

THE RIDER

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WALL: MORE ‘SYMBOL,’ THAN PROTECTION

Eric Montoya

SPANISH EDITOR

One year and 11 days have passed since President Donald Trump announced his executive order to build a wall along the U.S. southern border and people are still uncertain about the status of the project.

Executive Order 13767: Border Security and Immigration Enforcement Improvements has been the center of attention because of Trump’s plan to build a border wall to protect the United States.

“The purpose of this order is to direct executive departments and agencies ... to deploy all lawful means to secure the Nation’s southern border, to prevent further illegal immigration into the United States, and to repatriate illegal aliens swiftly, consistently, and humanely,” Trump stated in his announcement, which was published Jan. 25, 2017, on www.whitehouse.gov.

Last Tuesday, Trump gave his first State of the Union address, in which he mentioned his four-pillar plan to create a resolution for the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals situation.

As *The Rider* reported last week, the president’s four-pillar plan includes the establishment of a pathway to citizenship for people brought to the U.S. illegally at a young age, the construction of a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border, the ending of the U.S. visa lottery system and gets rid of “chain migration” by limiting sponsorships to spouses and children.

“These four pillars represent a down-the-middle compromise and one that will create a safe, modern

and lawful immigration system,” Trump said in his address. “For over 30 years, Washington has tried and failed to solve this problem. This Congress can be the one that finally makes it happen. Most importantly, these four pillars will produce legislation that fulfills my ironclad pledge to only sign a bill that puts America first. So let’s come together, set politics aside and finally get the job done.”

In an interview with *The Rider*, U.S. Rep. Vicente Gonzalez (D-Texas) said Congress has not yet given Trump the money to build the wall.

“The money hasn’t been appropriated,” Gonzalez said. “So there are several immigration bills that they are trying to attach [to] border wall funding. That is the way they are trying to negotiate the border wall. They are trying to use Dreamers and other immigrants as a pawn to negotiate a border wall.”

He said the border wall is not under construction, but there have been studies funded by other appropriations to survey the land where they plan to build it.

“There is not an actual construction of brick and mortar,” Gonzalez said. “But there are government engineers that have been out scaling places and doing studies of where they could potentially build the wall.”

He said a border wall would send “an awful diplomatic message to the country of Mexico and our neighbors to the south.”

“I don’t believe it will be an effective method of bringing border security, so I think it’s going to be a huge waste of taxpayer dollars,” Gonzalez said.

On Jan. 16, people protested in front of Gonzalez’s office in Edinburg because he voted in favor of a resolution to keep the government open that did not include “protections for immigrant youth,” according to a news release from La Union del Pueblo Entero, or LUPE.

Asked about the protest, he replied, “I didn’t vote against DACA recipients. I have supported every single bill and every single law that could potentially give DACA recipients a pathway to citizenship. But ... [on] Feb. 1, health insurance was going to expire for our children, and because of that bill, we were able to get health insurance for children for six more years and we still have until March to fix the Dreamer bill.”

Gonzalez said he still supports Dreamers and that he is trying to get them a path to citizenship.

“On Feb. 1, we were going to lose health insurance for 60,000 kids in my district and I couldn’t allow that to happen,” he said. “... Those protests, they were misdirected and that is exactly what the Republican Party wants. They want to divide us and we should not allow that. We should be stronger and smarter than that, and not allow that to happen.”

Jim Chapman, a citizen activist with several conservation organizations, including the Sierra Club, and vice president for the Friends of the Wildlife Corridor, said the design of the border wall that is planned for construction in the area of the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in Hidalgo County is the worst design for wildlife.

“In Hidalgo County, in particular, the kind of wall

See **WALL**, Page 3

Courtesy Photo

Black Student Union officers and members took part in last Tuesday’s Student Involvement Fair in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Shown are (from left) President Aimaloghi Eromosele, Marian Anabilla, Vice President Payton Poindexter, Historians Ethya Lawani and Divine Agbeko, Oforiwaa Sam and Treasurer Nana Tufuoh.

Not just a month New club aims to celebrate black culture throughout year

Zugay Treviño

THE RIDER

In observance of Black History Month, a student organization will conduct educational activities for the UTRGV campus community.

The Black Student Union and Student Involvement will collaborate to host cultural chats, in which members of the student organization will participate. The department will also show the educational biographical film, “The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks.” The time and date of the screening will be announced at a later date.

The movie stars Oprah Winfrey as Henrietta Lacks, whose cells were used to create the first immortal human cell line in the early 1950s, according to IMDB.

See **MONTH**, Page 2

‘This is the time to speak up

Author, actress and activist Diane Guerrero spoke to more than 600 campus community members last Thursday in the Texas Southmost College Arts Center about the forced separation from her family and achieving career success.

Guerrero became emotional as she spoke about her parents’ deportation to Colombia. She is the author of “In the Country We Love: My Family Divided,” a memoir about her parents and brother, who were deported to Colombia after “trying desperately to become residents” when she was only 14 years old. “This is the time to join forces like never before and to stand our ground,” Guerrero said. “This is the time to speak up.” For the full article, visit utrgvrider.com.

Victor G.
Ramirez/The
Rider



THE RIDER

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Recovery Meetings

The Collegiate Recovery Program will host recovery meetings this semester: **Alcoholics Anonymous** at 6:30 p.m. on Mondays, **SMART Recovery** at noon on Tuesdays, **Narcotics Anonymous** at 10 a.m. Tuesdays and Thursdays and noon Fridays, **Tobacco Intervention** at noon on Wednesdays, and the **Al-Anon Family Group** at noon on Thursdays. All meetings will be held in University Center 102 on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2674.

Kite Flying Day

The Student Union will host its Kite Flying Day at noon. Students will decorate their kites in the PlainsCapital Bank El Comedor on the Brownsville campus. The event will take place at the same time Thursday in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7989.

Tuesday

Community Service Fair

Student Involvement will host its Community Service Fair from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. Students can speak to agencies regarding community service hours. For more information, call 882-5111.

Wednesday

Support Group

The Collegiate Recovery Program will host an **Addiction and Recovery Support Group** at 11 a.m. in Cortez Hall 220 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 665-2674.

