

THE RIDER

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PROTESTERS DEMAND DREAMER CENTER AT UTRGV

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

On a chilly Thursday afternoon, more than 200 protesters marched across the UTRGV Edinburg campus during the “Solidarity Walkout” to voice their concerns on the changes to the DACA program and urged university administration to create a Dreamer Center.

“As one of the largest populated institutions in Texas with undocumented students, we feel like we should stand in solidarity with them, because we don’t share their same fights, but we understand the fear that’s instilled,” said Aileen Garza, a UTRGV social work junior and member of Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity (URGE). “[It’s instilled] in us and it’s instilled 10 times in them. We shouldn’t ignore that they are here.”

On Sept. 5, President Donald Trump rescinded the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, an executive order by then-President Barack Obama that protected nearly 800,000 people.

DACA provides young people who were brought to



Joahana Segundo/THE RIDER

Members of La Union de Chicanos Hijos de Aztlan (LUCHA) lead a walkout Thursday on the Edinburg campus to protest the inactivity of the government on the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program.

the United States as children with temporary protection from deportation if they can

demonstrate that they meet several criteria, according to whitehouse.gov.

However, Trump’s change on DACA gives Congress six months to consider

appropriate legislative solutions.

See **PROTEST**, Page 8

Defending the throne UTRGV set to host WAC Tournament



Bryan Ramos/THE RIDER

The UTRGV Volleyball Team celebrates its come-from-behind victory over conference rival New Mexico State 3-2 (25-23, 20-25, 20-25, 25-23, 15-12) on Sept. 23 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

Bryan Ramos
SPORTS EDITOR

In 30 years of Division I volleyball, the University of Texas-Pan American had just three winning seasons. When UTPA merged with the University of Texas at Brownsville to form UTRGV in 2015, former UTB Head Coach

Todd Lowery took over the program, bringing with him four national championships from the NAIA level.

Since then, Lowery has created a powerhouse on the court, winning a program record 21 games a year ago and leading the team to its first Western Athletic Conference Tournament championship

and NCAA Tournament berth.

When he left UTB to take the reins at UTRGV, a pair of Serbian freshmen, Bojana Mitrovic and Tina Sekulic joined him. Lowery said the two, now seniors, have been instrumental in the program’s turnaround on and off the court.

See **WAC**, Page 7

Plan calls for 3-way split in student services fee

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

During forums scheduled for Nov. 14 and 16, a university committee will present a tentative recommendation to split the student services fee into three separate charges--athletics, transportation and student activities--and increase designated tuition.



UTRGV Fees

Current Student Services fee total	Proposed three-way split total
\$249.96	\$307.80

The proposal recommends an athletics fee of \$13.65 per credit hour capped at 12 credit hours; a transportation fee of \$5 per credit hour capped at 12 credit hours; and a Student Services fee of \$7 per credit hour capped at 12 credit hours.



Tuition and Fee Forums

Brownsville	Edinburg
Tuesday	Thursday
El Gran Salón	Student Union Theater
12:15 to 1:30 p.m.	

Rick Anderson, UTRGV Finance and Administration executive vice president, told *The Rider* the proposal for the athletics fee is based on its current allocation from the Student Services fee.

See **FEES**, Page 3

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

‘Spider-Man: Homecoming’ Office of the Vice President for Student Success will show “**Spider-Man: Homecoming**” at 7 p.m. in El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and in the Student Union Theater on the Edinburg campus. Attendees are encouraged to bring canned goods for the **UTRGV Food Pantry**. For every canned good, donors will receive double the tickets for a better chance to win a prize in the drawing. For more information, call 665-7989.

Harpsichord Festival

Students, faculty and guest artists will perform early music on the **School of Music’s** own harpsichord. The event will feature pieces composed by **Bach, Scarlatti** and others at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7025.

Magic: The Gathering Tournament

The **Student Union** will host a **Magic: The Gathering** tournament at noon in the Loft on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Tuesday

BumpStart Group Meeting The **Counseling Center** will host a group meeting for moms-to-be that will feature topics, such as learning techniques for relaxation and balance from 12:15 to 1:15 p.m. in Cortez Hall 226 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-3897.

‘Everything I Never Told You’

The **UTRGV Learning Center, InqSpot Book Club, Writing and Language Studies Department** and **Student Union** will host a discussion of the book “**Everything I Never Told You,**” by **Celeste Ng**, at 12:15 p.m. in the Loft on the Edinburg campus and at the same time in El Comedor on the Brownsville campus.

Air Hockey Tournament

The **Student Union** will host an **Air**

Hockey Tournament at noon in the Game Room in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-7989

Game-A-Palooza

The **Student Union** will host **Game-A-Palooza** from 12:15 to 2:15 p.m. in El Comedor in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7989.

Wednesday

We Belong Support Group

The **Counseling Center** will host a **support group** for students who are concerned about immigration status, DACA, undocumented, international and allies from noon to 1 p.m. in the University Center on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2574.

Wind Symphony

The **UTRGV Wind Symphony** will perform works by **Dvorak, Sousa, Hearsen, Grainger** and **Whitacre**. The Wind Symphony will also feature



Have an announcement?

Email us at
TheRider@utrgv.edu

2017-2018 UTRGV Concerto/Aria Competition winners **Kornel Juhasz** and **Tiffany Nerio** in “Il Convegno for Clarinet Duet and Concert Band” by **Amilcare Ponchielli** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

Thursday

Clarinet and piano concert

Associate Professor **Jonathan Guist**, on clarinet, and Lecturer I **Oliver Jia**, on piano, will perform works spanning the 19th to 21st centuries at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7025.

N64 Pokémon Stadium Release

The **Student Union** will host a

Pokémon Stadium tournament at noon in the Game Room in Edinburg. For more information, call 665-7989.

Friday

League of Legends Tournament **South Texas Summoners** will host a **League of Legends tournament** from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus. Registration is from 10 a.m. to noon. For more information, email utrgv.sts@gmail.com.

Free Play at the Union

The **Student Union** will host **Free Play at the Union** from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Game Room in Edinburg and El Comedor in Brownsville. For more information, call 665-7989.

Saturday

Indoor Percussion Ensemble Auditions

The **Indoor Percussion Ensemble** will host auditions from 9 a.m. to 6:30 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. Percussionists must pay \$50 to audition. For more information, call 882-7025.

Sunday

Flute concert

Flutist Erin Murphy will perform at 7 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. General admission is \$10, and \$5 for senior citizens and students. For more information, call 882-7025.

Symphonic Band

The **Symphonic Band** will perform at 5 p.m. in Performing Arts Complex Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

Wind Ensemble

The **Wind Ensemble** will perform at 3 p.m. in the Performing Arts Complex Auditorium on the Edinburg campus. Admission is \$5. For more information, call 882-7025.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 2 and 4.



