa donde estuve tomando cursos de inglés y eso mejoró mi inglés significativamente. Así que después, cuando terminé mi licenciatura, lo cual es, básicamente, como una maestría aquí porque son como 5.5 años, es un título ruso diferente. Así que, todavía tuve que obtener conocimiento en física y mejorar mi inglés, así que decidí estudiar por mí mismo. Entonces, estuve enseñando clases de [International English Language Testing System] ya que mi inglés era lo suficientemente bueno. Solamente preparaba a la gente para eso. Escogí eso porque era un trabajo que solo me quitaba una o tres horas en algunos días de la semana, y

a pesar de esto era muy bien pagado. Eso me dio tiempo libre para estudiar física y mejorar mi inglés. ... Entonces, una vez que aprendí la física necesaria y la terminología en inglés, fui capaz de meterme en una muy buena preparatoria como maestro de física en inglés, a pesar de no tener ninguna experiencia en educación, simplemente porque era la única persona en toda la ciudad que podía explicar física en inglés y sabía la terminología. Así que, de eso me fui a hacer mi maestría en liderazgo en la educación, básicamente para entrar a un laboratorio de física en una universidad y también para obtener un título en educación, así que si todo el plan en física fallaba, por lo menos podría enseñar en la escuela. Inicialmente, había algunos problemas con esto porque no tenía ningún certificado para enseñar, así que estaba algo así como tratando. En ajedrez le llaman un movimiento con el caballo porque el caballo puede atacar varios puntos simultáneamente. Así que, siempre que hagas algo que te acerque a diferentes objetivos, así es como usualmente la gente lo prefiere hacer en Rusia [movimiento de caballo]. Estuve trabajando en un laboratorio de física en la universidad. Estaba haciendo mi maestría gratis para entrar y convencer al jefe que valgo algo y después de dos meses de trabajar en un proyecto, me empezó a pagar. Entonces agarré un trabajo como asistente de investigación, y mientras trabajaba ahí conocí a Dr. Rakhmanov. Entonces tomé el [examen de registro para graduados] y después de obtener una buena puntuación, finalmente fui aceptado en UTRGV”.

--Recopilado por Ana Cahuiche

CREATING AND MAKING THE MONSTER MASH

Sydni D. Salinas
A&E EDITOR

Did you ever watch those scary movies growing up with the original monster characters? There was Dracula, Frankenstein, the Mummy and, of course, the brain-eating zombies.

Wouldn't you get terrified not from the suspenseful music that would loudly play during a scary scene, but of the monster's overall appearance being dramatically played out by the actor?

Makeup, alongside costume, is what makes a character come to life. It is essential to the aesthetic, and at UTRGV, students can practice their makeup skills in the Makeup course taught by Jennifer Saxton, head of theatre production and costume lab manager.



Jesus Sanchez/The Rider

Mass communication senior Francine Perez applies makeup on dance senior Sayuri Marcos last Thursday in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus.

This year, makeup students will be able to put their knowledge and artistry to work by creating zombies for the Zombie Walk Food Drive that will take place on Tuesday.

Makeup student and theatre senior Victoria Diaz described her inspiration for enrolling in the course as a way to be well rounded in her field of work.

"As an actress, you kind of have to know how to do your makeup, because although there is a makeup artist present, they're just there to make sure you're on the right track, not so much to be there to do your makeup, Diaz said. "It's more of being educated and learning all parts of theater."

She expressed excitement for the event and the food drive, believing that the zombie makeup brings its own

touch of fun to the cause.

Theatre performance junior Abigail Alvarez had her first experience with makeup when she was in middle school.

"Well, I first got into makeup in middle school when I was in my prime," Alvarez said with laugh. "No, no, when I peaked, I saw a bunch of girls with makeup and I tried out my own makeup. I started with mascara."

Her goal is to be a theater performance professor.

Alvarez enjoys the class because of the techniques it teaches for on-stage makeup.

"When I'm doing theater makeup, I have to think of how it will look on stage," she said. "When I look in the mirror, I want it to look good, so I'll try my best, but also efficient and quick, because in theater, you're always going to be timed before you perform, and you have to do your own makeup."

The course welcomes other students besides theatre majors.

Mass communication and broadcasting senior Francine Perez took the course in order to clear her elective requirement.

Despite that, she said learning makeup and having the different experience has been her favorite course, so far.

"I like everything about it," Perez said. "I love the theatre people. The theatre people are so funny. They're awesome people and the makeup itself is fun. This is, like, my favorite class I've ever taken."