Casino Night

Student Involvement will host its **Casino Night** from 6 to 8 p.m. in PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on

Have an announcement?

Email us at
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the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-5111.

Thursday

Safe and Sexy Social

The Counseling Center and Collegiate Recovery Program will host a social regarding health and safety tips for Valentine's Day from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-2574.

2018 Hidalgo Primary Forum

Democratic candidates for Hidalgo County and state races will speak about their qualifications during the **Tx2018 Hidalgo Primary Forum** at 5:30 p.m. in the Echo Hotel and Conference Center, 1903 S. Closner Blvd. in Edinburg. Candidates scheduled to

speak are **Eloy Pulido** and **Richard Cortez**, who are seeking the county judgeship; **Ellie Torres** and **Joseph Palacios**, county commissioner Pct. 4; **Armando Marroquín** and **Arnoldo Cantú Jr.**, county court-at-law No. 5 judge; **Dori Contreras** and **Ray Thomas**, 13th Court of Appeals District chief justice; **Arturo Guajardo Jr.** and **René Pérez**, county clerk; and **Danny Diaz** and **Norma Ramirez**, Democratic Party chair. The **Progressive Young Democrats** will host the event.

Thursday Night Blitz

The Chess Club will host its weekly tournament from 4:30 to 11 p.m. in ESTAC 1.112A on the Edinburg campus. Beginners and casual players are welcome. For more information, email david.ortiz02@utrgv.edu, or call (832) 908-5462.

Friday

Music concert

Music Lecturer I and flutist **Brielle Frost** will perform with **Juan Andrade**, associate professor of music and pianist; **Krista Jobson**, assistant professor of music and flutist; and **Natalie Haugber**, cellist. They will perform a variety of flute repertoire from composers **Telemann**, **Tann**, **Naudot**, **Demersseman**, **Karg-Elert** and **Skoumal**. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7025.

--Compiled by Steven Hughes

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 24 and Jan. 29.

Jan. 24

12:30 p.m.: A student reported her vehicle was struck while it was parked in Lot E7. It sustained visible damage to the front end. The case is under investigation.



Jan. 25

2:34 p.m.: A student reported being harassed via text messages by her non-affiliated ex-boyfriend. She also said he went by her place of employment on campus, wishing to speak with her. Officers were able to make contact with him and issue a criminal trespass warning. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 26

11:01 a.m.: Officers and the Edinburg Fire Department responded to an active fire alarm at the Academic

Services Building. The fire department determined the alarm was caused by a water flow sensor and the building was cleared for re-entry.

11:40 a.m.: A faculty member on the Edinburg campus reported receiving a poem from a student which she found disturbing. She had already contacted



University Police

Brownsville

Dispatch

882-8232

Edinburg

Dispatch

665-7151

Email: Police@utrgv.edu

Campus Emergency: 882-2222

her dean and the Dean of Students Office. At this time, the matter does not rise to the level of a criminal offense and will be handled administratively.

9:55 p.m.: An Edinburg police officer responded to the exterior of the library in reference to a third party reporting a visible fire coming from the building.

The officer dispatched the Edinburg Fire Department and upon arrival of the UTRGV Police Department, it was determined there was no fire. The smoke reported was vapor coming from the cooling plant extractor operating normally.

Jan. 27

11:32 a.m.: An officer made contact off campus in Hidalgo with a shuttle bus driver who reported a wireless internet router had been stolen from the vehicle. The case is under investigation.

Jan. 29

2:10 a.m.: Officers responded to an active fire alarm in Heritage Hall on the Edinburg campus. The alarm panel indicated a smoke detector was activated in a dorm room. No signs of smoke or fire were present. The Edinburg Fire Department cleared the building for re-entry.

--Compiled by Britney Valdez

MONTH

Continued from Page 1

"It just feels like our responsibility ... to make sure that we definitely represent that Black History Month is carried out well, especially now that there is a black population to look to," Black Student Union President Aimaloghi Eromosele said.

Members of the organization said February is too short of a month to represent their culture.

"Black History Month is a scam. ... I don't think the shortest month of the year is enough to justify what black history is," said Payton Poindexter, Black Student Union vice president. "A lot of people don't realize part of them is black culture."

Poindexter said some people do not realize how black culture is relevant to them, such as slang, ways of dressing and music.

Eromosele said she also dislikes the way in which the month is sometimes displayed as subservient. She recalled only a few blacks, including the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr., Rosa Parks and George Washington Carver, being recognized. She said the dark side of black history is not talked about.

"Martin Luther didn't get arrested for kissing babies on the forehead. He was arrested, and shot, and killed," Eromosele said. "It's almost, like, we have our idols thrown back in our faces."

She said some people do not think the Black Lives Matter movement is legitimate, because King Jr. "always promoted peace, but he also said anyone who is quiet during a time of adversity is not on your side, either."

Eromosele said she wants to recognize black history differently at UTRGV.

"Black History Month, at least the way I want to do it, is definitely about taking back these idols and really telling the whole truth and not just the little cookie-cutter pieces that everyone can swallow real easy," she said.

Yaw Sam, the Black Student Union secretary, said he grew up in Ghana and what he has learned at UTRGV and in his hometown, and what he has seen in the media are portrayed differently. Although the events did happen, his instructors tended to linger on those that did not have as big of an impact as others, Sam said.

"When you watch documentaries, all you watch is 'Madagascar' and lions running around," he said.

Poindexter said she has heard as all of Africa being described as a jungle.

Eromosele said lots of history classes still depict Africa as having third-world countries.

"There are cities, and buildings, CEOs, and executives, they do have airplanes," she said. "Someone asked me if my dad has ever hunted a tiger. First of all, hunters don't even hunt tigers. ... No, it's the same way you go to the grocery store when you're hungry, or you want to go get McDonald's or something like that. You can easily do the same thing in one of those types of countries."

The Black Student Union aims to help others attain further knowledge about black history. The organization already has around 15 to 20 active members.

Members meet at 12:15 p.m. Wednesdays in ESTAC 1.112C on the Edinburg campus.

One aspect of black history the organization hopes to teach others about is the Willie Lynch letter.