Nov. 2

9:19 a.m.: Two faculty members reported that their private residence was burglarized and found that their UTRGV ID cards and a university-

issued Surface Pro tablet were stolen. The tablet did not contain any personally identifiable student information. The estimated loss to the university is valued at \$800. The McAllen Police Department is the primary investigating agency for this incident.

11:30 a.m.: A staff member reported accidentally shattering a window of an unattended vehicle while trimming grass in Lot E31. The owner, who is a current student, was contacted.

4:29 p.m.: An officer made contact with a suspicious man outside the University Center on the Edinburg campus. He was found to have an active warrant for his arrest from the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office for a probation violation regarding public intoxication with three prior convictions. He was found to have a lengthy criminal history and was issued a criminal trespass warning for all UTRGV property. He was subsequently transferred to custody of an HCSO deputy for the outstanding warrant.

11:07 p.m.: An officer was waved down at the Main Building by parents who were looking for their 21-year-old daughter who is a UTRGV student. Officers attempted to locate the student

via social media and friends, but were unable to locate her. The parents were informed the incident would be documented and if the student is located, she would be advised to contact them. During the course of the investigation, the UTRGV Police Department was advised the parents made successful contact with the



University Police

Brownsville

Dispatch

882-8232

Edinburg

Dispatch

665-7151

Email: Police@utrgv.edu

Campus Emergency: 882-2222

student.

Nov. 4

9 a.m.: An officer made contact with a man using a ceramics room in the Visual Arts building on the Edinburg campus without personal protective equipment that was required. He was in possession of a faculty member’s UTRGV ID that has access to the building and stated that he was given the access card by the employee. The card was confiscated and contact was made with the faculty member by phone advising that he would need to contact the UTRGV Police Department in order to get it back. The man was then escorted from the building. The report was forwarded to Environmental Health and Safety and to the Access Control and Visual Arts Department personnel.

10 a.m.: The UTRGV Police Department received reports of power outages in several buildings on the

Edinburg campus. Physical Plant staff, who hosted a conference in the Education Complex, reported a loud bang and then a smell of smoke in the building. A UTRGV officer pulled the fire alarm to evacuate everyone. The Edinburg Fire Department was contacted and arrived on location. It was determined the sound may have been backup generators turning on and the smoke may have come from them starting as well. Fire department officials said the building could not be occupied with the power not functioning, and the event staff and attendees were asked to get their belongings and leave the building. Environmental Health and Safety was notified to check the fire panel and alarm system. Power was eventually restored to the affected buildings.

1:30 p.m.: A student reported that she returned to her dorm room in Unity Hall and noticed items out of place, along with U.S. currency missing from her room. She said she left her room Nov. 2 and returned Nov. 4 to find all her drawers open and items missing from her apartment. The case is under investigation.

6:30 p.m.: A man reported that his wife was attending an event in the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus. He was concerned because she had not returned to their residence in Donna. He also filed a report with the Hidalgo County Sheriff’s Office and later reported that he made contact with his wife in Harlingen and all was OK.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

Never forgotten

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

Last Wednesday, more than 50 veterans, family members, UTRGV staff, faculty and students gathered in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus to honor veterans.

“We pay tribute to all of our veterans who have worn the uniform, in times of peace, and in war,” Rand Binford, the keynote speaker and the education coordinator for the Texas Veterans Commission, said to the crowd after the posting of colors by the Brownsville Police Department. “We pay tribute to all of our veterans on the 11th of September. We remember and mourn the loss of our brothers, our sisters, our daughters, mothers [and] sons. Those who paid the ultimate price defending our nation.”

Binford, who served the U.S. Army for 35 years, retired after realizing “36 would be taking it too far.” Between laughs and jokes about his years in the Army, Binford said he is not a “lifer” and that “35 years was just about the right amount of time.”

Taking the audience through conflicts, he spoke about World War I and similar events that may now seem far away from us.

“I believe that our nation, of the people, by the people and for the people, shall not perish for so long as our citizens are willing to place their lives away to protect one another,” Binford said.

After the UTRGV Master Chorale and Chamber Singers performed “God Bless America,” the audience welcomed Martin Rodriguez, the director of the Military and Veterans Success Center at UTRGV and a U.S. Army veteran, to the lectern to present a “small token of appreciation” to Patricia H. Rodriguez, the program coordinator in the same department.

“Despite the fact that today is a day to honor the veterans, I wanna take a few minutes to honor someone who has assisted many veterans for 25 years of her 28-year career,” Rodriguez said.

Patricia Rodriguez helped him obtain a work-study position when he was a college student at the University of Texas at Brownsville.

“Thanks to her, I was able to work and come to school at the same time,” Martin Rodriguez said.

Martin Rodriguez presented a video of Patricia’s son Joshua Rodriguez, a U.S. Marine who has been serving for a year and is stationed in Okinawa, Japan.

“Hey, Mom, thanks for your 25 years of dedication and hard work to those who



Ana Cahuiche/THE RIDER

Rand Binford, the education coordinator for the Texas Veterans Commission and U.S. Army veteran, speaks to highlight the value of and respect all veterans deserve for their service to the country during the Veterans Day Ceremony hosted last Wednesday by the UTRGV Military and Veterans Success Center in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus.

serve our country. Today is really your day. The work that you do is just a quarter of the work that I do,” Joshua Rodriguez said in the video. “I am extremely proud of you. I love you very much and I will see you soon.”

As members of the audience and Patricia Rodriguez teared up, Martin Rodriguez called her to the lectern to receive a service appreciation award.

“I really, really, really got really emotional,” Patricia Rodriguez said. “I

was very surprised. It was a total surprise, because I didn’t even see the program. ... I was just told to sit at the front and take pictures.”

After the ceremony, the audience enjoyed cupcakes, cookies, pies and a small toy soldier with a card on which the “Soldier’s Prayer” was printed.

In Edinburg, the ceremony was held Thursday.

For more information about veterans at UTRGV, visit www.utrgv.edu/veterans.

What should I major in?

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

Knobel, an associate professor in the School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences, for information.

Major: Mathematics
School: Mathematical and Statistical Sciences

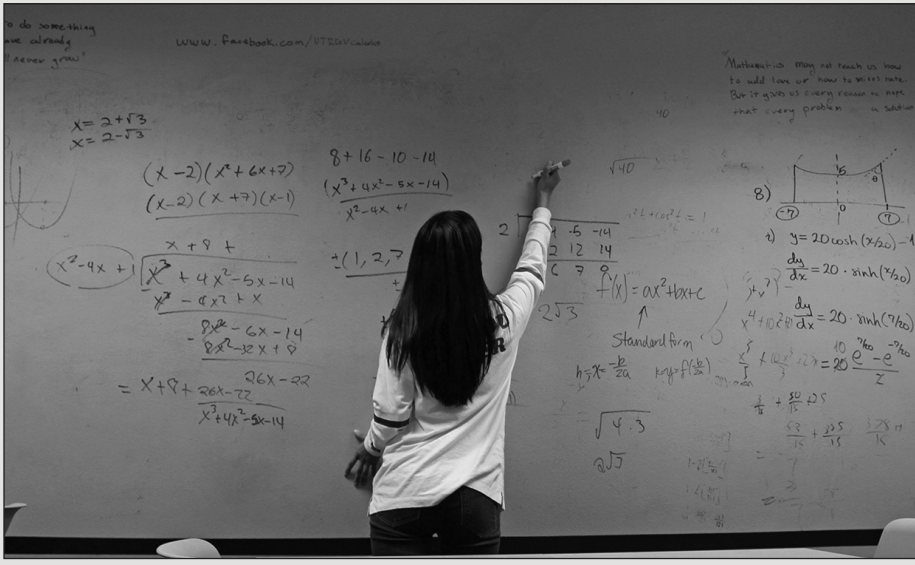
Interim Department Chair: Associate Professor Timothy Huber

Prerequisites: None. The entry point, in terms of classes, is Calculus I.