She said the difficulty in makeup for her is getting



Sydni Salinas/The Rider

Theatre performance junior Abigail Alvarez applies makeup on fellow student Bri Ramirez while they practice their design for the Zombie Walk Food Drive.

the colors just right, and she overcomes those obstacles with practice.

"Doing different colors, I can never mix the colors correctly, and the contour in my face is kind of chubby, so it's hard to find my bone structure," Perez said. "You just have to keep trying."

Another makeup student without a concentration in theatre is junior Jade Perez, who is a video game design art major.

She described the zombie creative process as a design that students had to create, and then choose which of them they liked the most.

Makeup helps her major, as it sparks creativity in her character development.

"I've always had an interest in makeup, and the fact that you can be someone different with makeup, but I also like

the fact that I can take this and incorporate it into my design for video games," Jade Perez said. "I can have it come to life on my face and on the screen."

She believes that art is freedom of expression, and aspires to learn from the best.

"Not generally to be the best, but to learn from the best, and be able to grow in that sense and match up to some of the people I look up to," she said.

If you would like to get your monster on, stop by Tuesday from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in the ELABS Studio Theatre.

Donate five food cans to receive zombie face painting, and for two more extra cans, you may enter the Z-Nation raffle.

With Halloween around the corner, don't be afraid to get spooky with a sinister zombie look!

Dimensional behavior

Nubia Reyna
The Rider

San Antonio artist David Alcantar says art is a powerful tool for talking about important issues.

"It has the ability to make us think about topics that are difficult in a way that makes it, perhaps, easier," Alcantar told *The Rider* in a phone interview last Tuesday.

Alcantar's exhibit, "Minding the Gaps," will open with a reception at 6 p.m. Oct. 31 in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall on the Brownsville campus. The exhibition will consist of more than 15 pieces, including two-dimensional pieces, mostly made of acrylic, and three-dimensional pieces made of wood.

"I am really excited to be able to share the 3-D work because that's very new to this idea," he said. "The idea that I've been working these past few years is negotiating behavior and, so, making paintings about that has been pretty challenging."

Alcantar holds degrees in art from the University of Texas at Austin (bachelor's) and the University of Colorado-Boulder (master's). His work has

been shown in more than 45 different exhibitions in places such as Brooklyn, N.Y.; Merida, Yucatan, Mexico; and Denver, Colo., among others.

"He's also an artist that has been exhibiting elsewhere," Gallery Coordinator Alejandro Macias said. "He's an artist with experience."

Macias said Alcantar's work will benefit UTRGV students because he travels and is a practicing artist.

"I was looking for artists from outside the Valley, so I saw his work and I thought his work was really good," Macias said. "It is always good for students to hear from the artist ... and so, I'm really excited for them."

Some of Alcantar's 2-D pieces were transitioned to 3-D pieces using materials such as wood and acrylic.

"I am excited to see the relationship and the conversation, the dialogue, between the two-dimensional work and the three-dimensional work," Alcantar said. "The three-dimensional work, it will be obvious that they're related to each other. When the artwork starts to dialogue with each other, then I think the

connection will be made more obvious."

Alcantar said he has been working on "human negotiation behavior," which is the main theme of his pieces.

"They're all made from the same theme. The idea, I've been working on for at least four years," he said. "Some of these 2-D pieces that I'm going to show are actually quite old, because they set up a background context for the newer pieces."

Asked what inspires his work, Alcantar replied that he tries to think how his work contributes to art history overall and spends time looking at other artists' work so he is not "retreading ground."

"Lately, I've been looking a lot at Eric Fischl, who is a painter from California," he said. "I've also been looking at Andrew Wyeth, who is a New England painter from the early 20th century. ... Their work looks very different from what my work looks like and so one might be confused as to why I would be looking at these artists, but there are ideas in their work that I think is similar to mine. And, so, like I said, I'm



Photo Courtesy David Alcantar

"Headless, Aimless, Point(ed)less Wandering" is one of San Antonio artist David Alcantar's pieces that will be exhibited in the Art Gallery at Rusteberg Hall on the Brownsville campus. This piece, made of acrylic paint, focuses on the internal struggle that occurs when one engages in negotiation, Alcantar said.

just trying to make sure that I'm not re-stating what has already been said before."

Admission is free and the exhibit continues until Nov. 22.

"Immerse yourself, so you can have a better understanding of why students take art classes and why they pursue art in the first place," Macias said. "The

show is completely free, just a few minutes out of your day, at least, and so, just kind of shatter that curiosity by attending and seeing what artists from outside the Valley are doing."

For more information, email Macias at alejandro.macias@utrgv.edu.

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