"If we can just help plant the seed, and you go back home and do something about it, and read 'The Willie Lynch Letter,' or something else like that ... I will feel very satisfied about how far this organization has gone," Eromosele said.

A reflection of his heart

UTRGV groundskeeper supports family by keeping campus clean

Joahana Segundo
THE RIDER

Almost three decades ago, Martin Hernandez-Navarro, a groundskeeper for UTRGV, decided to come to the United States in the hope of a better future. After working in Michigan for several years, he and his family decided to relocate to La Villa.

After a year of unemployment, Hernandez-Navarro was able to earn a job at UTRGV thanks to his extensive experience working in gardening.

Since then, he has dedicated eight years to tending to the university's outdoor areas in order to keep them clean and aesthetically pleasing for students, staff and visitors.

His routine includes waking up at 5 a.m. every morning to pray and read the Bible to thank God for taking care of his family during the night and allowing him to wake up to a new day. At around 6:15 a.m., he is off to work. During the day he does everything from weeding and trimming trees to mowing the lawn.

"I've had the pleasure of working with him," said Carlos Chavez, an assistant director for Facilities Programs and Services.



Joahana Segundo/The Rider

Groundskeeper II Martin Hernandez-Navarro shovels dirt for a walking trail by the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. He has worked for UTRGV for over eight years.

"All this time I've been working with him and seeing his performance, he's very dedicated, always here, he's willing to stay whenever we do a lot of projects outside the normal schedule," Chavez said. "He has a lot of experience."

Hernandez-Navarro said he enjoys his job even though

it may be a bit hot or cold outside.

"Sometimes, I've thought about changing to another department ... where I won't have to work outside or withstand heat, but since I like what I do, that motivates me to stay," he said.

He and his wife have a son and three daughters. His son

and two of his daughters are enrolled in UTRGV.

Hernandez-Navarro recalls difficult times at the beginning of his employment at UTRGV. His family owned only one car, which meant that his son and daughters had to wake up early in the morning so that they could ride with him to campus and

wait until he clocked out to go home. Luckily, with time, Hernandez-Navarro saved enough money to buy them a car.

For Hernandez-Navarro, one of the most rewarding experiences about working at UTRGV has been the constant reminder that his children have the opportunity to earn an education. He is proud of his children for taking this opportunity.

His daughter, Catalina Ruby Hernandez, an interdisciplinary studies senior, said she admires her dad for being helpful to others without giving it a second thought.

"He's hardworking, very kind, [and] he loves to serve people," Hernandez said.

Despite the struggles that come along with his duties and the hardships he has encountered, Hernandez-Navarro remains positive and happy.

"He gets along with all the employees [and] always comes with a smile. He likes what he does. He seems to be very happy here," Chavez said.

Hernandez-Navarro said, "I think God put everything into place. ... He has helped me a lot by placing me in this job here in the university."

WALL

Continued from Page 1

they're going to put up is a 18- or 20-foot concrete vertical wall with a steel fence on top of that," Chapman said. "In a flood, nothing will be able to get out, only things that can fly out. So, all terrestrial wildlife, basically, will drown."

The Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge consists of 2,088 acres. It is located south of Alamo near the Rio Grande and is "positioned along an east-west and north-south juncture of two major migratory routes for many species of birds," according to www.fws.gov/refuge/Santa_Ana/about.html. "It is also at the northern-most point for many species whose range extends south into Central and South America."

Chapman said the refuge is important because there is little left of the original habitat.

"The Valley, because of where it is, because it's so far south, it gets a lot of subtropical species of plants and animals," he said. "You also have the influence of the desert to the west and then you have the effect of the ocean to the east and you have the effect of temporal species from the north."

"... It was recognized by the 1970s that Santa Ana by itself was really too small to preserve that diversity because the Valley kept being cleared more and more, and so in 1979, the government authorized the Lower Rio Grande Valley National Wildlife Refuge, which is basically a kind of a corridor, or refuge tracts, along the river. So,

there's now close to a hundred refuge tracts along the river in the Valley. The Santa Ana is the oldest and one of the biggest, and the most visited, but the border wall would actually affect all those refuge tracts, not just Santa Ana."

Asked about the effects the border wall would have on the refuges, Chapman replied, "The wall will basically run along the edge of the refuge and other refuge tracts straddle the levee. In other words, part of the refuge is on one side of the levee and part of the refuge is on the other. ... Every tract will be affected, some more heavily than others, and probably the worst single effect will be when the river goes into flood, which happens about every 10 years. The last time was 2010 ... and when there is a wall, wildlife won't be able to get out."

He said that if built, the border wall would probably include a 150-foot "enforcement zone."

"[The Department of Homeland Security] will go inside the refuges, where they will clear all vegetation, keep it cleared and have lights there 24/7," Chapman said. "So ... just in Santa Ana, that amounts to 50 acres of forest being destroyed. And, by having that lit all the time, that impacts a lot of nocturnal wildlife. So, you have impacts from the clearing, impacts from the lights [and] impacts from the wall."

On Jan. 27, hundreds of people from across the state and nation attended a rally on a farm field next to the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge. The rally was organized to mark the 75th anniversary of the refuge in the hope



Lesley Robles/The Rider

Hundreds of people from across the state and nation attended the rally Jan. 27 to mark the 75th anniversary of the Santa Ana National Wildlife Refuge in hopes to send a message to Congress to stop the border wall on the 2,088-acre refuge situated along the Rio Grande.

of sending a message to Congress to stop the border wall and call for a clean DREAM Act.

Valley native Chris Sandoval said he has been to several protests because something has to be done about the wall.

"It's completely affecting our communities and it's directly affecting a lot of our relatives and ourselves," Sandoval said. "We need to make sure that it's known that we are not for this and that everything we are doing is fighting against this, so that there won't ever be any question on whether or not we were in agreement about it."

The Santa Ana National Wildlife

Refuge was designated a registered natural landmark in 1967 under the provision of the Historic Site Act.

Mark Kaswan, a UTRGV political science professor, said the border wall must be understood as more of a symbol than a border security approach.

