

NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL



Se honrará la cultura con recetas culinarias

Página 5

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT



On your mark, get set, date

Page 6

SPORTS



A game-time factor, on and off the court

Page 7

SGA approves FYI guideline changes GPA requirement drops from 2.5 to 2.0

Verilu Infante

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The Student Government Association has voted to approve changes to the First Year Internship Program Guidelines, including a lower GPA requirement.

The SGA proposed a change in the FYI Program Guidelines at its previous senate meeting Feb. 22 but, after being reviewed by

the Internal Affairs Committee, more changes were proposed.

During its March 8 meeting, the senate approved changes to the program qualifications as follows:

--Instead of maintaining a minimum GPA of at least 2.5 throughout the school year, students must have and maintain good academic standing as per the university guidelines. To be in good

academic standing, a student must earn a cumulative GPA of 2.0 or higher over the course of their undergraduate career. This requirement will still be waived for students who do not have a GPA in the university and are awaiting grades.

--Students must be enrolled in a minimum of six credit hours per semester. Previously, the

See **SGA**, Page 2



Diana Alvarez-Tovar/THE RIDER

I AM WOMAN

Achieving goals amid obstacles

Andrea Flores

THE RIDER

Dahlia Guerra, UTRGV assistant vice president for Public Art and Projects, spoke about her life and career experiences at the "I Am Woman" luncheon, held in observance of Women's History Month.

The Civic Engagement Alliance collaborated with the Center for Student Involvement, Campus Activities Board and the Student Union to host the first International Women's Day Luncheon, "I Am Woman," on March 8 in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

The luncheon was also held at the same time in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus, where Veronica Gonzales, senior vice president for Governmental and Community Relations, was the guest speaker.

See **GOALS**, Page 2



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER

Dahlia Guerra, UTRGV assistant vice president for Public Art and Projects, speaks at the "I Am Woman" Luncheon March 8 in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Guerra spoke about the importance of female students choosing their own paths.

New building in Lot B-2 sparks parking concern



Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER

Alejandra Yañez

THE RIDER

A student based on the Brownsville campus expressed concerns with Zone 2 parking after the construction of the Interdisciplinary Academic Building in Lot B-1 and now the construction of a Center for Human Genetics Building in Lot B-2.

The student sent an email to UTRGV Parking and Transportation Services, the Office of the Provost, UTRGV President Guy Bailey and The Rider.

The Rider contacted the student for further comment, but as of press time, she had not replied to the email.

The student states that the construction of the Interdisciplinary Academic Building, which was constructed in March 2020 in the middle of the B-1 parking lot, took away parking spots from students, faculty and staff without any gain of parking.

With the construction of the new building, which began Oct. 6 and is set to end in December, she said it is also limiting Zone 2 parking in Lot B-2.

"I bought Zone 2 parking specifically so I can park close to the Life & Health Science building for my evening classes and because of the construction of the new building, there is limited Zone 2 parking," the student wrote

See **PARKING**, Page 3

Collegiate Chess League underway

Natalie Lapsley

THE RIDER

UTRGV will continue to compete in the Spring 2022 Collegiate Chess League, which started Feb. 12 and will run through May 21.

The competition is split into 14 divisions and has over 1,000 participants, according to UTRGV Chess Coach Bartek Macieja.

"UTRGV placed in the highest division," Macieja said. "We have, as our opponents, really famous academic institutions like

... Princeton University, University of California Berkeley, University of Chicago, and so on.

"So it is a very prestigious event, and we hope to succeed, to defeat all those famous schools. That would be our dream, and we already defeated some of them."

The university's main team, UTRGV A, competes in Division 1 and consists of students Kamil Dragun, Viktor Gazik, Maria Malicka, Maili-Jade Ouellet, Ana Shamatava, Arman Mikayelyan, Irakli

See **CHESS**, Page 3



PHOTO COURTESY BARTEK MACIEJA

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.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF
Verilu Infante

SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR
Danielle Perez

COPY EDITORS/ONLINE EDITORS
Alejandra Yañez
Arisbeth Rodriguez
Natalie Lapsley

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST
Ariael Ortiz

SPORTS REPORTER
Omar E. Zapata

SPANISH EDITOR
Fatima Gamez Lopez

REPORTERS
Brigitte Ortiz
Natalie Lapsley
Landon Burns
Andrea Flores

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Roxanna Miranda
Citlalli Torres
Diana Alvarez-Tovar

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANT
Itzel Rivera
Abigail Ollave

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Alexis Ramos

FACULTY ADVISER
Michell Escajeda

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR
Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER
Jesus Sanchez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS
Ana Sanchez
Maggie Castillo

CONTACT:
EDINBURG CAMPUS
1201 West University Dr.
ELABS 170
Phone: (956) 665-2541
Fax: (956) 665-7122

BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS
1 West University Blvd.
Student Union 2.16
Phone: (956) 882-5143
Fax: (956) 882-5176
Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu
© 2022 The Rider

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today
UndocuStories
The **Center for Diversity and Inclusion** and **DREAM Resources**

Center will host **UndocuStories** from noon to 1 p.m. online. UTRGV student Natalia will share her life experiences as a Dreamer. Interactive elements will be incorporated throughout the series and attendees may ask questions. Students can RSVP through V Link.

Red Light, Green Light
The **Korean International Student Society** will host a game of **Red Light, Green Light**, inspired by the Korean drama, "Squid Game," from 2 to 3:30 p.m. on the Troxel Hall Lawn on the Edinburg campus.

Indoor Greek Games
Fraternity and Sorority Life and the **Center for Student Involvement** will host **indoor Greek Games** from 5 to 9 p.m. at the UREC on the Edinburg campus. The events are part of **Greek Week**.

Outdoor Greek Games
Fraternity and Sorority Life and the **Center for Student Involvement** will host **outdoor Greek Games** from 4 to 6 p.m. at the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus and from 5 to 9 p.m. Tuesday at the UREC on the Edinburg campus. The events are part of **Greek Week**.

Tuesday
Dessert and Coffee Social
Current and prospective **English or Spanish majors and minors**

are invited to a **dessert and coffee social** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:45 p.m. in Music, Science and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. Students are invited to socialize and receive information on programs and fall classes.

