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University officials respond to art majors' complaints



THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

A Valley Metro bus stops at the Visual Arts Annex on South Closer Boulevard in Edinburg.

**Brigitte Ortiz**  
 THE RIDER

The UTRGV School of Art and Design director and Parking and Transportation Services executive director have responded to complaints made by an art major and member of The Rider staff in the Nov. 7 opinion column.

In the column, the student complained about the schedule of the Valley Metro bus in Edinburg not aligning with her class schedule, a professor disclosing a student's GPA in class and a professor showing YouTube tutorials as part of class.

Ed Pogue, director of the UTRGV School of Art and Design, said the school has almost 40 full-time faculty and 803 majors. The school is happy to have strong enrollment numbers, but it can cause issues with scheduling.

"I mean, we take a look at the bus schedule and kind of look at that in relationship to the class schedules," Pogue said. "But, as you know, it's very difficult. There are a lot of moving factors in looking at the schedules."

"Certain faculty, you know, are involved in other types of community work and different things. But I mean, with that many students, it's going to be very difficult to find a way that

See **ART**, Page 10

# REELECTED

Professors: Some surprises in election results



Fatima Gamez Lopez/THE RIDER

Texas Gov. Greg Abbott speaks to supporters last Tuesday at Quinta Mazatlán in McAllen. Abbott defeated Democratic challenger Beto O'Rourke.

**Natalie Lapsley**  
 THE RIDER

University faculty in the Political Science department gave their take on the midterm elections results, including the highly contested races for the Congressional District 15 representative, District 27 state senator and Texas governor.

Last Tuesday night, Cameron County released unofficial results for county, state and federal midterm elections, including the races for Texas governor, attorney general and county judge.

Of 227,750 registered voters, 77,868 people cast a ballot in

Cameron County, 51,862 or 22.7% of whom cast a ballot during the Oct. 24 to Nov. 4 early voting period, according to the county's Elections Department website.

Mark Kaswan, a UTRGV associate professor of political science, said the 34.19% voter turnout in Cameron County was "pathetic" and that Texas "makes it harder to vote than any other state."

"[Turnout was] significantly lower than 2018," Kaswan said. "... It's lower than 2018, but it's more consistent with midterm elections prior to that. ... Beto O'Rourke did a really fantastic job of turning the voters out [in 2018] and, obviously,

he did not do as good of a job this time around."

In Hidalgo County, 143,453 people cast a ballot, including 39,456 on Election Day, a turnout of 34.41%.

Hilda Salinas, interim Hidalgo County Elections Department administrator, told The Rider in an interview via Zoom the differences in early voting numbers can be attributed to a shorter early voting period and the presidential election in 2020.

"[A presidential election] does drive more voters out to the polls," Salinas said.

Political science Lecturer  
 See **ELECTION**, Page 12

UTRGV organization attends entrepreneurial global conference

**Juan Villarreal**  
 THE RIDER

Two members of UTRGV's Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization attended the 39th annual Global Conference & Pitch Competition, where they saw how "business ideas are implemented."

SM Sarwar and Abigail Garcia, alongside faculty adviser Derek Abrams, traveled to Chicago for the conference, which took place Oct. 28-30.