"The border wall is a symbol. It is a symbol of the attitude of people in the United States towards our southern neighbors, and it is clearly a negative attitude," Kaswan said. "There is no real connection between immigration and the wall. There is this false idea

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‘These violent delights have violent ends’

UTPA alum adapts ‘Romeo and Juliet’ for Pharr Community Theater

Sydni D. Salinas
A&E EDITOR

Do you remember the first time reading Shakespeare’s “Romeo and Juliet”? Suddenly, the world becomes a magical place in which your ninth-grade crush who sits in front of you is going to show up at your doorstep and proclaim their undying adolescent adorations.

Quite unrealistically, you begin to believe in the world that Shakespeare created. Then, you find yourself reciting lines for class and all too casually, you can identify with characters written in 1597.

This is the mysterious power of Shakespeare’s classic play.

Whether it’s told through two animated gnomes (“Gnomeo and Juliet”) or a ‘90s modern backdrop including post-Titanic Leonardo DiCaprio, the story of these two tragic lovers transcends through time, still making people feel those butterflies they can sometimes forget they still have inside of them.

Seres Jaime Magaña, a native of Guadalajara, Jalisco, Mexico, and a graduate of legacy institution UT Pan American, has written a rendition of “Romeo and Juliet” titled, “The Tragic Corrido of Romeo & Lupe,” for the Pharr Community Theater.

The play is set to premiere in April, with auditions taking place last week.

Magaña’s spin on the story takes place in “Magic Valley,” with his two main characters being heavily rooted in Rio Grande Valley and Mexican culture.

He described culture being something he wanted to touch on as a writer, which coincided nicely when Pedro Garcia, the theater’s artistic director, approached him about wanting to do an adaptation.

“When I first got here [to the U.S.], I feel that there was little bit of wanting to belong to the U.S., and I was kind of getting away from my culture,” he said. “As I progressed as a writer, I started to find more and more material and connection to myself and the things I’m trying to say in my culture.”

Characters Romeo Campbell and Lupe Díaz struggle with the new and old of culture, and seek to find balance in the traditional and modern.

They resemble their original counterparts in wanting to break free from family ties, but more important, Magaña adds the struggle between family and passion that many Valley natives and Mexican people can relate to due to cultural conventions.

“At one point I’m saying, ‘Romeo, get connected to your culture,’ but at one point I’m also saying, ‘But there is an aspect of tradition that it’s so conservative it doesn’t let you move forward,’” he said.

Romeo is written as the son of an irrigation company owner, and caught between duty and his free spirit.

His father seeks to build canals on land that locals do not agree with, and finds himself in a bind of who he is, and what his family wants.

“Romeo’s dad married a woman who had inherited land, because her dad was a ranch owner, so Mr. Campbell came in and married her and became the owner of the land,” Magaña said. “He started building canals in this land, and people started not respond-

ing well of how he’s going to do it. Romeo shares his father’s ambition but doesn’t share that view that his father has that he’s on top of the locals and superior to his mother.”

Protesting the Campbells is Lupe’s family and cousin Plácido [the Tybalt personality], creating the conflict for our Montague and Capulet families.

He describes his leads as night and day, complementing each other in what the other lacks.



Sydni D. Salinas/The Rider

“My mom makes the jokes that I’ve been writing since the womb, because I’ve been making stories ever since I can remember,” writer Seres Jaime Magaña recalled while discussing when he started writing.

“She’s very brave. Romeo is very, in the shadow of his father. He cannot go against it. He has a very hard time. He’s repressed. With Lupe, she’s more outgoing, more vibrant, and her father is really depressed but she’s able to get him back on his feet,” Magaña said. “Those are the two personalities. Him being the moon, very passive, her being the sun, very vibrant and alive.”

Adding to the themes of cultural representation, Magaña replaced the marriage conflict of Count Paris and Juliet with a Tía Marla, who seeks to take Lupe to Mexico with her.

“She just lives in this huge house and this echo of the possible family she could’ve had,” he said. “She wants to take Lupe and make her the daughter she never had. If she works as a symbol, she works as a symbol of Mexican principles that are very conservative.”

Magaña hopes that audiences leave the theater with a new outlook on their culture, and of course, with hope for love.

Asked what art means to him, Magaña replied, “A lot of people think art is something you have to strive for all the time, like ‘Art is over there, you’re over here,’ but art is something you have to live. That’s the only way; it all of a sudden starts to just come out of you. I always describe that the musician hears mu-



WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

William Shakespeare

sic everywhere. He can hear a sound and he can hear beats.

“An artist can look at something and just think, ‘I want to paint that.’ The writer is finding words, storylines, plots, meaningful moments in every moment. Art is, in fact, something that you’re living. It’s not something you live at your office or at the computer. It’s something that’s happening all of the time.”

If you simply can’t wait for April to see “The Tragic Corrido of Romeo & Lupe,” and want more out of this poet, you can find him every Saturday night at open mic night at Lunar Coffee House, located at 113 W. Nolana Ave. in McAllen.

His advice for aspiring UTRGV playwrights: “Learn how to be an artist. It’s in you; you have your intuition, but you have to practice. Only through that practice are you going to be able to reach people the way you want to reach them.”