Wednesday
Day of Remembrance
Students and the community can join in a **day of remembrance** for lives lost due to COVID-19 from noon to 1 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and at the same time in the Student Union's PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus and Auditorium 1.100 on the Harlingen campus. Students can obtain information and add their lost loved ones' information at COVID-19 Remembrance Memorial website.

Women's Leadership Panel
The **Council for Cultural Activities** and **Center for Student Involvement** will host a panel of female leaders in the Rio Grande Valley from 1 to 2 p.m. in Main Building 2.402 on the Brownsville campus and from 7 to 8 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. The discussion will focus on local culture, leadership styles, challenges and advice for aspiring community leaders. The event is part of **Women's History Month**.

Love Yourself Series
The **Civic Engagement Alliance** will host the **Love Yourself Series** from noon to 2:30 p.m. outside the Student Union on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Thursday at the Student

Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. The event emphasizes UTRGV **student wellness** both on the inside and outside.

Arts and Crafts Day
Fraternity and Sorority Life and the **Center for Student Involvement** will host **Arts and Crafts Day** from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.418 on the Edinburg campus and at the same time online for Brownsville students. The events are part of **Greek Week**. Students can RSVP through V Link.

Friday
Festival of Colors
The **Indian Student Association** will host the **Holi Celebration-Festival of Colors** from 2 to 7 p.m. on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus. Festival of Colors, which marks the end of winter, is celebrated by the Indian community during spring to emphasize the blossoming of flowers and colors. It is celebrated across India, as it is one of its biggest festivals.

'Coriolanus' Performance
The UTRGV **Theatre Department** will present "**Coriolanus**" at 7:30 p.m. in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre on the Edinburg campus. "Coriolanus" is a **Shakespearean tragedy** about a military leader-turned-politician. Additional performance dates are at 7:30 p.m. Saturday and at 2 p.m. Sunday, and at 7:30 p.m. April 1 and 2 and at 2 p.m. April 3. An ASL interpretation of the play will be provided on Saturday.

--Compiled by Diana Alvarez-Tovar

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 4 and 9.



March 4
6:07 a.m.: UTRGV Police Communications observed two subjects on camera jumping the border fence by the west side of the Interdisciplinary Academic Building on the Brownsville campus. Officers were dispatched and two subjects were detained and taken into custody by the U.S. Border Patrol. Both subjects were from Mexico.

8:28 p.m.: A staff member and student reported that she discovered a tracking device on her vehicle. The vehicle was parked on the Edinburg campus most of the day. She suspects her ex-boyfriend of installing the device. The student employee does not wish to press criminal charges. The device was submitted into evidence.

March 5
9:25 a.m.: Officers responded to the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus in reference

to an active fire alarm. Upon arrival, the building was found secured and unoccupied. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived at the scene and determined there was a fire that had already been put out on the roof of the building by the contractors doing some repairs. The cause of the fire was a blow torch that was being used during the repairs.

March 7
11:04 a.m.: A student reported that while waiting in his vehicle outside the University Bookstore on the Brownsville campus, an upset man approached him in reference to an apparent road incident that occurred off campus. At this time, no criminal elements were met. A disturbance report was generated for documentation purposes.

March 8
10:31 a.m.: A staff member reported finding graffiti inside the men's restroom in the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus. A work order was placed to have the

markings removed. The case is under investigation.

11:37 p.m.: While conducting foot patrol at Cortez Hall on the Brownsville campus, an officer observed graffiti inside a restroom on location. A work order was placed to have the markings removed. The case is under investigation.

March 9
9:09 a.m.: A non-affiliated woman reported being concerned for her son due to him not coming home for several days. An officer contacted the student who confirmed he was OK. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

12:07 p.m.: An officer responded to the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus in reference to a female student inside the restroom bleeding due to a medical condition. Emergency medical services arrived at the location and transported the student to Edinburg Regional Hospital for further evaluation.

--Compiled by Andrea Flores

GOALS

Continued from Page 1

During her presentation, Guerra said the challenges she encountered while trying to achieve her goals were the lack of resources for the mariachi program and multitasking as a faculty member, mother and caretaker for her father. She also spoke about the challenges she faced as dean of the College of Arts and Humanities, the largest at the time at legacy institution University of Texas-Pan American.

In an interview with The Rider after the luncheon, Guerra said the mariachi program has been one of the projects that are her pride and joy. Her accomplishments range from creating

the mariachi program and leading them to performing in the White House to spreading literacy through the founding of FESTIBA, the Festival of International Books and Arts.

"It's important to hear about successful women that came from your community and understand what it's like to break off the typical mold that is forced on us," said English senior Jessi Mata, who attended the luncheon.

Yailen Gomez, the CEA community engagement vice president, said in previous years most of their events were done online due to the pandemic.

"We had never been able to host events such as this one," Gomez said. "We are setting the foundation for what we want this organization to be."

SGA

Continued from Page 1

requirement was 12 credit hours per semester.

Matthew Cantu, senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship, made the motion for a direct vote on the changes.

Under new business, the senate approved the following appointments:

--Marketing freshman Elijah Gonzalez, as senator-at-large for Edinburg

--Biomedical science junior Julianna Castillo, as senator for the College of Health Professions

--Biology senior Shiza Khan, as senator of the College of Sciences

--Marketing freshman Melanie Gutierrez, as associate justice

The appointment of Danish Kadir for senator of the Graduate College was tabled since he was absent from the senate meeting.

The next SGA meeting is scheduled to take place at 6 p.m. Tuesday on the Brownsville campus.

WACKY WEB POLL
WHAT'S WORSE: LAUNDRY OR DISHES?

--80%
Dishes

--20%
Laundry

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com to participate →

Recipe contest honors culture

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

The National Hispanic Honor Society, Sigma Delta Pi, invites the UTRGV community to participate in the Culinary Memories Literary Contest with the purpose of honoring culture.

Laura Garza, a lecturer in the Literatures & Cultural Studies department and adviser to Sigma Delta Pi, said the contest helps students connect with their roots.

"It is a contest in which the objective is to connect the practice in the kitchen with reminiscing, with memory," she said. "The participants will understand that cooking unites the memory and experience, serving as a way to understand their own identities through the connection to their own cultural roots and the present."

Garza said the rules for the contest are simple, as everything is based on the memories of the participants. "What we are asking for is

representation of what memories the preparation of the dish brings to them."

Garza said the text must be between 250 and 500 words.