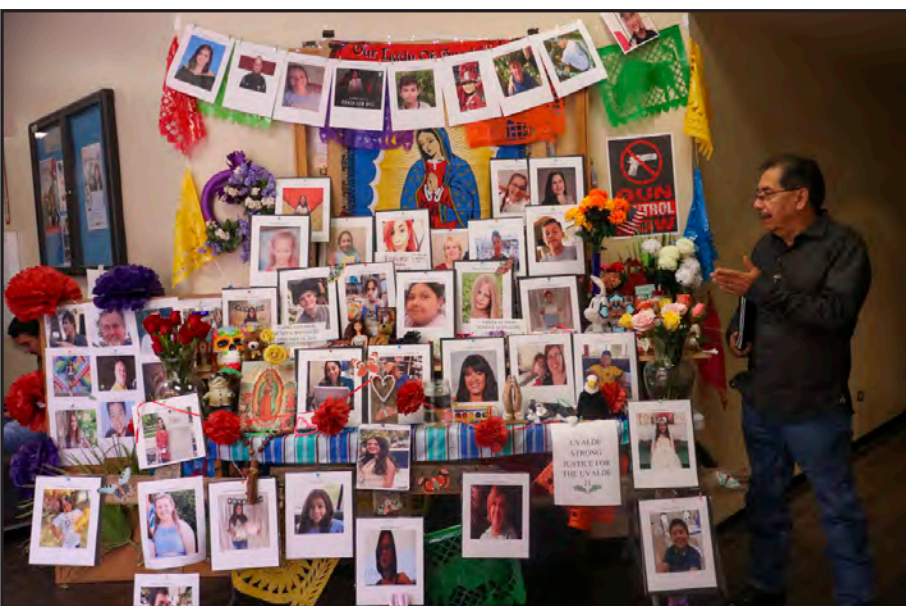
"At this conference, you learn about various things that have to do with entrepreneurship," said Abrams, who is associate director for the UTRGV Center for Innovation and Commercialization and an associate professor of practice. "... They focus on different

See **CONFERENCE**, Page 10



COURTESY PHOTO

Derek Abrams, associate director of the UTRGV Center for Innovation and Commercialization, receives the Outstanding Faculty Adviser Award during the 39th annual Global Conference & Pitch Competition, held last month in Chicago. Abrams is flanked by Dean Mesick (left), membership/events coordinator of the national Collegiate Entrepreneurs' Organization, and James Zebrowski, executive director of CEO.



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

Sociology Lecturer Jose Villarreal speaks about the *Día de los Muertos* altar he and his students created in honor of the victims of the Uvalde and Parkland, Florida, shootings. The altar is on the first floor of Liberal Arts Building North on the Edinburg campus.

Students bring awareness to gun control with *Día de los Muertos* altar

**Andrea Flores**  
 THE RIDER

In an assignment to address gun control, sociology Lecturer Jose Villarreal and his Introduction to Sociology students organized a *Día de los Muertos* altar in honor of school shooting victims.

As an educator and an activist, Villarreal said he wanted to honor the children and teachers killed during the shootings that took place in Robb Elementary School in Uvalde and in Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. He discussed the idea with his students, who voluntarily contributed to the project by bringing in candles and decorations and organizing the altar.

Besides candles, the altar held photos of the victims, toys, statues and flowers. Villarreal said this is the first time he

organizes an altar for school shooting victims and that this is UTRGV's small contribution to ease the pain of those parents who lost their children. He said the project allows students to learn through visual sociology and critical thinking.

"This is one way of stopping and just thinking about what's really going on in our country, so we can ... become more involved and become better citizens," Villarreal said.

Arath Herrera, an integrated health science sophomore, is a student in one of Villarreal's classes. Herrera talked about how the altar ties in with sociology by addressing this event through activities that have an impact on society, such as voting and activism.

See **ALTAR**, Page 10

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**AV Today Madden Tournament**  
The **Student Union** will hold a **gaming tournament** from 4 to 6 p.m. in the Student Union's Game Room on the Edinburg campus. There will be a chance to win **VBucks**.

**Tuesday Library Game Day**  
The **University Library** will hold an event for individuals who are interested in gaming from 2 to 8 p.m. in the University Library's Shary Room on the Edinburg campus.

**Wednesday UNO Tournament**  
The **Student Union** will hold an

**UNO tournament** from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Game Room on the Brownsville campus. There will be a chance to win **VBucks**.

**School of Law**  
The **Pre-Law Society** and the **Thurgood Marshall School of Law** will host an online recruitment event from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom.

**Leadership Theories**  
The **Student Leadership Academy** and the **Center for Student Involvement** will hold an **interactive workshop** to learn leadership theories from 5 to 6 p.m. in the University Center Cenizo Room on the Edinburg campus and at the same time in Music, Science

and Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus.

**Thursday Gaming Tournaments**  
The **Student Union** will hold a **FIFA tournament** from 2 to 4 p.m. in the Student Union Game Room on the Brownsville campus. The Union will also hold a **Fortnite tournament** from 3 to 5 p.m. in the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. There will be a chance to win university **VBucks**.