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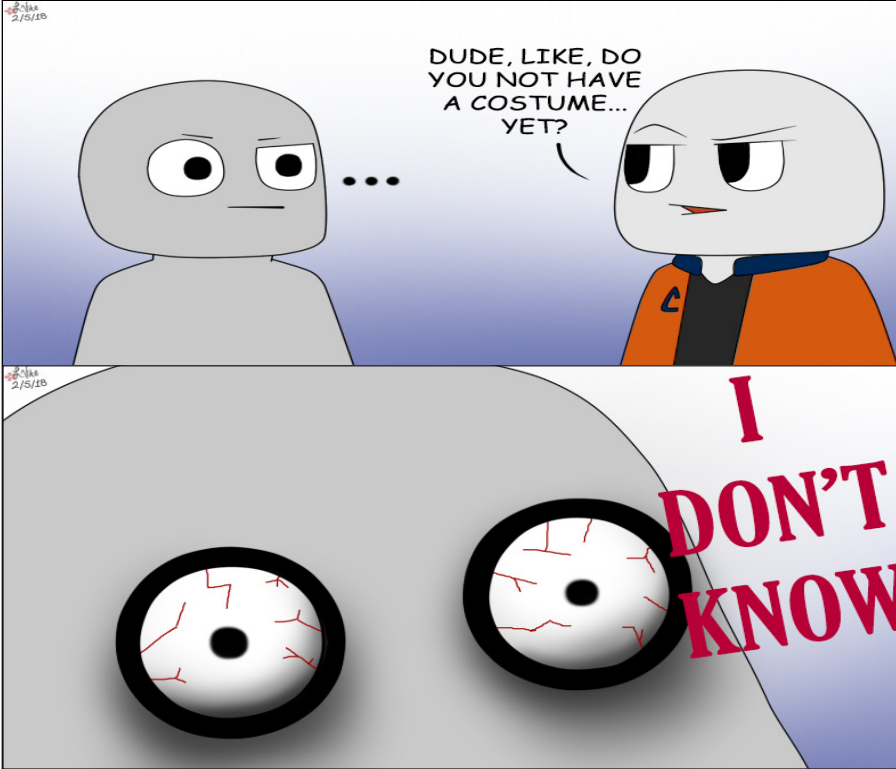
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Scribbles & Thoughts

By **Laia Vite**



UTRGV trabaja para apoyar a minorías

Centro multicultural es una meta a largo plazo

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER

No es ningún secreto que UTRGV es una universidad que sirve a la comunidad hispana, con 900 beneficiarios de DACA entre sus estudiantes inscritos. Después de la decisión del Presidente Donald Trump de rescindir el programa de Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia, mejor conocido como DACA, los estudiantes han continuado sus vidas con incertidumbre respecto a su condición legal en la universidad. El noviembre pasado, más de 200 estudiantes marcharon en el campus de Edinburg, demandando un DREAM Center en la universidad. “Hablamos con los funcionarios de la universidad, los estudiantes quieren un DREAM Center, pero tienes que tener en cuenta que queremos que UTRGV sea una zona segura”, dijo Alondra Galvan, presidenta del Gobierno Estudiantil. “No queremos que nadie se sienta intimidado, expuesto, o discriminado en nuestro campus”. La Acción Diferida para los Llegados en la Infancia (DACA) provee protección temporal en contra de la deportación a cerca de 800,000 jóvenes que fueron traídos a los Estados Unidos ilegal-

mente cuando eran niños, siempre y cuando puedan satisfacer ciertos requisitos, de acuerdo con whitehouse.gov. Desarrollo, Alivio y Educación para los Menores Extranjeros (DREAM por sus siglas en inglés), fue una propuesta similar, pero nunca fue aprobada por el Congreso. Galvan dijo que no hay ninguna universidad en el University of Texas System que tenga un DREAM Center y hay una política que dice que el único que puede dar declaraciones escritas acerca de DACA es el rector. “Así que después de hacer una investigación y ver lo que otras escuelas están haciendo, nadie tiene un DREAM Center”, ella dijo. “Tienes que ver a las diferencias de las áreas geográficas en las que nos encontramos. UTRGV está junto al cerco fronterizo. Tenemos agentes del U.S. Border Patrol que entran a nuestro campus, no a cuestionar a los estudiantes, pero, tu sabes, algunas veces hay incidentes donde alguien se cruza y ellos vienen”. Galvan dijo que la universidad no quiere que los estudiantes se sientan expuestos si es que abrieran un DREAM Center en el campus. “Digamos, por ejemplo, un día un oficial puede llegar y decir, ‘Oye, estoy buscando a alguien’. Quiero decir, nunca sabes, ¿a dónde crees que van a ir primero?” ella dijo.



Albert Monrroy/The Rider

En UTRGV están inscritos casi 900 beneficiarios del programa DACA, algunos de los cuales no se sentirían cómodos visitando un DREAM Center. Alondra Galvan, presidenta del Gobierno Estudiantil, dijo que quiere que UTRGV sea una “zona segura” donde los estudiantes no se sientan discriminados.

“UTRGV no quiere exponer a sus estudiantes. No queremos que nadie se sienta perseguido”. Después de una junta con estudiantes indocumentados y beneficiarios de DACA, Galvan dijo que muchos de ellos le dijeron que ellos no usarían el DREAM Center, porque expondría su estado migratorio. “Así que, lo que UTRGV está haciendo es que están trabajando para tener un centro de

ayuda a donde los estudiantes puedan ir”, ella dijo. “Sin embargo, no se llamará DREAM Center, porque el nombre puede causar que los estudiantes se sientan señalados. El centro de ayuda será una oficina donde todos los grupos minoritarios podrán ser atendidos. Así que, digamos, por ejemplo, ‘Quiero saber más sobre DACA. Quiero saber más acerca de cómo UTRGV puede ayudarme’, y cosas así”.

Rebecca Gadson, vicerrectora asociada para la Vida Estudiantil y decana de estudiantes, dijo que un centro multicultural es una meta a largo plazo para la universidad, pero el objetivo a corto plazo es educar a los estudiantes, personal y facultad para cambiar el ambiente en el campus y hacer que los estudiantes se sientan seguros.

Artista, autora, activista

Diane Guerrero hablará sobre su experiencia



Robert Benavidez Jr./The Rider

La actriz y autora Diane Guerrero se presentará a las 7:30 p.m. el jueves en el Texas Southmost College Arts Center en Brownsville.