"The essay can be in English or Spanish," she said. "Offensive words or bad words should be avoided."

Ana Peña-Oliva, a lecturer of Hispanic linguistics in the Department of Writing and Language Studies and adviser to Sigma Delta Pi, encourages participants to write their essay in Spanish.

"The goal is to spread the study of the Spanish language, so we ask them to write it in Spanish," Peña-Oliva said. "What we evaluate is not the way they write, but the content of their narrative."

She said the best three essays will receive a certificate.

"The student will be notified through email, which is how we communicate with the [participants]," Peña-Oliva said. "Then, the certificates will be awarded to the winners. The last day to submit entries is on April 1 and we expect to notify the students by April



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

The National Hispanic Honor Society, Sigma Delta Pi, invites the UTRGV community to participate in the Culinary Memories Literary Contest with the objective of honoring culture. The deadline to submit an entry to sigmadeltapi@utrgv.edu is April 1.

the three parts of the essay are present: the recipe, the procedure and the narrative.

to make.

"I decided to participate because it seemed interesting to me as I have multiple memories of how I would spend time with my mom," Hernandez said. "Her passion was the kitchen, so the theme of my essay was based on my mom and it got my attention."

She said when she wrote the narration, the family was going through a hard time.

"When I wrote, [I started] a stage with my mom because she had Alzheimer's," Hernandez said. "So that is also why I chose it, because it meant something special for me and because we can no longer relive that, since she doesn't cook for us anymore."

She said she enjoyed participating in the contest because it made her remember

good times.

"I think it is important to participate in these contests because it gives the opportunity to remember the memories that they have of their family," Hernandez said. "They can revive Mexican or Hispanic traditions of their culture. It brings you a little closer to a piece of your culture."

Peña-Oliva invites the university community to participate in the Culinary Memories Literary Contest.

"We are not evaluating the work based on spelling," she said. "We are simply evaluating the content of the work. We invite everyone to participate. It is something very lovely that unites students, professors and staff."

--Translated by Itzel Rivera

"I think it is important to participate in these contests because it gives the opportunity to remember the memories that they have of their family."

--Brenda Hernandez

2019 Culinary Memory Literary Contest second-place winner

a text where the participant writes a cooking recipe, the real one, the one they use in their family," Garza said. "In addition to the recipe and the dish's procedure, a narrative that is the literary

15."

The university community can submit their entries via email to sigmadeltapi@utrgv.edu.

Garza said the judges of the contest will focus on whether

Brenda Hernandez, second-place winner of the Culinary Memory Literary Contest in 2019 and a multidisciplinary studies graduate student, said she wrote her narrative essay focusing on *chiles rellenos*, a traditional dish her mom used

PARKING

Continued from Page 1

in the email.

Letty Benavidez, associate vice president for Campus Auxiliary Services, replied to the student's email stating that the university is looking to do a complete review of the lot and space distribution through a parking study that will kick off soon.

"The study will give us a better idea about how to distribute our resources to improve accessibility," Benavidez responded via email to the student, UTRGV Parking and Transportation Services, the Office of the Provost, UTRGV President Guy Bailey and The Rider. "We are currently in the process of identifying a firm to carry out the

project."

She said the university assesses the number of permits sold per campus in relation to the number of parking spaces available for that respective permit.

Benavidez said the department compared the parking ratio to the last "normal year." In 2019, she said the parking ratio of spaces to Zone 2 permits was 1-to-2. Now, with hybrid classes due to the pandemic, she said the ratio is 1-to-1.5. She said the industry average is four permits sold per space.

"So, it didn't justify the need [for more parking]," Benavidez said about adding new parking on campus. "If we had seen that number go up, then, obviously, yes, we would have, you

know, look to do an expansion."

Rodney Gomez, executive director for Parking and Transportation, said that Parking Services is in the process of identifying a firm to carry out a parking study.

Asked what the university plans to achieve with this study, Gomez replied, "The overall goal is to make parking more convenient, more accessible and more customer friendly."

He said the parking study will reevaluate UTRGV's entire parking process by looking at the supply and demand of the parking spaces and the permits sold, looking at the university's parking policies, the different kinds of permits sold and zoning.

"[The consultants we are looking to

bring on board will] decide whether to recommend the different system or whether the zoning system that we have in place could be improved," Gomez said. "So, they're looking at all of those elements, really, from a supply and demand, and also an operations viewpoint."

Parking Services would like to remind students that all permitted vehicles are able to park in any Zone 3 or Zone 2 parking space after 4:30 p.m.

For day-time parking, effective March 8, UTRGV added a call stop next to Lot B-2. This will allow VOLT carts to pick up and drop off patrons who park in other parts of campus between 7:30 a.m. and 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

CHESS

Continued from Page 1

Beradze and Dante Beukes.

So far, UTRGV A defeated the University of California San Diego, 10-6; Princeton University, 12-4; the University of California Berkeley, 10.5-5.5; and the University of Los Angeles, 10.5-5.5.

"We do have some other UTRGV teams participating in the Collegiate Chess League," Maciejaja said. "Those are members of our Chess Club at UTRGV. ... They play in many tournaments and, in particular, they also play in the Collegiate Chess League, but that's not Division 1."

Matches take place once a week online at chess.com, the "biggest chess

platform in the world," according to Maciejaja.

"With competitions online, all games are always played fast, fast or very fast," he said. "First of all, it's very difficult to focus when people play online for many hours. ... The second reason is also security measures against cheating. ... If you play a very long game, then, probably many students would use, from time to time, some illegal assistance."

English literature freshman Beukes, international master and three-time national chess champion, said the Collegiate Chess League is a "fun event" to compete in.

"The university doesn't require us to play in it," Beukes said. "We all decided

to play, by choice. And it's just a fun event. On the weekend, we play some games and that's that."

The UTRGV Chess Team meets to practice once a week, although players also train on their own time, according to Beukes.

"I always, like, look at chess every day," he said. "But, as far as training goes, ... I wouldn't say I have, like, a schedule right now, where I'm training, like, 'X' amount of hours a day or something like this. I just take it as it goes."

Maciejaja hopes UTRGV will continue to do well in the Collegiate Chess League.

"My team is already encouraged very much to play," he said. "They are motivated. ... They've defeated four teams, and I hope we will not finish just

with four victories."