Total credit hours needed to graduate: 120

What is mathematics? “Some people call mathematics the language of science. It’s like a language, but tools that we use to understand things about our world, either in other disciplines, or within mathematics itself. Many of our students who get a mathematics major, are either going to stay in mathematics by teaching or doing mathematical research. But, we may have students who may have another major or minor in a related field in engineering or science, or business, and that they may go into an area or career that they can use the mathematics that they have learned in their major to help them.”

Which classes can students expect to take? “All of our math majors take a sequence of calculus, three courses of calculus. We have other courses called Linear Algebra, Differential Equations, and Introduction to Mathematical



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

Management sophomore Clarissa Aguirre solves a problem for her college algebra class. The School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences at UTRGV has more than 45 tenured and tenure-track faculty members. Faculty members have received grants from funding agencies, such as the U.S. Defense Department and National Science Foundation.

Proof Writing, Modern Algebra, Real Analysis and Math Project Course.”

What skills will students learn by the time they graduate? “One of

the main skills is the ability to be able to analyze and solve problems, critical thinking skills, being able to use mathematics to organize and describe

things about the world and to be able to use that to look at a hypothesis about what might happen if something changes.”

What are some possible careers?

“Many of our students go into secondary education teaching, with either middle schools or high schools. We have a fair number of students, who after getting their bachelor’s degree, go into a master’s degree program. Many of them get a master’s degree in mathematics, but some of them go into engineering, business or one of the sciences. Some of those students go into teaching in a college or university level. Some of them go on to Ph.D. programs.”

What salary can a student expect to earn after graduation? Huber answered this question: “The average income can be from \$60,000 to \$110,000, depending on the job. Teachers will make the lower end of that spectrum.”

Are there any student organizations related to math? “SIAM, which is the Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics.”

--Compiled by Gabriel Galvan

FEES

Continued from Page 1

“There’s no increase or decrease in that,” Anderson said. “It’s just based on where it’s at right now.”

For the transportation fee, he said the current allocation is 97 cents per credit hour.

“Based on what capacity we’ve had this year, in terms of additional buses and things like that, and what we’re are coming along in December and what we would need to do if we were to make the current contracted service permanent, in addition to the buses and stuff, that would be the operating cost, not the capital cost, just the operations of higher level of service and frequency of service,” Anderson said.

The current allocation for student activities is \$6.21 per credit hour. That amount helps fund various activities that are separate from academic functions and that directly benefit

students. The fee helps support various programs and departments across the university that serve students.

Asked why the proposed charge for the student services fee is smaller than the proposed athletics fee even though it is for all students, Anderson replied: “I don’t have all the history of all of that. That’s just how it’s evolved over

Anderson said the transportation and athletics fees would require a student referendum and legislative statute if approved by the University of Texas System board of regents.

A referendum is a vote conducted to determine student support for a measure or a new mandatory fee. It is a process that enables any group to place

students, the proposal would be presented before the Texas Legislature, which is scheduled to meet in January 2019.

None of the proposed fees would affect students currently enrolled at UTRGV, only those entering in Fall 2019.

Resident tuition for full-time undergraduate students who enrolled in Fall 2017 is \$3,059.60 and \$2,775.20 for full-time graduate students.

For Fall 2017 full-time undergraduate students, the total academic cost (TAC) is \$3,793.76 and \$3,359.57 for full-time graduate students.

The Rider asked Anderson what the proposed increase in designated tuition and total academic cost would be, but as of press time Friday, he had not provided the information.

Editorial Cartoon,

Page 4

time.”

Currently, UTRGV students pay a Student Services fee of \$249.96 per long semester, which is \$20.83 per credit hour capped at 12 credit hours.

In a meeting last Tuesday, the Tuition and Fee Steering Committee reviewed its proposal as it prepared for this week’s forums.

an issue directly onto a public ballot for approval or rejection.

Any new mandatory student fee must be approved by a majority of voting students and 20 percent of the registered student population must vote. Without student approval, the fee cannot be assessed.

If the new fees are approved by

CAMPUS Q&A

What are your thoughts on new potential Athletics and Transportation fees?



"For transportation fees, I don't think that it should be something that students should be worried about, you know, if they are going to be able to go to class or not, because some of them are already paying rent for apartments, to be at school near school, for our supplies, paying for class or tuitions. It's already so much I don't think transportation shouldn't be an issue to be worried about."

Christine Aguilar
Education sophomore

"I don't know. I think we already pay a lot, so any other fees for Transportation or Athletics, for one, I don't even use any type of transportation means here with the school, so I wouldn't be too pleased if I have to pay an extra fee for a service that I'm not going to use. And, as far as the athletics goes, yeah, I want the school to receive the best programs they can for the students, but again, all at a cost that must [come out] of our pockets are pretty stretched. ... I don't think the average student can afford any more fees. ... If this happens or that does happen, I'm not looking forward to that. I guess we'll see."



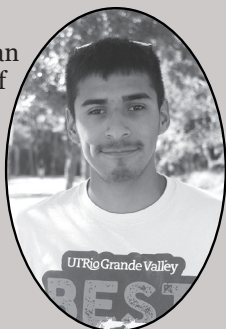
Christian Alvarez
History senior

"I agree. I think Athletics is important. It, y'know, shows school spirit. Transportation, I think it's important because a lot of classes that are not here, y'know, a lot of people have to take the shuttle. So, I think education is also important."