Victor G. Ramirez
THE RIDER

La artista y autora, Diane Guerrero, se presentará a las 7:30 p.m. el jueves en el Texas Southmost College Arts Center en Brownsville, donde compartirá su historia de la separación forzada de su familia y como logró alcanzar el éxito en su carrera. Guerrero da vida a Maritza Ramos en la serie de Netflix, “Orange Is the

New Black”, y a Lina en “Jane the Virgin”, así como a varios personajes en otros filmes y shows de televisión. También ha escrito un libro titulado, “In the Country We Love”, una historia sobre la extraordinaria resistencia de una mujer frente a las horribles dificultades que enfrentan los residentes indocumentados en este país, de acuerdo con inthecountrywelove.com. Adicionalmente, Guerrero ha traba-

jado con la organización sin fines de lucro Immigrant Legal Resource Center, así como con Mi Familia Vota, una organización que promueve el movimiento civil. También fue nombrada como Embajadora de Ciudadanía y Naturalización de la Casa Blanca. “Estamos muy entusiasmados por darle la bienvenida a nuestra universidad la siguiente semana”, dijo Cindy Mata-Vasquez, directora de Activi-

dades Estudiantiles. “... Tu sabes, ella es una de los ponentes que, sentimos que traer a alguien como ella es una oportunidad que solo pasa una vez en la vida. Venir aquí para hablar sobre, tu sabes, los problemas que la han afectado personalmente y que tal vez estén afectando a algunos de nuestros estudiantes”. Estudiante de psicología Narda Ayala está consciente del sufrimiento de la familia de Guerrero. “Sé que ella sale en ‘Orange Is the New Black’, y es latina ... y sus padres son inmigrantes así que ... ella fue separada de sus padres”, dijo Ayala. Guerrero es parte del programa Distinguished Speaker Series de UTRGV, el cual presentó a Julian Castro el otoño pasado. El 27 de septiembre, Castro, un ex secretario de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano de los Estados Unidos, fue el primer ponente del programa de este año. El 7 de marzo, Daymond John, un emprendedor y coprotagonista del programa de negocios de ABC, “Shark Tank”, será el siguiente invitado del programa Distinguished Speaker Series. La entrada es gratuita. Para más información, llama al 664-2660 en Edinburg o al 882-5111 en Brownsville.

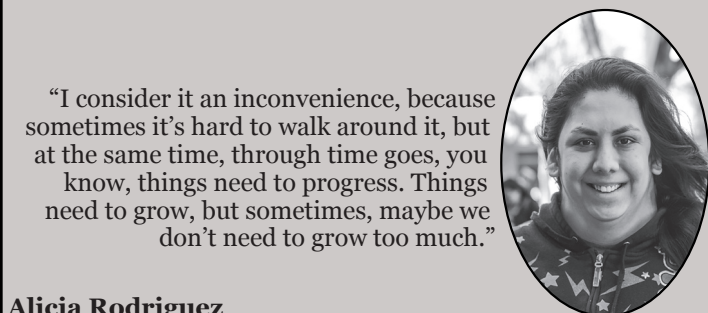
VAQUERO VOICE

CONSTRUCTION



“Pienso que [está] bien porque el colegio se está haciendo más grande y lo están reconociendo más aquí en el Valle, pero lo único que no me gusta, es de que está [en] el medio y [cuando] yo estoy tratando de llegar a comer y me hace que me vaya alrededor. Pero aparte de eso, es bueno”.

Edgar Garcia
Estudiante de último año de contaduría



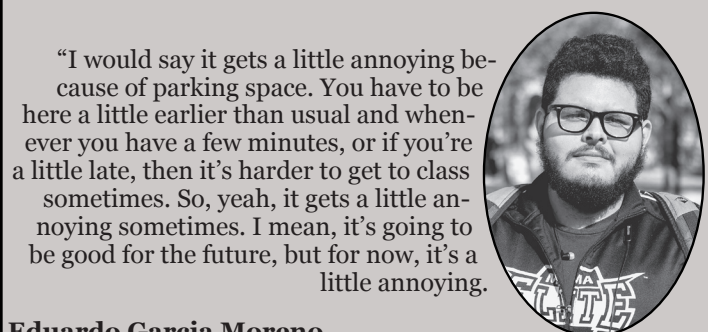
“I consider it an inconvenience, because sometimes it’s hard to walk around it, but at the same time, through time goes, you know, things need to progress. Things need to grow, but sometimes, maybe we don’t need to grow too much.”

Alicia Rodriguez
Theatre sophomore



“Well, it doesn’t really affect me. Yes, when I’m walking towards a class, I have to go somewhere else, but I mean, that’s not really a big deal. I think it’s better, ’cause they’re like, making new stuff, so it’s better for us and the campus.”

Gabriela Chavez
Nursing sophomore

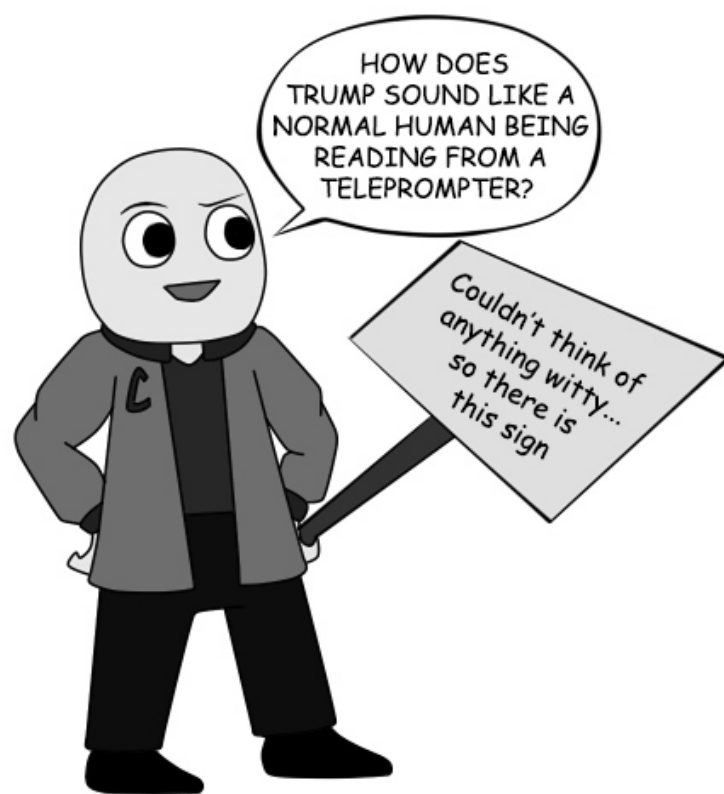


“I would say it gets a little annoying because of parking space. You have to be here a little earlier than usual and whenever you have a few minutes, or if you’re a little late, then it’s harder to get to class sometimes. So, yeah, it gets a little annoying sometimes. I mean, it’s going to be good for the future, but for now, it’s a little annoying.”