**Fall Festival**  
The **Campus Activities Board** will hold a **Fall Festival** from 5 to 8 p.m. on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville

campus. There will be **free food**.  
**Chi Alpha Family Night**  
**Chi Alpha Campus Ministry** will hold a **family night** for celebration and worship from 5 to 9 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

**Saturday Swipe Out Hunger!**  
The **Center for Student Involvement** will hold a **canned food drive** for the UTRGV Student Food Pantry. Snacks will be provided from 1 to 5 p.m. at Cavalry Hall on the Brownsville campus and at the same time on the first floor of the University Center on the Edinburg campus.  
-- Compiled by Landon Burns

## POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 3 and 9.

**Nov. 3 1:55 p.m.:** A minor complained of pain while attending an event in the Dining & Ballroom Complex on the Edinburg campus. The minor's guardian was contacted and said the minor did not need to be medically transported and signed the refusal of emergency medical services form.

**7:51 p.m.:** Officers responded to a request to assist the U.S. Border Patrol regarding a group of eight men who were at the Texas Southmost College Recreation Center parking lot in Brownsville. One man was detained by a UTRGV officer and transferred to the U.S. Border Patrol. The U.S. Border Patrol later located three more men in the same area. The remaining four were not located. All of the men apprehended were Mexican nationals.

**Nov. 4 8:52 p.m.:** An officer responded to the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus due to a fire alarm. An air handler for the air conditioning burned out, causing the alarm to go off. The Brownsville Fire Department checked the building and cleared it for reentry.

**Nov. 5 3:54 a.m.:** An officer responded to Lot E-36 on the Edinburg campus regarding three students' vehicles

being covered with colored Post-it notes. The three male students did not want to press criminal charges.

**6:25 a.m.:** An officer on patrol discovered a motorcycle laying on its side on a grassy area at the Community Engagement & Student Success Building on Freddy Gonzalez Drive in Edinburg with a man on the ground nearby. The man had unsuccessfully attempted a turn and fell over. Emergency medical services were contacted and arrived at the location. The man was evaluated and no injuries were found. The motorcycle was inoperable and was subsequently towed away.

**1:22 p.m.:** An officer responded to a civil dispute in reference to payment for property that a staff member was selling to a non-affiliated man at the Visual Arts Annex on South Closner Boulevard in Edinburg. Both parties subsequently agreed to settle the dispute, and no crime occurred.

**Nov. 6 12:36 p.m.:** A UTRGV Housing and Residence Life employee reported the exit gate of the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus hit a vehicle as the vehicle exited the complex. The vehicle left the area before the arrival of the officer. The gate sustained minor damage.

**4:17 p.m.:** A UTRGV Police Department officer responded to the V Express Care by UT Health RGV located inside the H-E-B plus! in Brownsville

in reference to a civil dispute between a male employee and a non-affiliated woman over child support payments. A Brownsville Police Department officer was first on scene and reported the woman had left the clinic without further incident.

**Nov. 7 6:15 a.m.:** A student in the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus contacted the University Police Department due to experiencing pre-seizure symptoms. The student was transported to the hospital by emergency medical services.

**2:27 p.m.:** An employee of the UT Health RGV Multispecialty clinic in Edinburg reported seeing several social media posts from a previous employee, who threatened several current employees and their families. The case is under investigation.

**2:37 p.m.:** Contractors reported several items stolen from the building under construction in Lot B-2 on the Brownsville campus sometime between 3 p.m. Nov. 4 and 10 a.m. Nov. 7. The case is under investigation.

**6:28 p.m.:** A student retrieved her lost purse that was left behind at the UTRGV Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus earlier in the day. The student checked her purse and noticed that \$40 in cash was missing. The case is under investigation.

**10:32 p.m.:** A female student reported that another female student, who also resides at the Casa Bella Apartments

on the Brownsville campus, was in the common area of the reporting party's dorm room even though she had an administrative "no contact order" in place through UTRGV Student Rights and Responsibilities. The reporting party stated that the other student was visiting her roommates. An information report was completed for documentation purposes.