Carolina Rodriguez
Biology sophomore

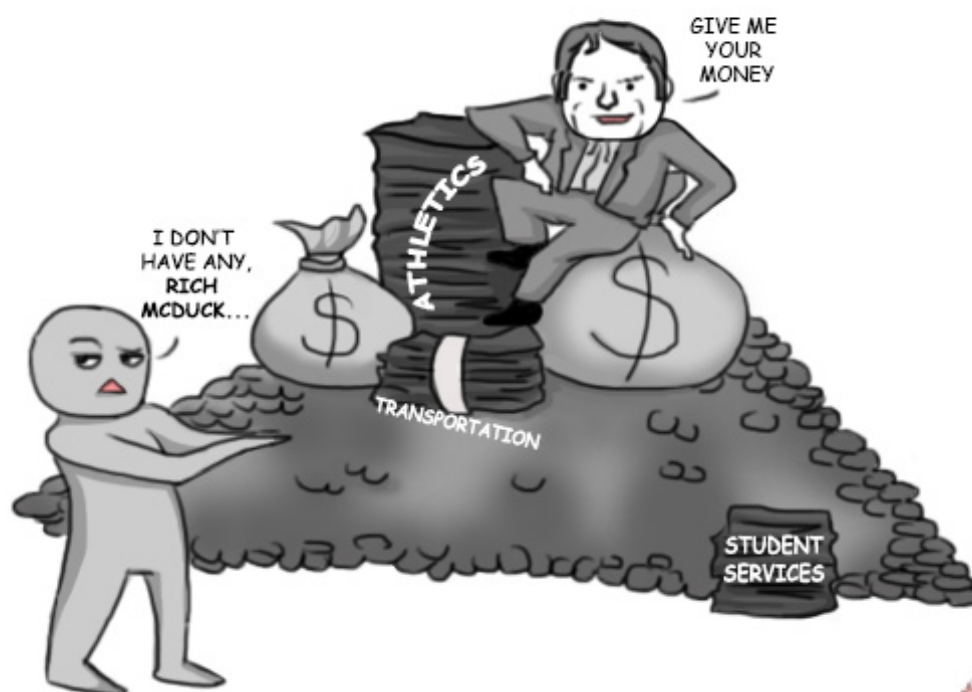
"I think they would be good, so that we can get more sports equipment. ... So, that if they get injured--also medical supplies for athletes that will get injured in the future, so that maybe they'll be more prepared."



Alex Romero
Kinesiology senior

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy

*PROPOSAL TO SPLIT STUDENT SERVICES FEE



Speak up!



Johana Segundo
THE RIDER

As Mexican-Americans, we are brought up thinking that mental health is not important. In our culture, psychologists and psychiatrists are the people you go to if you're "crazy."

I was unaware of what a psychologist was until I was 15, not because I read about these individuals, but because my ninth-grade English teacher informed us that our school provided one to help us with any situation we were going through, after it was announced earlier that day that our classmate had committed suicide due to cyberbullying.

As I reflect on that day, I begin to question the American education system. Why aren't we implementing mental health awareness at our schools? Why are we making our school counselors work on students' schedules instead of providing counseling and guidance? Why do we continue to "punish" those kids that

misbehave by sending them to the detention room instead of talking to them about their actions and how they can improve their behavior? Why do we continue to ignore these issues?

Oftentimes, children or adolescents with a mental health disorder are punished for their uncontrollable behaviors and are stigmatized as the "bad kids." A great example of this issue is the movie "Front of the Class." The protagonist is a child who suffers from Tourette's Syndrome, a neurological disorder characterized by repetitive, involuntary movements and vocalizations known as tics. In the movie, ignorant educators tell him to "stop that nonsense" and he is sent to the principal's office for his "bad behavior." The child later explains that he dislikes making noises, but that he cannot control them and that they occur less frequently when people don't point out that he is being annoying or tell him to stop, because the more he tries to suppress the tics, the more frequent they become.

His only wish: to be treated as any other kid.

Unfortunately, many teachers begin teaching without a foundation on mental health. Some kids are not diagnosed until they are adolescents, or even adults, due to parents' lack of knowledge on this topic. So, many educators punish these kids and label them as "troublemakers" and try to punish them by misusing timeout and in severe cases, placing them in special-ed classes.

What can you do? Get informed. Speak up! Don't neglect your mental health! If you, a friend or family member are going through a difficult situation, don't be afraid to go see a local counselor or therapist or refer them to one. It is crucial that everyone is aware of the mental health services provided by our community.

Ultimately, as a mental health advocate, it is my duty to speak up about these issues and emphasize the importance of mental health; even though the Rio Grande Valley does not provide enough mental health awareness, we can help increase mental health awareness one voice at a time.

Submit a Letter to the Editor

The Rider encourages letters but does not guarantee publication. We reserve the right to edit letters for grammar and content. Letters for The Rider may be sent to therider@utrgv.edu. All letters must be typed and no longer than 400 words. Letters must include the name, classification and phone number of letter's author or the letter cannot be published.

Opinions expressed in The Rider are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect the views of The Rider or UTRGV administrators.

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Manifestantes exigen Dreamer Center en UTRGV

Jesus Sanchez
EDITOR EN JEFE

En una fría tarde de jueves, más de 200 manifestantes marcharon a través del campus de Edinburg de UTRGV durante la “Huelga de Solidaridad” para expresar inquietudes respecto a los cambios hechos al programa de DACA e instaron a la administración de la universidad a crear un Dreamer Center (Centro para Dreamers).

“Como una de las instituciones más pobladas en Texas con estudiantes indocumentados, sentimos que deberíamos permanecer en solidaridad con ellos, porque nosotros no luchamos sus mismas peleas, pero entendemos el miedo que se ha difundido”, dijo Aileen Garza, estudiante de UTRGV de tercer año de trabajo social y miembro de Unite for Reproductive and Gender Equity (URGE). “[Está difundido] en nosotros y está difundido 10 veces más en ellos. No deberíamos ignorar que ellos están aquí”.

El 5 de noviembre, el Presidente Donald Trump rescindió el programa Consideración de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA, por sus siglas en inglés), una orden ejecutiva realizada por el entonces Presidente Barack Obama que protegía cerca de 800,000 personas.

DACA provee protección temporal en contra de la deportación a jóvenes que fueron traídos a los Estados



Joahana Segundo/FOTOS THE

Estudiantes de UTRGV, miembros de la facultad, miembros de la comunidad e integrantes de La Unión de Chicanxs Hijxs de Aztlán (LUCHA) se unen a la protesta y alzan sus voces en favor de la protección para individuos indocumentados.

inmediatamente”, dijo Alexa Calleja, una estudiante de tercer año de MSA y de primer año en biología. “La educación no debería depender de una condición. Todos, solamente por ser seres humanos, merecen y tienen el derecho a una educación”.

Criztian Jepsen, un estudiante de tercer año de MSA y de primer año en biología, dijo que el decidió salir de su

toria EE. UU. I.

A mediodía, la marcha empezó con dos grandes grupos de alrededor de 100 personas a través de los lados norte y sur del Bronc Trail. Ambos grupos se reencontraron al frente del Student Services Building.

En universidades alrededor de la nación, tomaron lugar manifestaciones para exigir un DREAM Act “limpio”.

Mientras estaban reunidos enfrente del Student Services Building, Alejandro Sanchez, graduado de Estudios Mexicoamericanos de UTRGV y miembro de LUCHA, pidió a la presidenta del Student Government Association, Alondra Galvan, que ayudara a pasar una resolución para construir un Dreamer Center en UTRGV.