Individuals can view weekly league matches online at chess.com.

The UTRGV Chess Club will host weekly events on both campuses for students and local community members.

Club meetings will take place from 6 to 9 p.m. Tuesdays in Interdisciplinary Engineering and Academic Building Room 2.207 on the Edinburg campus and from 4:30 to 7 p.m. Wednesdays in Sabal Hall Room 2.106 on the Brownsville campus.

The club will also host tournaments from 6 to 10 p.m. every Friday in the Brownsville Student Union and at the same time in McAllen at Moonbeans Coffee, located at 5524 N. 10th St.

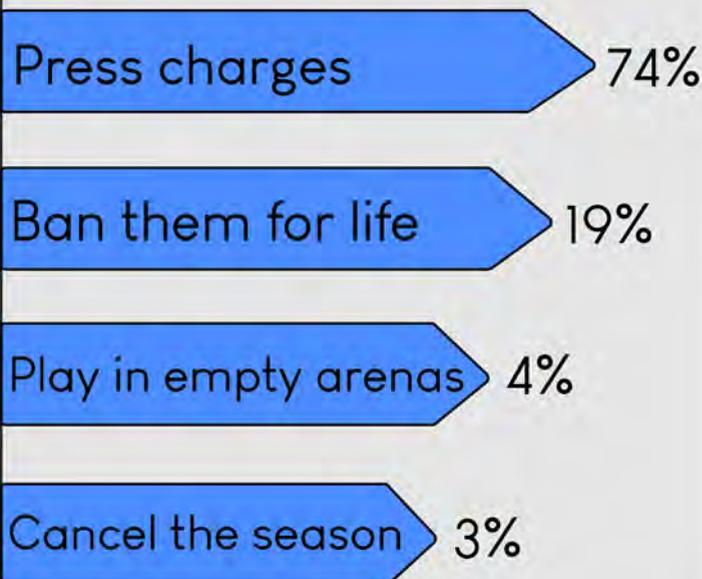
YAQUERO VOICE



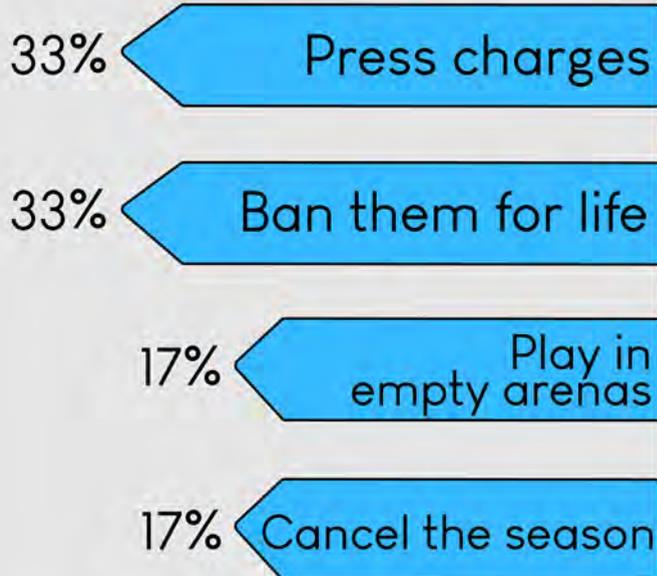
FAN ALTERCATIONS

On March 8, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "If you were the president of a sports league, how would you handle violent fan altercations?" The results are shown below.

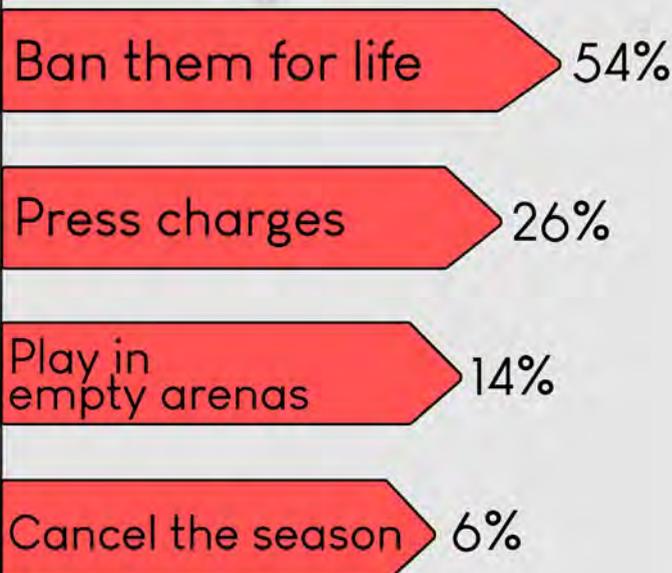
facebook



twitter



Instagram



Violent fans are not 'real fans'



Itzel Rivera
THE RIDER

Being a sports fan, attending the games and showing your support is always appreciated

by the members of the team, helping them feel loved and encouraged.

However, everything changes when that support turns into violence against fans from the opposite team.

If someone loses a match, the fans' reaction should never be violence. Instead, the loss should be accepted.

The events that happened at La Corregidora stadium in the Mexican city of Querétaro gave everybody a glimpse of how intense fan behavior can ruin it for everybody else. The game between the teams Atlas and Querétaro on March 5 resulted in a brawl because the latter was losing, so the fans became upset and turned violent against supporters of the rival team. The altercation left 25 people injured, three critically. As a result, the stadium is now closed to the public. The team Querétaro has been suspended and instigators are banned for life from attending any

future soccer matches.

I believe this says so much about the mentality some of the supporters have, choosing violence because they didn't accept the results and thinking that causing a riot was the answer. I think these competitions between fans on "who is better" is a problem that needs to be addressed among the soccer community. These events should be a safe space for the attendants. They should be treated with respect and not assaulted by supporters of the rival team.

Anyone who incites, or

"If someone loses a match, the fans' reaction should never be violence. Instead, the loss should be accepted."

even takes part in, this violence should not be called a real fan. They are violent individuals who use sports as an excuse to offend and hurt others when the results do not go their way. Getting violent will not solve anything. In fact, it makes everything worse. Those who decide to fight because their team lost are nothing but sore losers. It is dangerous to have a mentality like that, to think that rivalry between teams needs to get to that extreme

where hurting others is OK.