**Nov. 9 1:41 p.m.:** An officer made contact with a student who reported that her parked vehicle had been struck by an unknown vehicle in Lot E-26 on the Edinburg campus. Upon further investigation, it was determined that another vehicle, while attempting to park, struck the student's vehicle and left the scene of the accident. No injuries were reported.

**2:40 p.m.:** An officer was dispatched to the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus in reference to a student who was experiencing pre-seizure symptoms. Emergency medical services later arrived on scene and transported the student to a hospital for further treatment.

**4:24 p.m.:** An officer was dispatched to the UTRGV Financial Services Building on the Edinburg campus in reference to a fraudulent check deposited into a UTRGV account. A staff member stated that there was no monetary loss to the university. The case is under investigation.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

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## THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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# SGA appoints two new senators

**Andrea Flores**  
THE RIDER

The Student Government Association has appointed Shadman Sakib, a mechanical engineering graduate student, as a senator for the UTRGV Graduate College and Daisy Vela, a biomedical sciences junior, as a senator for the College of Health Professions.

Sakib and Vela each spoke before their appointment during the Nov. 4 senate meeting.

Sakib said that he would serve graduate students by listening to their concerns.

He said being appointed is an opportunity to show he can be involved in student activities and bring graduate students' concerns to the senate.

Vela discussed her leadership positions. She said she was the social media coordinator for Volunteers Around the World during her freshman year and that she is the co-chair of Caring for the Valley, which provides medical outreach to underserved populations, according to V Link.

Vela said she wants to open a pharmacy in the UT Health Clinic on the Brownsville campus once she is part of the SGA because only the Edinburg campus has a

pharmacy at the moment. "I strongly believe we need one here, in Brownsville, only because it would be very convenient for most of the students knowing that sometimes they don't have the funds to pay for the medication up front," Vela said.

She said the pharmacy will be helpful to students by giving them the opportunity to pay at a later time, with the cost being added to their student accounts.

During the executive team report, SGA President Jonathan Dominguez addressed the topic of his graduation plan because he said his original idea was to graduate this fall semester.

However, Dominguez said he will be completing a minor in psychology, which will result in him staying in his position for the next semester.

"I would like to announce that I'll be staying here for the rest of the spring semester to finish my term," he said.

SGA Vice President Jose Herrera said that if the position of president was vacant at some point, he would decide whether to run for the position or not.

In the case that both vice presidents run for president, the SGA would vote during a senate meeting and a debate



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Student Government Association President Jonathan Dominguez (left) said he will continue his term through the spring semester due to adding a psychology minor during the Nov. 4 senate meeting in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus. Also shown is SGA Vice President Jose Herrera.

would be possible.

Herrera also asked the SGA to spread the word about a Parking and Transportation Services survey that will help students voice their opinion about how the department can improve resources.

He said the team is looking to meet with the deans of the College of Social Work and the College of Nursing to discuss senator representation, but no

dates are set yet.

Kassandra Garcia, Academic Affairs Committee chair and senator for the College of Sciences, said that after Meet the Deans on the Brownsville campus, the committee will start to look at other ideas and projects.

Kristen Hallas, senator for the Graduate College, said the Financial Affairs Committee has approved 39 travel

applications and one special event funding application.

"[On Oct. 28], we met and we approved seven applications for student [travel] funding," Hallas said.

The Student Government Association will meet again at 2 p.m. Friday in Music, Science & Learning Center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus, according to the organization's V Link.

# Vaqueros for Kids: bringing joy to those in need



Isabel Morales/THE RIDER

**Fatima Gamez Lopez**  
SPANISH EDITOR

The UTRGV Office of Community Engagement has partnered with Hearts4Kids, a nonprofit organization serving children and families in the Rio Grande Valley *colonias*, to organize Vaqueros for Kids, an event designed to bring joy to those in need.

From 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Wednesday, the UTRGV community is invited to donate new and unwrapped toys for children ages 1 to 12 in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Thursday in the Student Union on the Brownsville campus.

"Vaqueros for Kids is a brand-new, year one initiative," said Christian Corrales, assistant vice president for Community Engagement. "[Our] goal [is] collecting 500 unwrapped new toys. ... There's homes that don't have

a Christmas tree. They don't have a toy to unwrap. And so, it's a really cool initiative. ... We are very happy to partner with [Hearts4Kids]."