“Me gustaría reunirme con los estudiantes”, respondió Galvan. “Si eso es realmente lo que quieren, podemos trabajar juntos y juntar toda la información, para que se la podamos presentar [al rector de UTRGV Guy] Bailey”.

Representantes de todas las organizaciones alentaron a estudiantes a llamar a los senadores de EE. UU. Ted Cruz (R-Texas) y John Cornyn (R-Texas) y exigir que trabajen para crear un DREAM Act “limpio”.

En UTRGV, están inscritos cerca de 900 DREAMers.

DREAMers son aquellos individuos que satisfacen los requisitos generales del programa Desarrollo, Alivio y Educación para Menores Extranjeros (DREAM Act). En el 2001, la legislatura de Texas pasó la Ley 1403, también conocida como Texas DREAM Act, la cual extiende la matrícula de residente y otorga elegibilidad a los residentes no ciudadanos del estado, de acuerdo con forabetertexas.org.

Después de la protesta, manifestantes llegaron a la intersección de Sugar Road y University Boulevard, donde se pararon enfrente del letreiro de la universidad. Conductores animaban, tocaban sus bocinas y mostraban sus dedos pulgares como muestra de apoyo hacia los marchantes.

A lo largo de la marcha y la protesta, los manifestantes mostraron su disgusto con diferentes cantos, incluyendo “¡Bailey, escucha, estamos en la lucha!” y “Say it loud, say it clear, immigrants are welcome here!”

Bianca Castro, una estudiante de psicología de UTRGV y presidenta de YDSA, dijo

que espera que la protesta pueda enviar un mensaje al Congreso de los Estados Unidos y funcionarios de la universidad para que adopten medidas y apoyen a beneficiarios de DACA.

“Aquí en esta universidad, queremos instar a nuestra administración para que formen un Dreamer Center”, dijo Castro. “Un lugar donde estos estudiantes puedan ir y obtener orientación, obtener orientación especializada y asesoramiento a lo largo de sus carreras universitarias completas”.

Jonathon Salinas, un graduado de UTRGV en 2015 y organizador comunitario en LUPE estuvo entre los manifestantes. Salinas dijo que él piensa que es bueno mostrar unidad entre el cuerpo estudiantil.

“En LUPE, creemos que el cambio puede llegar a través de nuestra unión y la organización de nuestra comunidad”, él dijo. “Venimos a apoyar a los estudiantes y sus batallas, y es bueno verlos unidos y juntos para ver el cambio que quieren ver”.

Stephanie Alvarez, una profesora de Estudios Mexicoamericanos de UTRGV, habló al final de la protesta.

Alvarez dijo al *The Rider* que ella estuvo ahí para apoyar a los estudiantes y sus esfuerzos.

“Por lo que yo entiendo, [los estudiantes] planearon esto en menos de una semana”, ella dijo. “Yo creo que esto habla bastante [acerca] de que tan apasionada es la gente respecto a esto y que tan importante es. ... Muestra lo importante que es este problema”.

La manifestación terminó con la recitación de “In Lak’ech”, un precepto maya que se traduce a “Tú eres mi otro yo”. “Tú eres mi otro yo, *you are my other me*; si te hago daño a ti, *if I do harm to you*, me hago daño a mi mismo, *I do harm to myself*; si te amo y respeto, *if I love you and respect you*, me amo y respeto yo, *I love and respect myself*”.



Estudiantes Oscar Pacheco (de izquierda), de primer año de artes visuales; Aimaloghi Eromosele, de segundo año de biología; Julissa Roman, de tercer año de biología; y Monica Varela, de tercer año de estudio artístico, esperan el comienzo de la protesta en el “Árbol de la Solidaridad” en el North Quad en el campus de Edinburg.

Unidos cuando eran niños, siempre y cuando puedan satisfacer ciertos requisitos, de acuerdo con whitehouse.gov.

Sin embargo, el cambio que hizo Trump le da al Congreso seis meses para considerar soluciones legislativas apropiadas.

La protesta comenzó a las 11:40 a.m., cuando estudiantes abandonaron sus clases y tomaron rumbo hacia el “Árbol de Solidaridad” del Quad.

The Rider habló con un grupo de estudiantes de la Academia de Matemáticas y Ciencias (MSA, por sus siglas en inglés) quienes abandonaron su clase de Historia de EE. UU. I.

“Creo que esto es un asunto que necesita ser abordado

clase y asistir la manifestación para “combatir un problema que se ha grabado en nuestra nación por un largo tiempo”.

“Esto se trata de seres humanos y cada ser humano tiene derechos básicos”, dijo Jepsen. “Deberían tener estos derechos sin importar nada más. Deberían tener las mismas oportunidades en todas partes”.

Cecilia Ledezma, una estudiante de tercer año de MSA y de primer año en ingeniería, dijo al *The Rider* que cree que deberíamos apoyar a todos los inmigrantes porque nunca saben cómo ellos están siendo afectados.

Calleja, Jepsen y Ledezma eran parte de un grupo de alrededor de 20 estudiantes que abandonaron su clase de His-

Manifestantes marcharon en Washington, D.C., Florida y Oregon.

La Union de Chicanxs Hijxs de Aztlán (LUCHA) organizó las manifestaciones en colaboración con la organización nacional United We Dream, el Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA), La Unión del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), el programa de Estudios Mexicoamericanos de UTRGV (MAS, por sus siglas en inglés), el Texas Freedom Network y URGE ayudaron a organizar el evento en UTRGV.

Durante la marcha y la manifestación, manifestantes sostuvieron pancartas con mensajes como, “Education Not Deportation”, “Here to Stay” y “Justice for DREAMers”.

SLEEPLESS IN SOUTH TEXAS

UTRGV’s School of Art opens graphic design exhibit

Sydni D. Salinas
A&E EDITOR

What keeps you up at night? Is it something spooky like a clown running around in your dreams? Could it be the fear of a president that threatens your citizenship? Or is it a feeling that eats at you slowly like the doubts within yourself you can’t control? Sometimes, it’s easy to find yourself sleepless in South Texas with a case of insomnia.

Senior graphic design artists opened their exhibition, “Insomnia,” last Thursday, under art Associate Professor Robert Gilbert, who teaches the BFA Senior Graphic Design exhibit course.

“A show like this is kind of an initiation of sorts,” Gilbert said.

He wanted students to take risks and be able to feel proud of their work, saying that in his class they are pushed to go past their boundaries.

“In the class, they take small risks,” Gilbert said. “They put their work on the wall. We talk about it, and we criticize it in a positive way. So, there’s a

certain amount of emotional risk taken in doing that. It gets to the point where they have the strength to have their work critiqued and be able to defend it.”

Students each have their own take on the theme.

Samantha Reyes chose to break the mold in her own way by centering the theme on the Dreamers of DACA and illegal immigration.

Reyes found inspiration and help from her peers.

“I probably wouldn’t be able to do any of this alone,” she said, emphasizing the importance of teamwork in creating large-scale pieces.