Eduardo Garcia Moreno
Biology senior

--Compiled by Valeria Alanis and Albert Monrroy

2/5/18



From one party to another



Laia Vite
THE RIDER

Politics is like a water tank full of famished sharks. As soon as you dip into the water, they all want a piece of what will remain from your carcass. It is a “Game of Thrones” in which the people who outsmart the rest get rewarded. Probably not as bloody and dramatic compared to the TV show, one would hope.

I am not criticizing one specific government or country. I believe all to be that way to a certain degree. You do not have to agree with me; actually, I encourage you to disagree with me. Discussing a controversial topic with someone who thinks differently from you is the easiest way to learn

patience and empathy.

Only when you are willing to listen to someone who holds different beliefs, thoughts and concerns is when you can start to see change.

In a society that has grown accustomed to being narcissistic and close-minded, it is important to remember that your opinion is not the only one that matters.

“Why would I want to understand them in the first place?” you may ask.

“They do not hold my beliefs, so they are wrong,” you might say.

Well, you should reconsider. There is so much that can be achieved and learned politically, culturally, etc. if only hissy fits or claiming everything is fake were not the common rules of speech when

someone disagrees with your views.

Making the best decisions for all and not just for a handful of powerful people builds the bridge toward opportunity.

I encourage you, the reader, to have a conversation or discussion with someone whose views clash with yours. Do not immediately discard them just because they are not the same as yours.

By opening a narrative instead of an argument, people can actually lead into solutions that both parties agree upon and help influence society in a positive way. People can manage to move their country into a better future for generations to come.

Have a story idea?

Let us know at
882-5143 or **665-2541**

Editorial

LEARN WHERE YOUR MONEY GOES

This Friday, UTRGV departments and organizations will present their funding requests for Fiscal Year 2019 to the Student Fee Advisory Committee.

SFAC meetings will be conducted simultaneously on both campuses through video chat.

The committee creates recommendations for programs funded through the Student Services fee.

At UTRGV, students pay \$249.96 per long semester, which is \$20.83 per hour capped at 12 credit hours.

Student Services fees are collected for activities that are separate from academic functions and that directly benefit students. The fees help support various programs and departments across the university that serve students.

The SFAC makes recommendations on the allocations of projected fees to UTRGV President Guy Bailey. Projected fees are based on enrollment.

UTRGV’s enrollment for Spring 2018 is 25,888 and 28,051 for Fall 2017, according to the university’s enrollment reports.

SFAC meetings are open to the public and a notice of their agenda must be posted 72 hours before the meeting is convened, according to Texas Education Code, Section 54.503.

Moreover, the law also requires that the final recommendations made by a student fee advisory committee must be recorded and made public as well.

What exactly does all this mean?

Basically, any organizations that are separate from academic functions, such as clubs and departments that provide extracurricular services, that want funding from the university can submit a request.

At this point, it is too late to submit a funding request as the deadline was in mid-January.

However, students can know what departments or organizations requested funding, how much and what their justification is.

Keep in mind that the revenue collected is limited.

For FY 2018, 55 programs submitted funding requests but only 50 were approved.

The SFAC is tasked with determining how the revenue will be distributed. That is why these meetings are held.

As students who have taken part in the presentations, *The Rider* encourages the campus community to attend SFAC meetings to show the committee how important and beneficial an organization or department can be.

The committee also takes into consideration how a

program affects students on all UTRGV campuses.

This year may be a bit different from previous as UTRGV will present a proposal before the UT System board of regents later this month that recommends a three-way split in the Student Services fee.

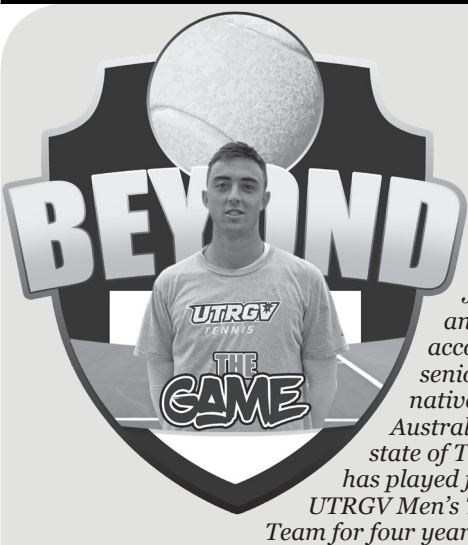
The proposal recommends an athletics fee of \$13.65 per credit hour capped at 12 credit hours, a transportation fee of \$5 per credit hour capped at 12 credit hours, and a Student Services fee of \$7 per credit hour capped at 12 credit hours.

In previous years, Athletics has requested more than 60 percent of the total allocation of Student Services fees while Shuttle Services has asked for about 5 percent.

SFAC departmental presentations will continue from 1:30-5 p.m. this Friday and on Feb. 16 in Life and Health Sciences Building 2.604 on the Brownsville campus and in Mathematics and Science Academy building 1.102 on the Edinburg campus.

To view the upcoming SFAC meetings, visit utrgv.edu/sfac.

Again, *The Rider* encourages students to get involved in the process by attending the SFAC meetings to find out how your money is allocated.



Elliot Johnstone, an accounting senior and a native of the Australian island state of Tasmania, has played for the UTRGV Men's Tennis Team for four years.