The student engagement ambassadors are leading the Vaqueros for Kids drive.

"This is a student-led initiative," Corrales said. "So our students are behind the scenes and will be in the front row [and] center. So they plan, they coordinated, and they will execute this event."

The purpose of the event is to promote an opportunity of service.

"To promote community engagement through the acts of service, that's the main purpose," Corrales said. "To engage our Vaquero family in giving back. I think, sometimes, it's hard for folks to give their time. So it's harder for them to volunteer and go somewhere to volunteer. This is another way that they can contribute in giving back ...

to promote community engagement through acts of service."

George Zapata Jr., mission director of Hearts4Kids, said the organization, which is based in La Feria, always tries to give during Christmastime.

"The children that we would see, some of them didn't have shoes, they didn't have jackets, and sometimes it was cold," Zapata said.

He said they give out toys during Christmastime because "maybe mom and dad can't afford to give them a toy that year."

"We want them to feel special," Zapata said. "... We are thankful that UTRGV partnered up with us this year."

The toys collected will be distributed in Valley *colonias* and those in Matamoros, Tamaulipas, Mexico.

"[The] reason we give to a lot of the children of migrants in Mexico is because a lot of them come ... with the

clothes on their back, that's it," Zapata said. "And the reason we give them a stuffed toy, or we give them toys [is] because we try to put hope in their life again. That's what we try to do with the children also in the *colonias*."

Alondra Marquez, a social work sophomore, said the event will give the children some joy.

"That sounds like a good idea," Marquez said. "I feel like kids need to be validated more. ... I feel like that would be a good idea for them to feel happy."

Zapata said children realize that it is more than receiving toys, but also about being compassionate to others.

"About two or three years ago, there was a child, and we gave him a toy," he said. "It had three cars on it. At the end of the event, two more families showed up and there's two little boys, and they are crying because we ran out of toys. That one little boy told his mom, 'Just get those two toys and give them to them.' He blessed those children."

Corrales hopes the UTRGV community will join the Office of Community Engagement and Hearts4Kids in supporting the cause.

"We are wanting to encourage everyone to participate," he said. "You know, don't ... limit yourself with just one toy. If you could bring more than one, the more, the merrier. This was a very intentional strategic event for the university community to participate, to engage and to give back."

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# In the autumn, shall we protest?



**Ramiro Castro Jr.**  
PHOTOGRAPHER

A column? That's what I was told, that I would eventually write one this semester as a member of the university's newspaper.

When I took this job during the summer, I was excited at first to put my thoughts and ideas down into print. It would allow me an opportunity to voice an opinion and it provided me a platform on which to shout it at the top of my lungs! Here I am shouting!

Does that garner your attention? OK, great.

Yet, now that we are here at a point past our midterms, I am not sure if I am in the state of mind to write such a piece.

As we are flooded with tests, quizzes, endless hours of studying and theater rehearsals, etc., along with a full-time class schedule, how can one write an invigorating piece that would cause an uproar

and start a protest around the Bronc Trail? What could I possibly protest about?

Maybe, we could protest the way that we walk alongside a green, mesh-netting covered fence, hiding the construction workers and vehicles, the mounds of dirt and concrete and the growing stench of manure that has filled the air on the Edinburg campus.

Some students say it's the sewer lines that are being serviced.

While most folks are getting used to doing away with their face masks, this stank smell has many students wearing them again.

I guess this is what it's like to be so close to capturing one's own destiny. Things get rough and we must shovel on through the leaves.

Either way, it's surely not how one would imagine their final two semesters before graduation. It seems the obstacles that life has presented before us are meant to detour and distract us from our destination.

Outside of campus, one must first get through traffic zones that are at constant standstills, which stem from the never-ending highway construction on the expressway at the Interstate-2

and I-69 interchange that began in 2020, while the world was dealing with a pandemic.

Not to mention the parking issues the university is dealing with due to the road construction near campus. Shall we protest that?