Eric Rodriguez demonstrated his idea of insomnia by intertwining his interests of fantasy and science.

“I’ve always had a passion for both science and fantasy,” Rodriguez said. “So, I was trying to combine them in a way to make these mythical creatures more anatomically and scientifically correct.”

Posters, sculptures and sketches, he described his process as an idea that gets built and reimaged over and



Valeria Alanis/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Graphic design senior Samantha Reyes chose the theme, Dreamers. Reyes’ artwork broaches the topic of illegal immigration.



Art Associate Professor Robert Gilbert says that “Insomnia” gives his students the opportunity to feel proud of their work and is also a kind of an initiation for them.

over until he sees it coincide.

“It all starts with a very rough idea, and then I just go over and refine it, refining it and refining it until it all makes sense together,” Rodriguez said.

Daniel Manrique embraced insomnia by having his take be on the adult understanding of childhood bedtime stories or fairy tales.

“My inspiration behind my pieces, are the fact that when we are children, and we hear bedtime stories or folktales, we don’t really understand that sometimes there is a deeper meaning, and you understand that once you are

an adult,” Manrique said.

His pieces include the “Three Little Pigs,” and his interpretation of the existentialist tones the fairy tale has.

There’s much to see at “Insomnia,” with something for everyone. Quite simply, art is expressed in every facet, leaving viewers feeling as though they, too, experienced the emotional journey the artist did.

“Insomnia” will run until Nov. 22 in the Visual Arts Gallery in UTRGV’s art annex, located at 2412 S. Closser Blvd. in Edinburg.

What is art to you?

“Art to me is a sense of mystery, beauty, a kind of language that speaks to the unconscious.”
--Robert Gilbert

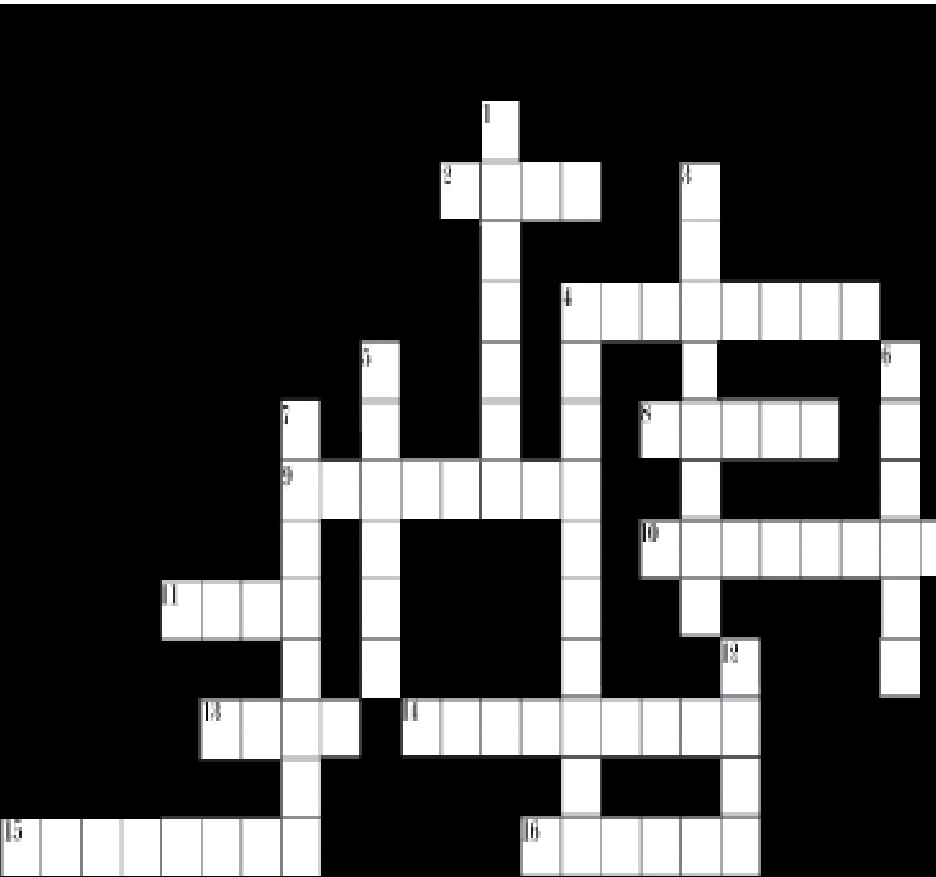
“Art is what you make of it.”
--Eric Rodriguez

“An expression of yourself.”
--Daniel Manrique

“Everything that I do is art.”
--Samantha Reyes

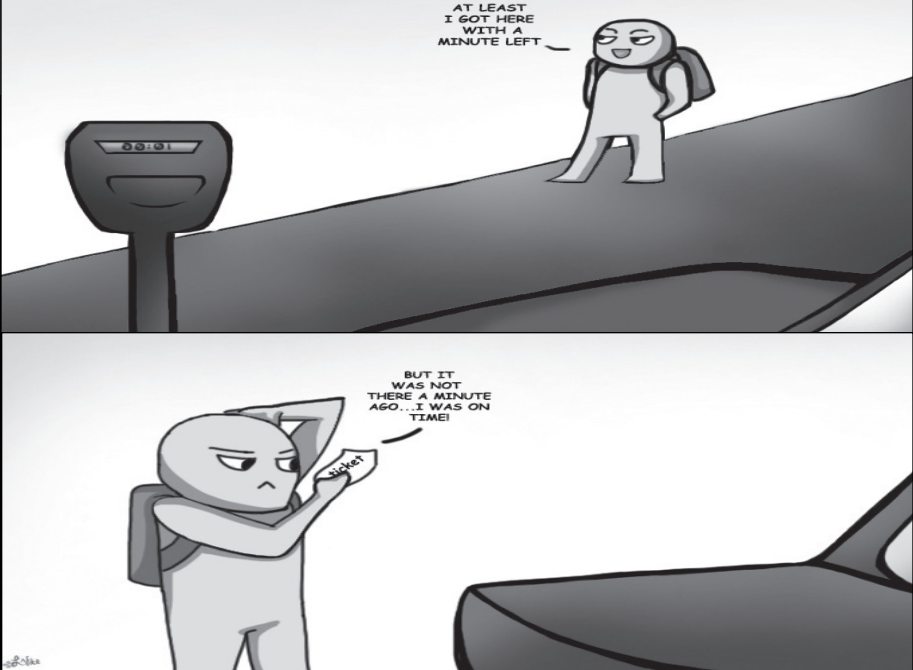
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

GREEK MYTHOLOGY



Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite



- ACROSS
- King of the Gods
 - God of the Sea
 - Brother of Zeus, he is the ruler of the Underworld
 - God of Wine
 - Famous for his strength and many adventures, he is the son of Zeus and mortal Alcmena
 - In Roman mythology, he is considered to be “Cupid,” son of Venus
 - God of War, son of Zeus and Hera
 - Her Roman version is Venus, the Goddess of Love
 - Hound of Hades, the beast with three heads
 - She had snakes upon her head instead of hair