If someone sees a multitude of people breaking the rules, they can be more inclined to do so as well. Instead, they should set an example for others by not participating. This type of behavior should not be glorified or seen as a competition on whose favorite team is better. It should be treated as violence and never imitated.

I believe there should be harsher consequences for those who incite these riots. It must be well known among the soccer community that these actions are unacceptable anywhere. Those who attend the event have to be well aware of any possible punishment they might get if they break the rules. It can deter potentially violent people from starting a fight.

Officials need to promote a healthier rivalry among fans. There should never be a competition about who gets more upset when their team loses. This only causes problems among the community and creates a mentality among the supporters that it is acceptable to behave that way. Preparation against violence should always be made for these sporting events. They should always be prepared for any scenario and follow protocol to avoid any injuries among attendees.

AIR MAIL PAR AVION

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.

Se honrará la cultura con recetas culinarias



Fatima Gamez Lopez/FOTO RIDER

Brenda Hernandez, estudiante graduada de estudios multidisciplinarios con su mamá, Adelia Gutiérrez. Hernandez fue la ganadora del segundo lugar del concurso literario de Memorias Culinarias en el 2019 en donde creó su escrito narrativo enfocándose en los chiles rellenos, un plato tradicional que su mamá hacía.

Fatima Gamez Lopez EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

La Sociedad Nacional Colegiada Hispana de Honor, *Sigma Delta Pi*, invita a la comunidad de UTRGV a participar en el concurso literario de Memorias Culinarias con el propósito de honrar la cultura.

Laura Garza, profesora en el departamento de Literaturas y Estudio Cultural y asesora de *Sigma Delta Pi*, dijo que el concurso ayuda a que los

estudiantes se conecten con sus raíces.

“Es un concurso cuyo objetivo es conectar la práctica de la cocina con los recuerdos, con la memoria”, dijo. “Los participantes podrán entender que la cocina une la memoria y la experiencia sirviendo como una forma de entender sus propias identidades a través de la conexión con sus propias raíces culturales y el presente.”

Garza dijo que las reglas

para el concurso son muy simples ya que todo es en base a los recuerdos del participante.

“Lo que nosotros queremos es un escrito en donde el participante redacte la receta de cocina, la real, la que usan en su familia,” Garza dijo. “Además de la receta y el procedimiento de la preparación del platillo pues una narración que es la parte literaria prácticamente de qué recuerdos le trae la

preparación de ese platillo”.

Garza dijo que el escrito debe tener un mínimo de 250 palabras y un máximo de 500 palabras.

“El escrito puede estar en inglés o en español”, dijo. “Deben de evitarse palabras ofensivas o malas palabras”.

Ana Peña-Oliva, profesora en lingüística hispana en el departamento de Estudios de Lengua y Literatura y asesora de *Sigma Delta Pi*, alienta a los participantes a hacer su escrito en español.

“La meta es propagar lo

con los [participantes]”, dijo. “Luego se les envía el certificado a los ganadores. La fecha límite para que entreguen la narrativa es el 1 de abril y esperamos notificar a los estudiantes para el 15 de abril”.

La comunidad universitaria puede entregar sus escritos al correo electrónico sigmadelatapi@utrgv.edu.

Garza dijo que los jueces del concurso se enfocarán en que estén todas las partes del escrito como la receta, el procedimiento y la narración.

“Creo que es importante que participen en estos concursos ya que les da la oportunidad de que puedan recordar las memorias que tienen de su familia.”

--Brenda Hernandez

ganadora del segundo lugar del concurso literario de Memorias Culinarias en el 2019

que es el estudio de la lengua española, entonces pedimos que lo hagan en español”, dijo. “Lo que estamos evaluando no es en sí la manera en la que escriben si no simplemente el contenido de la narrativa”.

Peña-Oliva dijo que como premio del concurso se les entregará su certificado a los tres mejores escritos.

“Se le notificará al estudiante por medio de un correo electrónico que es cómo nos comunicamos nosotros

Brenda Hernandez, ganadora del segundo lugar del concurso literario de Memorias Culinarias en el 2019 y una estudiante graduada de estudios multidisciplinarios, dijo que creó su escrito narrativo enfocándose en los chiles rellenos, un plato tradicional que su mamá hacía.

“Decidí participar porque se me hizo un tema muy interesante ya que yo tengo

Vea CULTURA, Página 8

MAKE A SHORT STOP AT CANE'S

PROUD SUPPORTER OF THE UTRGV VAQUEROS



Visit us at

718 W. University Dr, Edinburg

f @ T D RaisingCanes

ORDER ONLINE OR
WITH OUR APP!
ORDER.RAISINGCANES.COM



On your mark, get set, date



Citlalli Torres/THE RIDER

UTRGV's Opera Theater students rehearse for their performance of "Speed Dating Tonight!" by Michael Ching, an American composer, conductor and songwriter. The opera is co-directed by Shayna Tayloe (at the piano), an assistant professor in the School of Music, and Rebecca Coberly, a professor in the School of Music.

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

"Speed Dating Tonight!" by Michael Ching will be performed by the UTRGV Opera Theater next month in Brownsville and on the Edinburg campus.

Michael Ching is "an opera composer/librettist,

conductor, and songwriter" who has produced nearly "one hundred productions since" the premiere of "Speed Dating Tonight!" in 2013, according to the Savannah Voice Festival website. He is also the music director of Amarillo Opera, composer-in-residence at Savannah Voice Festival and opera consultant at E.C.

Schirmer Music Co.

At 7 p.m. April 2, "Speed Dating Tonight!" will be performed in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville and at 3 p.m. April 3 in the Performing Arts Complex on the Edinburg campus.

Rebecca Coberly, a co-director and professor of voice,

said students are working hard to learn theater-language skills in addition to dramatic skills.

"So, opera is something that really encompasses and can encompass not only all of the musical arts but a lot of theatrical and dramatic and visual as well," Coberly said.

The performance, also co-directed by Shayna Tayloe, assistant professor of voice and lyric diction at UTRGV, is about an evening of speed dating and the characters creating their own story after that.

She said the production is written in a modular format.

"So, you have certain pieces that happen at certain places in the show," Coberly said. "But, otherwise, there are a lot of different scenes and arias to choose from. So, it's kind of great that the basic plotline is a group of speed daters who are getting together. ... So, you have lots of different characters. ... You have a lot of different kinds of interactions going on there. There are three set characters. There's the waitress and the bartender and then also the coordinator, and they're interacting throughout."