If you could be any animal, what would it be and why? “A bird, so that I can go anywhere.”
What show or series are you currently into? “I don’t watch too much TV. I just finished watching ‘Breaking Bad’ again, and that’s the last thing I’ve finished.”
Who is your personal hero and why? “His name is Lleyton Hewitt. He is, like, an Australian tennis icon, so I’ve watched him since I was like 3

years old. I wanted to be him.”
Who makes you laugh the most on the team? “Zane Kohrs; he’s a freshman.”
What is the best advice you’ve received recently? “Probably not just one thing. I’ve had three different coaches. You learn a little bit of everything from everyone. Just respect everyone you come across, and try and learn something from everyone because that will help you in the future. Don’t just judge someone as soon as you meet them. Try and learn something and respect them.”
In your off time, what do you like to do? “Play PlayStation sometimes, and just chill out. This is my last semester, so I’m studying all the time. So, I don’t have much off time.”
If you had one superpower, what would it be and why? “Time travel. Why, because so I can change everything stupid that I have done in the past.”
If you weren’t playing tennis, what sport would you be playing? “I’d be playing soccer. I played soccer until I was about 15. That’s the only other sport I’ve played, so I would play that.”
You can have one meal with one celebrity, what is your meal and who are you eating with? “I guess my favorite food is pasta. I would eat some pasta somewhere with Will Ferrell.”
--Compiled by Lesley Robles

SPORTS UPDATE

--Baseball
The UTRGV Baseball Team hit off its season with an intrasquad match last Saturday at home.
--Basketball
The men’s team has an overall record of 12-11 and a 3-3 record in conference.
The women’s team has an overall record of 11-10 and a 1-5 record in conference.
Both teams competed against New Mexico State University last Saturday. Results were not available at press time. Visit goutrgv.com for the scores.
--Tennis
The men’s team has an overall record of 2-2. It competed against the University of Texas San Antonio last Sunday. Results were not available at press time. Visit goutrgv.com for the results.
The women’s team has an overall record of 2-2. It competed against the University of Texas at Arlington last Saturday. Results were not available at press time. Visit goutrgv.com for the results.
--Track and Field
Last Friday and Saturday, the men’s and women’s teams competed in the Texas Tech Open in Lubbock. Results were not available at press time.
--Compiled by Gabriel Galvan

Lesson 4: The objective and completion

Nubia Reyna
THE RIDER
In the previous articles, *The Rider* informed readers about the different chess pieces and how they move, how to promote and castle, as well as how to begin a game.

For this issue, Bartek Macieja, UTRGV chess coach and Grandmaster, showed us how to end the game.

“Perhaps, we can cover some end games because middle games are something that connect ending with opening,” Macieja said. “We should know how to start. We should know how to end.”

An end game is a situation where the number of pieces left on the board is small, around three or four, he said. Also, he said the queen is the most powerful and almost every chess set comes with an additional piece.

“Basic end games are end games with three pieces, so [it’s] when two kings are left and an additional piece for one of the sides,” he said. “If the piece is a queen or it is a rook, then the strongest side can win, but if there is a knight or a bishop, then it is impossible to win the game.”

The easiest way to checkmate is to always do it close to the corners, with

the queen and the king close to each other.

“The most basic end game is with the queen and the king,” Macieja said. “There’s a very nice algorithm that always works. So the algorithm is to make a move, get closer to the king of the opponent with the queen to put it one move of the knight from the king of the opponent. If he goes diagonal in that direction, we do the same. He goes diagonal to the other direction, we go diagonal in that direction. He moves back, we do the same.”

The coach said to always keep the distance one-knight move within each other.

“With this algorithm, we can push the king towards the corner and we can force the king of the opponent’s to be close to the corner,” Macieja said. “Once the king goes to the corner, this is the moment where we have to change our plan, because if we follow our pattern, we will stalemate the king of the opponent and it will be a draw because he doesn’t have any legal moves.”

The next step would be to put the king closer to the opponent’s king to checkmate it while having the queen attacking the king.



Victor G. Ramirez/The Rider

Grandmaster and UTRGV Chess Coach Bartek Macieja explains the connection between the middle and end game. Macieja said three to five pieces left on the board would be considered the end game.

“What we can do is bring our king because we can’t give a checkmate just with our queen,” he said. “We need the two pieces together. So we bring our king closer and once we are very close to the king, we can checkmate the

opponent. So the queen is attacking the king, is a check, and then the queen is protected by the king, so the opponent cannot catch the queen and that is a checkmate.”

WALL
Continued from Page 3

that immigration and border security are connected. They are not connected. Most people come into the United States legally. Some people, in fact most of the people who are in the country without papers, entered the country legally, and then did not leave. They have student visas, or they have kind of a work visa, or a tourist visa. That is the vast majority of all undocumented immigrants.”

He said the number of immigrants who cross the border without going through a checkpoint is relatively small.

Kaswan said Trump’s border wall would not affect drug trafficking significantly.

“Most of the drugs come through the cross points,” he said. “I mean, yeah, there are some, you know, they use catapults so they throw the drugs. I mean, all you have to do is get a stronger catapult. Or, if they are using drones, I mean, just have the drone fly a little bit higher. A wall is not going to stop that. Or, you know, you do more tunnels.”

Kaswan said a border wall would actually create more demand for drugs in the U.S. since less drugs would be trafficked. This in turn, would raise the

prices of illegal drugs and, therefore, it would create a bigger incentive for drug smugglers.

Asked about the effects the border wall would have on the community, he replied, “First of all, you have the destruction caused by construction. Now, that might actually provide a small boost economically if people are employed doing that. But, frankly, not very much, and not for very long. Not only that, but there is no warranty they will hire workers locally. It would have a devastating effect on the local environment. This is an area that depends quite heavily on ecotourism. ... So, by doing things like effectively destroying the Santa Ana [National] Wildlife Refuge and the National Butterfly Center, you are damaging ability of the area to be a destination for tourists.”

Kaswan said the border wall will also affect the cultural side of the Rio Grande Valley.

“Brownsville, in particular, emphasizes its connection to Mexico,” the political science professor said. “This is an area with deep and strong cultural roots. ... Obviously, the wall is not going to break that. But, again, it is the symbolic value of that wall. It is a slap in the face to the people of the Rio Grande Valley. It is a physical insult to

the people of this area.”

Gonzalez said he hopes Congress can get to a resolution before Thursday, which is the deadline the White House has imposed to Congress.

“It is a shame that they are using DACA as a negotiating tool for the wall because it puts members in a very complex situation, especially members that are not on the border,” he said. “If you are on the border, you care about the border wall. If you are in Chicago, or Connecticut, or somewhere up north, and you have Dreamers, that is your main concern. You might not be too concerned about the wall.”

Gonzalez encourages people to call members of Congress and U.S. senators, as well as get involved and vote.





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