- DOWN
- “He shall be proved the brother and the sire, Of her who bare him son and husband both, Co-partner, and assassin of his sire. Go in and ponder this, and if thou find That I have missed the mark, henceforth declare I have no wit nor skill in prophecy.”
 - The group of sisters, Clotho, Lachesis and Atropos, who control the fate of all mortal lives, also known as the “Moirai”
 - Kidnapped by Hades and taken to the Underworld, she becomes his wife and Queen of the Underworld
 - Twin to Goddess of the Hunt, Artemis
 - Goddess of Wisdom, Craft and War
 - The major character of Homer’s epic
 - Married to her brother, Zeus

WAC
Continued from Page 1

“They’re special kids in my heart,” he said. “Those kids took a chance at UTB; they knew they were coming to a program that was getting cut. They had other options, they had other places to go. They believed and trusted in me that they were going to go wherever I was going. To have that loyalty from two kids is something special. They understand what it’s like to be part of a team and part of a family.”

UTRGV honored the two seniors during their last regular season home match, which was a 3-0 sweep of Utah Valley University. On Senior Day, Mitrovic said she had flashbacks to when the program first started.

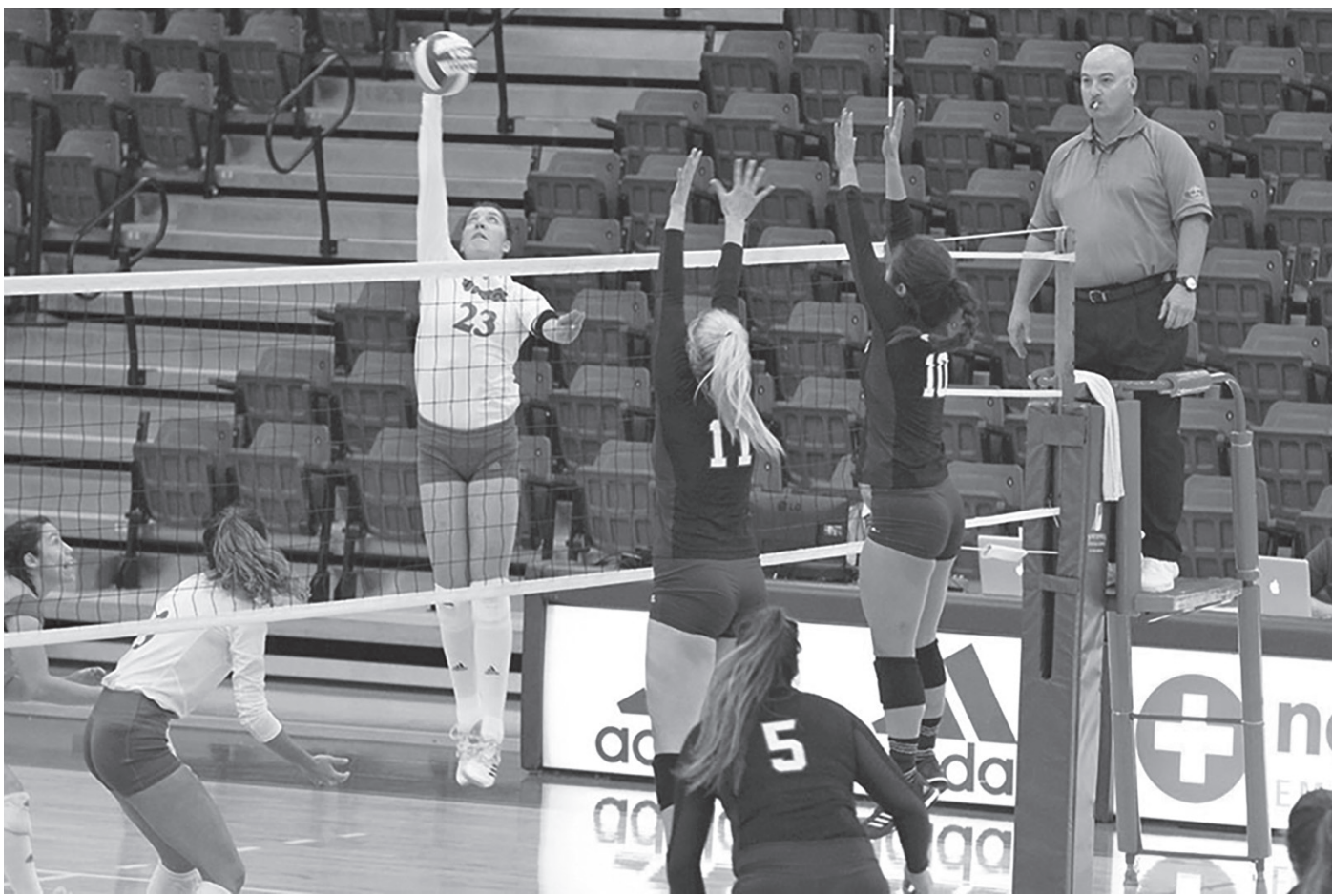
“I think sometimes we forget how big of a deal of what we made at this school, and how many times we’ve made history in this school,” she said. “You get caught up on winning, just getting better every day and forget about small things. We started from zero and we really came a long way together, and I cannot be more proud of what we accomplished and I’m excited about the history that we can make this year.”

The Vaqueras have already made history in 2017, posting an all-time best conference record (9-3). Now, they are out to make more history as they defend their crown as WAC tourney champs starting Thursday, and they’ll get to do it in the UTRGV Fieldhouse, where the team is a perfect 10-0 this season.

“We’ve been 10-0 at home but we’re still hungry for wins,” Mitrovic, a team co-captain said. “We’re definitely going to defend our court as best as we can and we’re going to put on a fight against whoever’s on the opposite side. We’re more than excited to host the tournament and show people what we have, because I still feel like we haven’t played our best volleyball this year.”

When UTRGV made its run to a WAC tourney title in 2016, they shocked the world as a fifth seed, knocking off the first seed and tournament host New Mexico State 3-1 in the semifinals before sweeping UVU in the championship match.

Lowery said while last year’s team



Bryan Ramos/THE RIDER

Senior right side hitter Bojana Mitrovic strikes a ball past the California State University, Bakersfield defense on Oct. 14 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse. UTRGV won the match 3-1.

did something special three nights in a row in winning the WAC crown in New Mexico, the program is excited to finally host the tournament at

the fans, people coming out,” he said. “We got a great group of girls that do a lot. We felt like with the recruiting cycle and where we were at, that this

“This has been building for three years, the momentum here at home, the fans, people coming out.”
--Todd Lowery
Volleyball Head Coach

home after looking forward to the opportunity for two years.

“This has been building for three years, the momentum here at home,

was a good year to host the WAC Tournament because we had a lot of pieces right coming into this season and we had seven new ones, so it was

just going to take time putting them together. It’s definitely gonna ratchet up a little bit of pressure, so it’s good we’re getting behind here and having to respond, because there’s going to be pressure here come November.”