I took photos of the overflowing parking lots for a story we did back in September. I even climbed on top of the University Recreation Center tower roof to capture those photos, where I was able to see the line of vehicles stretching all the way to University Drive.

That traffic has not diminished much since then. Even this morning, it took an extra 10 minutes on Sugar Road alone in order to enter parking Lot E-9. Then, I made the walk across parking lots and streets just to get onto campus.

Finally, stepping onto the Bronc Trail, I inhaled that wholesome grossness.

I forgot about the putrid scent again, a reminder of why I am getting this education: to rid myself of the cycle that is stricken onto folks down here in the Rio Grande Valley, to live among the shit and keep on truckin'.

I guess this is what it's like to be so close to capturing one's own destiny. Things get rough and we must shovel on through the leaves.



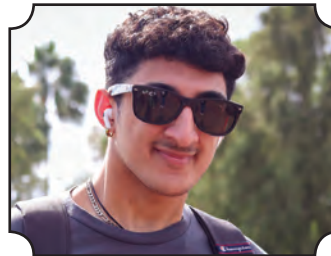
## How can you show kindness today?



**Aliya Longoria**  
biomedical sciences freshman

"Maybe, like, complimenting someone, saying like, 'I like your shirt.'"

"You can show kindness through basically anything. But, usually what I do to show kindness, is words of encouragement and, though somebody is not being nice to you ... you never know what they are going through."



**Francisco "Cisco" Eguia**  
integrated health science junior



**Julius Gutierrez**  
computer science freshman

"Just asking people how they feel. How they are doing, giving them a good smile and just [be] like, 'Hey, hello.'"

"Well, for me, I usually work there at the butterfly garden, so just checking up on the plants and the animals. Simply just leaving some water behind for the bees or whatever it may be. Even that, it might go a long way."



**Francisco Renteria**  
environmental science senior



**Maia Gonzalez**  
estudiante de primer año de trabajo social

"Ayudando a un desconocido. Cómo abriendo la puerta, o alguien en tu clase si están perdidos o algo así."

--Compiled and photos by Roxanna Miranda

### WACKY WEB POLL

WOULD YOU RATHER ALWAYS HAVE A FULL PHONE BATTERY OR A FULL GAS TANK?

<b>84%</b> FULL TANK	<b>16%</b> FULL BATTERY

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# Funcionarios responden las quejas de las carreras de arte

**Brigitte Ortiz**

THE RIDER

El director de la Escuela de Arte y Diseño de UTRGV y el director ejecutivo de los Servicios de Transporte y Estacionamiento respondieron a las quejas presentadas por una estudiante de arte y miembro del personal de The Rider en la columna de opinión del 7 de noviembre.

En la columna, la estudiante se quejó de que el horario del autobús de Valley Metro en Edinburg no se alineaba con su horario de clases, un profesor que revelaba el GPA de un estudiante en clase y un profesor que mostraba tutoriales de YouTube como parte de la clase.

Ed Pogue, director de la Escuela de Arte y Diseño de UTRGV, dijo que la escuela tiene casi 40 profesores de tiempo completo y 803 especializaciones. La escuela está feliz de tener números de inscripción sólidos, pero puede causar problemas con la programación.

“Quiero decir, echamos un vistazo al horario de los autobuses y lo analizamos en relación con los horarios de las clases”, dijo Pogue. “Pero, como saben, es muy difícil. Hay muchos factores de movimiento al mirar los horarios.

“Ciertos profesores, ya sabes, están involucrados en otros tipos de trabajo comunitario y cosas diferentes. Pero quiero decir, con tantos estudiantes, será muy difícil encontrar una manera en que cada estudiante pueda ingresar a una clase en particular según este horario. Es algo muy difícil de alinear. Así que lo miramos. Estamos preocupados por eso”.

Dijo que la escuela está trabajando



FOTO RIDER ARCHIVADA

Un autobús del Valley Metro se detiene en el Anexo de Artes Visuales en el sur de Closner Boulevard en Edinburg.

para aliviar la distancia y los viajes de la mayoría de los estudiantes al ofrecer más clases híbridas.