She advises the public that the play will include adult language.

Jonathan Gutierrez-Lozano, a voice performance senior, plays a combat photographer

and is one of the speed daters.

"Essentially, I talk about going out to war and taking pictures and how one of my handlers died," Gutierrez-Lozano said. "But, you know, I could just be lying to try and get a date. You know, I guess you have to come find out."

He encourages students and the public to attend because it is a fun production with "cool music."

"So, just personally, because I enjoy music so much, I think it's just a great time," Gutierrez-Lozano said. "It is not entirely family friendly, but I would definitely just recommend people come and take time away from whatever you're doing and focus on something more fun."

Ramon Curzio, a voice education sophomore, plays the lead role of a bartender named Quint.

Curzio said the UTRGV Opera Theater is putting a lot of work into the production.

"It's very different," he said. "It's very unique. It's your local theater, so why not just go show your support and get to see something that your community put effort into?"

The event is part of the Patron of the Arts Student Performance Series.

Admission is \$5 per person. Tickets can be purchased online at UTRGV Opera Theater (Edinburg).

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR

Aries-It's an ideal time to dedicate your week to resting and keeping it chill. Spend time at home and do things that bring you pleasure, such as having a home-cooked meal with family, a movie or game night. This will make you feel nostalgic and realize it's what you needed.

Leo-Communication is going to be big for you this week. There are certain conversations that need to happen in order for things to work out the way you want them to. Try expressing yourself to others more freely and see where it leads to. Some of these chats can simply happen overnight.

Sagittarius-Don't let your mind get a hold of you. Instead, follow your heart. Sometimes, we think we know what is best for us but end up living in regret because our heart felt otherwise. At the end of the day, the heart wants what it wants, Sagittarius. So let it explore its way for you.

Libra-Remember to check on your loved ones from time to time. Always be a shoulder to lean on or be available to do small favors. However, while caring for

others, make sure to take care of yourself, too. Pick and choose to whom and where your energy goes.

Gemini-These next weeks could be life changing and for that reason, it is important to be the best version of yourself. If you're thinking about returning to school, traveling or committing to something new, do it. In return, you will inspire others along the way and it will make you feel whole.

Aquarius-Kindness rules your heart and makes you overlook some situations. Try getting a better grip of who you spread your kindness to. Instead, invest it in yourself and people who actually deserve it. In the next few weeks, the way you perceive things will change, and you'll realize you've been seeing things differently.

Scorpio-Despite how hard it may be to communicate your feelings, you need to start getting around to it. Holding in your emotions may affect you negatively and cause you to burst out at any given moment. Take the next few days to tune into your emotional side by journaling, praying or creating.

Pisces-Take a step back and evaluate the situation you are going through. Decide whether it may be good for you or benefit you in the future. Start healing yourself

from the past before making the same mistakes again. Do not go back to the people who hurt you, Pisces.

Cancer-Instead of holding onto what isn't good for you, try setting it free. Although this change may be tough, try your best to embrace it and see your life outside of it. Often what doesn't work out is because it wasn't meant to. Every ending is a new beginning.

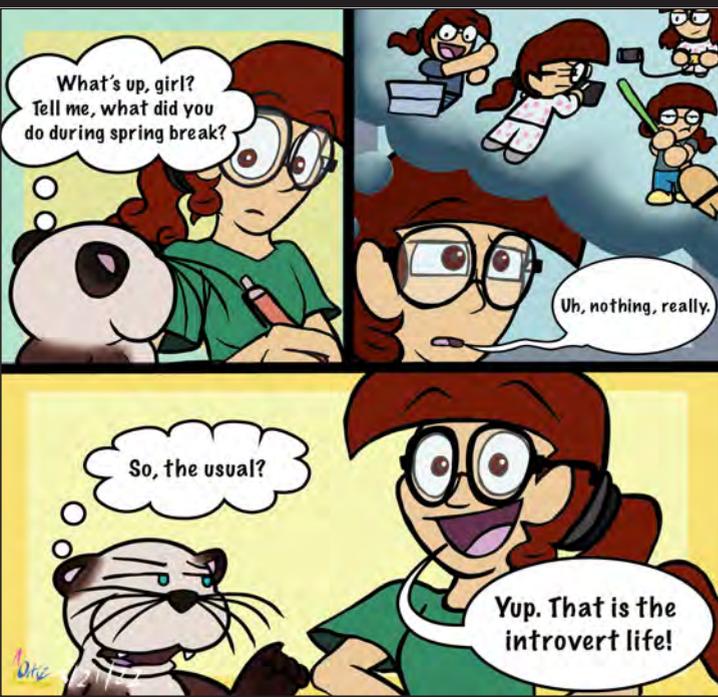
Taurus-Shift your thoughts to something more productive and positive. Look past the negativity and grow out of it. The sooner you start living in positivity, the smoother things will go. Things happen for a reason but do not let it drag you down. Learn to rise above.

Virgo-Learning to fully love yourself is something we all still work on daily. This week, you are being influenced to look into your heart chakra and do shadow work. Find a quiet place that you connect with and practice positive affirmations.

Capricorn-Tap into your creative side and solve your issues by creating something new. Deal with them now in any form that you can before they start to cloud your mind. Love yourself first and soon you will attract what you dream of.

Cartoon-ish Hijinks

by Ariael Ortiz



Sudoku



Last week's puzzle answer key:

8	9	4	5	1	3	6	2	7
2	1	3	6	4	7	9	5	8
7	5	6	8	9	2	1	4	3
6	7	5	3	2	9	4	8	1
3	4	8	1	6	5	7	9	2
1	2	9	4	7	8	5	3	6
9	3	1	7	8	4	2	6	5
5	6	2	9	3	1	8	7	4
4	8	7	2	5	6	3	1	9

		7						8
				3				
9		2	1					5
				5				3
	5		2	6				
8	6			9				1
					9	1		8
1					8			
	2		3			4		

Athlete of the Week: Mason Rawls



Mason Rawls

Landon Burns/THE RIDER

Freshman Mason Rawls, of Boerne, Texas, is playing her first season with the UTRGV Women's Golf Team. In high school, she lettered in golf, and her team qualified for the Texas State 5A Tournament. She tied for 16th place individually at this tournament. In her senior year, she also helped her team get to the regional tournament.