On the court, UTRGV has battled adversity, spending almost the first two weeks of the season on the road due to travel issues stemming from Hurricane Harvey. Even so, Mitrovic has posted 12 double-doubles this season and is second on the team in kills behind junior Ragni Steen Knudsen. With fellow returners, sophomore Barbara Silva and junior Dubravka Vukoja, playing significant roles on the team alongside the leadership of co-captain Alexandra Ecker, the Vaqueras are in good position to repeat as WAC Tournament champions.

The addition of junior transfer Gysell Zayas and freshman Veronika Jandova have been bright spots who blended right in with Lowery’s system.

“We’ve been good here for a while and it’s because we have good girls,” he said. “The girls have connected with people around campus, they’ve connected with kids in the community, and when there’s a crowd in the stands and they’re cheering for you, it’s like a seventh person. When we bid for the WAC Tournament, we felt like this was our year to do something special and we’re happy to have it here at home and with a great opportunity.”

WAC Tournament action is slated to begin in the UTRGV Fieldhouse Thursday as the No. 3 seed hosts the No. 6 seed at 4:30 p.m., followed by match two, featuring the No. 4 seed versus the No. 5 seed. On Friday in the semifinals, the No. 2 seed will host the winner of seeds 3 and 6 at 4:30 p.m., while the No. 1 seed will play the winner of the No. 4 and No. 5 matchup at 7 p.m. The championship match is set to begin at 7 p.m. Saturday.

Silva, who has set a career high in kills and digs in 2017, said the team is ready for its shot to defend the WAC Tournament Championship in front of the home crowd inside the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

“When we play home, it’s just another feeling with the energy here,” she said. “It gives us a lot of confidence, but it also is a little bit of pressure. I think we can convert that into excitement, so we’re just going to come here and we want to put on a really good show. So, I think it’s going to be great for us.”

You can follow along with the UTRGV Volleyball Team and WAC Tournament action at utrgvrider.com or on Facebook @utrgvrider.



Lesley Robles/THE RIDER

Sophomore middle blocker Barbara Silva goes up for a kill against Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi during the South Texas Showdown on Sept. 13 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse.

PROTEST
Continued from Page 1

The protest began at 11:40 a.m., when students walked out of their classes and made their way to the Quad’s “Tree of Solidarity.”

The Rider spoke with a group of Mathematics and Science Academy students who walked out of their U.S. History I class.

“I believe that this is a matter that needs to be addressed immediately,” said Alexa Calleja, an MSA junior and biology freshman. “Education should not depend on a status. Everyone, just for being a human being, deserves and has the right to their education.”

Criztian Jepsen, an MSA junior and biology freshman, said he decided to walk out of his class and attend the rally to “fight a problem that has been engraved in our nation for a long time.”

“This is about human beings and every human being has basic rights,” Jepsen said. “They should have these rights no matter what. They should have equal opportunities everywhere.”

Cecilia Ledezma, an MSA junior and engineering freshman, told *The Rider* she believes everyone should support all immigrants because they will never know how they’re being affected.

Calleja, Jepsen and Ledezma were part of a group of about 20 students who walked out of their U.S. History I class.

At noon, the march began with two large groups of about 100 people walking through the north and south sides of the Bronc Trail. Both groups met in front of the Student Services Building.

In universities across the nation, walkouts to demand a “clean” DREAM act took place. Protesters marched in Washington, D.C., Florida and Oregon.

Walkouts were organized by La Union de Chicanxs Hijxs de Aztlán (LUCHA) in collaboration with the national organization United We Dream. The Young Democratic Socialists of America (YDSA), La Union del Pueblo Entero (LUPE), the



Sergio Garcia/THE RIDER

UTRGV students march through the Bronc Trail on the Edinburg campus to voice their displeasure with President Donald Trump’s rescindment of the DACA program. Protesters urged UTRGV administration to create a Dreamer Center during the rally of the “Solidarity Walkout.”

UTRGV Mexican American Studies program (MAS), the Texas Freedom Network and URGE helped host the walkout at UTRGV.

During the march and rally, protesters held up signs with such messages as, “Education Not Deportation,” “Here to Stay” and “Justice for DREAMers.”

While gathered in front of the Student Services Building, Alejandro Sanchez, a UTRGV Mexican American Studies graduate student and LUCHA member, asked Student Government Association President Alondra Galvan to help pass a resolution to build a Dreamer Center at UTRGV.

“I would like to meet with the students,” Galvan responded. “If that is something you truly want, we can go ahead and work together and gather all the information, so we can present it to [UTRGV President Guy] Bailey.”

Representatives from all

organizations present encouraged students to call U.S. Senators Ted Cruz (R-Texas) and John Cornyn (R-Texas) and demand they work on creating a “clean” DREAM Act.

At UTRGV, about 900 DREAMers are enrolled.

DREAMers are individuals who meet the general requirements of the Development, Relief and Education for Alien Minors (DREAM) Act. In 2001, the Texas Legislature passed House Bill 1403, also known as the Texas DREAM Act, which extends in-state tuition and grants eligibility to non-citizen residents of the state, according to forabettertexas.org.

After the rally, protesters made their way to the intersection of Sugar Road and University Drive, where they stood in front of the university’s letters. Drivers cheered, honked their horns and gave a thumbs up in support of the marchers.

Throughout the march and rally, protesters voiced their displeasure with different chants, including “*iBailey, escucha, estamos en la lucha!*” and “Say it loud, say it clear, immigrants are welcome here!”

Bianca Castro, a UTRGV psychology junior and president of YDSA, said she hopes the protest can send a message to the U.S. Congress and university officials to take action and support DACA recipients.

“Here at this university, we want to urge our administration to form a Dreamer Center,” Castro said. “A place where these students can go and get guidance, can get specialized guidance and counseling throughout their entire college career.”

Jonathon Salinas, a 2015 UTRGV graduate and a community organizer at LUPE, was among the protesters. Salinas said he thinks it is good to show unity among the student body.

“Over at LUPE, we believe that it’s through unifying ourselves and community organizing that change can come along,” he said. “We came to support the students and their struggle, and it’s good to see them united and together to see the change they want to see.”

Stephanie Alvarez, a UTRGV Mexican American Studies associate professor, spoke at the close of the protest.

Alvarez told *The Rider* she was there to support the students and all their efforts.

“From what I understand, [the students] planned this for less than a week,” she said. “I do think it speaks a lot [about] how passionate people are about this and how important it is. ... It shows just how important the issue is.”

The protest ended with the reciting of “In Lak’ech,” a Mayan precept that translates to “You are another me.”

“*Tú eres mi otro yo*, you are my other me; *si te hago daño a ti*, if I do harm to you, *me hago daño a mi mismo*, I do harm to myself; *si te amo y respeto*, if I love and respect you, *me amo y respeto yo*, I love and respect myself.”

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