Q: When did you first start playing?

A: "I started playing in my first year of high school. And I lived near a golf course in Arizona, and my dad just took me out there and we went to go play together."

Q: Who are your favorite music artists?

A: "I like Elton John and Fleetwood Mac and George Strait."

Q: Do you have any pre-game rituals?

A: "Usually, before I go to the golf course, I'll pray and then ... I'll try to go eat breakfast with someone on the team so that we can just wind down before the tournament, so that I'm not all stressed and thinking too much."

Q: Do you have any plans for summer break?

A: "[I'm] probably going to go and travel a little bit and try to play golf at different tournaments, like, around the country."

Q: Who is your greatest inspiration?

A: "Definitely my mom because she's a really strong woman, and she's done a lot from where she comes from, and she just inspires me every day."

Q: What do you think is the most important part of being an athlete?

A: "Definitely responsibility and empathy for all of the other players. And then, just trying to get along with everyone, since we're all so diverse and come from different cultures. It's hard because [we] all have such different personalities, but I have learned that that is what makes us all unique, and we get along more because of that."

--Compiled by Landon Burns

A game-time factor, on and off the court

Omar E. Zapata

SPORTS REPORTER

Entering any UTRGV game, the 70-strong Pep Band's energetic music, cheering and chanting is the first thing fans encounter, an energy that has built a reputation around the conference and gives the Vaqueros a real home-court advantage.

Chasse Conque, UTRGV vice president and director of Athletics, told The Rider that the student athletes and fans love and feed off what the Pep Band brings to the game day and are a big part of the entire athletics experience.

"Our Pep Band's got a reputation throughout the conference," Conque said. "And they know when you come to the Rio Grande Valley to play and compete against the Vaqueros, the band is going to be a factor and we see that time and time again."

He said there have been many times when games are close down the stretch and the team needs just one more stop or point, and the Pep Band certainly helps the team by bringing all the energy it can.

"When an opposing team comes to our fieldhouse, if you beat us, it's not gonna be easy," Saul Torres, a lecturer and director of the Pep Band and the Wind Ensemble, told The Rider. "We're not going to make it easy for you to beat us. That's how I see it."

"The kids don't get graded. ... The kids you have seen at a basketball game or a volleyball game, they're there because they want to be there."

--Saul Torres

lecturer and director of the Pep Band and Wind Ensemble

The band plays at most of the home games for UTRGV when it is not busy with its own concerts or competitions, from basketball to volleyball. This year, the drumline component played at home soccer games at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex.

The Pep Band also has performed at Roundup, Homecoming activities, the Week of Welcome flag parade and many more university events.

Not only does it provide musical entertainment from its catalog of about 30 songs, which features Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk" and Lady Gaga's "Bad Romance," but it also keeps the energy up for the fieldhouse through chanting, cheering and being loud.

"There are games that when we play, you know that ... the band made the difference," Torres said. "The band pumped up the players. That helped them get that W."

The Pep Band is made of a band component, featuring instruments such as the clarinet, trumpet, piccolo, and a drumline component. The band



Diana Alvarez-Tovar/THE RIDER

The Pep Band performs March 3 at the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. Also shown is Saul Torres (far left), School of Music lecturer and director of the Wind Ensemble. The UTRGV Pep Band has about 70 members, according to Torres.

is comprised of about 70 students, according to Torres, with the majority of them being music majors, but is open to non-music majors.

"It's not a class," he said. "The kids don't get graded. ... The kids you have seen at a basketball game or a volleyball game, they're there because they want to be there."

UTRGV volleyball freshman setter

them at the opposing team and shouting, "Start the bus!" signaling that the opponent has already lost.

One of Rocha's favorite things that the band does to opposing players is performing as loudly as it can before a player serves the ball, which she noticed makes the player hit a bad serve.

"Also pretty much all the timeouts," the native of Brazil said. "They, like, bring so much good energy up when they start playing their instruments and they even, like, cheer us up even though we're losing. They're always there for us. It doesn't matter the score. They're always, like, playing and I think that's so nice."

Torres said they do this knowing that once you get into teams, or certain players' heads, it will be difficult for them to regain their composure and beat UTRGV.

Conque said the intimacy of the UTRGV Fieldhouse with the fans, students and band makes it feel like everyone is really on top of the court.

"Then you throw in a timeout where our band is playing at a high level," Conque said. "It certainly impacts that team huddle, and it gets so loud in the fieldhouse, at times it's hard to concentrate."

Another tactic that is utilized by the Pep Band is called "more tuba" in which the tuba players will go down next to the opponents during a timeout and play as loud as they can, a factor that is acknowledged by the other teams, Conque said.

"They will play loud so the opposing team's coach has a hard time communicating with the players," Torres said. "We've had instances ... where the opposing team will move further away or they'll just go outside. They don't even want to deal with us. And when they do that, you know that you're making it difficult [for them]."

See BAND, Page 8

THIS WEEK IN SPORTS

7 P.M. FRIDAY VS. LAMAR UNIVERSITY (HOME)

6 P.M. SATURDAY VS. LAMAR UNIVERSITY (HOME)

NOON SUNDAY VS. LAMAR UNIVERSITY (HOME)

BASEBALL

CULTURA*Continuación de Página 5*

varias memorias de cuando [pasaba] tiempo con mi mamá”, dijo. “La pasión de ella era la cocina entonces ya que el tema estaba muy basado en mi mamá, me llamó mucho la atención”.

Ella dijo que cuando escribió su narración ella y su familia pasaron por

un momento muy difícil en sus vidas.

“Cuando lo escribí [comencé] una etapa con mi mamá en donde ella tenía Alzheimer”, ella dijo. “Entonces por eso también lo escogí porque se me hacía algo especial y pues ya no la podemos revivir porque ya no nos cocina”.

Hernandez dijo que fue una linda experiencia el participar en el concurso ya que le hizo recordar buenos

momentos.

“Creo que es importante que participen en estos concursos ya que les da la oportunidad de que puedan recordar las memorias que tienen de su familia”, dijo. “Que puedan revivir las tradiciones mexicanas o hispanas de su cultura. Cómo que te trae más cerca de un pedacito de tu cultura”.

Peña-Oliva invita a la comunidad

universitaria a participar en el concurso literario de Memorias Culinarias.

“Invitarlos a que se animen a participar, nosotros no estamos calificando los trabajos en base a la ortografía”, dijo “Simplemente estamos evaluando el contenido de los trabajos. Los invitamos a participar, es algo muy bonito que une a tanto estudiantes, como profesores y personal”.



Diana Alvarez-Tovar/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Pep Band members Abelino Molina, a music education senior (from left); Gerardo Cano, a music education senior (left); and Víctor Cruz, a music education freshman, perform March 3 during the women’s basketball game against Lamar University at the University Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. The Vaqueras lost against the Lamar University Cardinals, 69-61. The three Pep Band members are playing “more tuba,” a tactic they use to make it harder for opposing teams to communicate during timeouts by playing as loudly as they can.

BAND*Continued from Page 7*

One of the biggest compliments that the Pep Band receives is when the opposing coach comes up to Torres and tells him the band was awesome all night and made a difference in the game.

With the Pep Band traveling with the men’s and women’s basketball teams to Las Vegas for the Western Athletic Conference Tournament on March 8, along with the rest of the spirit squad,

Conque said it really made a difference.

“The atmosphere that we just created for our women’s game, night and day compared to the opponent we just played,” Conque said after the Vaqueras beat Seattle University 71-61 March 8. “UTRGV dominated that arena. And we had a few fans there. But we also had an unbelievable showing from our spirit squads and our Pep Band. And then right after the game, immediately, our young ladies, they go over there, thank our fans, and they go thank our spirit squads and our Pep Band.”

With the Vaqueras beating Abilene Christian University 73-70 March 9 in a last-second nail-biter, Torres said he thinks since it was such a close game that the Pep Band really helped the team win by being in sync with their playing, cheering and chanting in the second round.

“They had a pretty good fan base here,” he said. “They had a bigger fan base than we did. But I’m going to tell you right now. In the arena, because of the Pep Band and the cheer and the dance [teams] and the drumline, that was like a home game for us.”

After students passed the Athletics Fee Referendum last November, the potential of expanding the spirit program and adding a marching band

has Conque and Torres excited for the future.

“Building on the success and the notoriety that our current Pep Band has today, you go back to [UTRGV] Madness and watch our band march on the court at the [UTRGV] Fieldhouse back in October, that’s just a glimpse of what this program is going to be able to do in the coming years,” Conque said.

Torres hopes with the expansion, there will be enough members for a band in Edinburg and Brownsville, and be able to attend various events at once and attract non-music majors.

“I think with the whole expansion with a marching band, I think it’s going to be great, not just for the School of Music, not just for the university, but I think the community,” Torres said.



The Pep Band performs during a game against the Lamar University Cardinals March 3 at the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

“Hide-and-Seek”*By Diane Joseph*

“One, two, three, four...,” I heard my friend Jake count as I ran to find a hiding place. I glanced around the kitchen and headed to a cupboard. I opened it, only to find my other friend Jamie already in there. “Hey! This is my hiding spot,” he said, closing the door. “Go find another one.”

I sighed. “Twelve, thirteen fourteen...,” I heard Jake say. I hurriedly scanned my eyes around my kitchen. Angela hid behind a curtain, Robert crouched behind the couch, and Layla managed to squeeze in the small space between the fridge and the wall. With no more hiding spaces left, I panicked as time started to run out. I glanced to my right and saw the stairs to the basement. I scrambled down the stairs as fast as I could. Jake only counted up to forty. There wasn’t much time left.

I flipped the switch for the light and quickly tried to find a hiding place. The well-lit basement had worn-out couches lining the walls and an outdated TV balanced on an old dresser. An old mirror leaned against the wall, its glass marred by a big crack from when I accidentally threw a ball at it. My parents don’t like to throw away old things, so they filled the basement with old or broken things that we didn’t really use anymore.

About to dive behind the boxes of Christmas decorations, I paused as I caught sight of my old toy box. It appeared to be quite big, so fitting in it wouldn’t be a problem. I pulled up the lid on its squeaky hinges and closed it over my head just as I heard Jake yell, “Forty! Ready or not, here I come!” I smiled with glee. No one would be able to find me. I’m finally going to win a game of hide-and-peek.

I listened to the shrieks and laughter of the people who got found, until I became the last hider to be found. I could hear the steps creak as my friends walked down the steps to the basement. “The lights are on, so he’s probably down here,” I heard Layla’s muffled voice say.

“Okay, let’s split up and look around,” Jake said determinedly. I heard them all rustle about the room, but no one paid any attention to the beat-up old toy box sitting innocently in the corner.

After a few minutes of searching, Jamie piped up saying, “I don’t think he’s down here guys.”

“Yea, me neither,” Angela agreed. “Let’s go check upstairs.” I listened to the footsteps run by me and fade away as they ran up the stairs. I leaned back against my old plushies, and waited for Jake to say he gave up. I lay in the box for a few minutes, amusing myself with the toys that I found in the box.

I put my ear against the side of the box, straining to hear my friend’s voices, but I heard none. In fact, I couldn’t hear anything. Before, I could hear the sound of all the parents chattering upstairs, the sizzling of the pan as my grandmother cooked, and the football game that my brother and his friends watched. Now, I heard only dead silence.

I slowly pushed open the lid of the box. Its hinges, only slightly squeaky before, completely snapped off as I rose out of the box. I looked at it puzzled but then turned to yell for my friends, only to stop short.

I had only been in the box for what felt like ten minutes, but my surroundings had changed dramatically. The basement looked exactly the same as it did a few minutes ago, but now a thick layer of dust blanketed everything. I looked around, very confused and slightly spooked.

“Mom?” I shouted out. No answer. It seems like years have passed, I thought. I turned to go up the stairs when my foot brushed against a piece of paper. I picked up a newspaper article, yellowed and crumbled. The first few lines read, “Seven-year-old Matthew Sinclair has been missing for the past three days. If there are any clues to his whereabouts, please alert his parents.” I pulled my phone out of my pocket. Before it had read August 9th, 2021. But now to my horror, it read 2051. Wait, does that mean... I hurried over to the mirror that still leaned against the wall and wiped away at the dust. The face of a scared seven-year-old stared back at me, betraying no sense of aging. I gasped.

I had been in the box for the last thirty years, without having aged at all.

UTRGV MSA*Authors' Corner*