“Entonces, estamos trabajando muy duro para tratar de ayudar a esos estudiantes, en particular de Brownsville ... sabiendo que estos estudiantes tienen dificultades para viajar”, dijo Pogue. “También como parte de eso, una de las razones por las que sabemos eso es porque muchos de nuestros profesores también viajan y usan el autobús. Entonces, ya sabes, esos profesores son muy conscientes de los problemas de los viajes y la programación”.

Arendi García, estudiante de último año de diseño gráfico, dijo que viaja a Edinburg de lunes a jueves. Cuando García tomó el conector del campus por primera vez, pensó que el Edificio de Artes Visuales estaría en el campus principal.

“No sabía que había otro autobús que necesitaba tomar”, dijo García. “Llegué [al campus de Edinburg] y preguntaba: ‘¿Dónde está este Edificio [de Artes Visuales]? No lo veo en el mapa’. Dijeron: ‘Oh, no. Está como a tres minutos de distancia. Necesitas tomar otro autobús’. Y odio esa parte porque es como, ‘¿Por qué estamos lejos del campus?’ Como el campus [de Edinburg] tiene restaurantes [y] el autobús de regreso a Brownsville está [allí], cuando tenemos que tomar otro autobús, cada 15 minutos”.

Ella dijo que el autobús de Valley Metro desde el campus de Edinburg hasta el Anexo de Artes Visuales puede tardar hasta una hora en llegar, según el conductor del autobús y el autobús que conducen.

“Así que es contraproducente”, dijo García. “Podrían haber hecho el edificio de arte en otro piso del campus

principal y terminarlo”.

Pogue dijo que la escuela está trabajando para que los laboratorios de computación ofrezcan cursos en Brownsville.

“Tenemos mucho potencial de crecimiento en Brownsville”, dijo.

Rodney Gómez, director ejecutivo de Estacionamiento y Transporte, dijo que los estudiantes pueden presentar una queja sobre Valley Metro ante los Servicios de Estacionamiento y Transporte de UTRGV.

“A veces, sé que van directamente a Valley Metro, lo cual está bien”, dijo Gómez. “Pero si quieren informarnos, nos comunicaremos directamente con el director ejecutivo de Valley Metro y les haremos saber lo que está pasando. Lo llevaremos tan lejos como sea necesario para asegurarnos de que se aborde”.

Con respecto a la queja sobre un profesor que reveló el promedio de calificaciones de un estudiante en el salón de clases, Pogue dijo que no ha sido notificado de la situación.

En la última reunión de la facultad de la Escuela de Arte y Diseño, que fue alrededor del 25 de octubre, abordó la inquietud de un estudiante en la que un miembro de la facultad divulgó información “que no debería haber sido divulgada”.

“Se hizo de manera muy inocente”, dijo Pogue. “No se hizo con ningún otro propósito que solo un accidente. Pero tuve una discusión con la facultad de tiempo completo de la Escuela de Arte y Diseño para discutir estos temas”.

Otro tema que se abordó en el encuentro fue el de las críticas a las obras de arte de los estudiantes.

“Solo hablé de tener mucho cuidado

Vea ARTE, Página 11

# Vaqueros for Kids TOY DRIVE

Drop off your new, unwrapped toys  
for children ages 1-12

Wednesday, November 16, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Edinburg Campus—University Ballroom

Thursday, November 17, 2022, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Brownsville Campus—Student Union

Donations to benefit Hearts4Kids.

For more information, call 956-665-7566 or email [partnerships@utrgv.edu](mailto:partnerships@utrgv.edu)



The University of Texas  
Rio Grande Valley

Office of Community  
Engagement



# Across the chess board

## Team member ties for first in L.A. contest, MSA student is Texas state champion

Reprinted from [utrgvrider.com](http://utrgvrider.com)



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV CHESS

UTRGV Mathematics and Science Academy Chess Team member and high school junior Kevin Zhou receives the first-place trophy after winning the state championship in the 2022 Texas State Grade Championship, Oct. 9. The competition was hosted by UTRGV Chess.

### Verilu Infante

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Last month, the UTRGV Chess Team placed in the Texas Collegiate Chess Super Finals in Richardson and the Hollywood Masters in Los Angeles.

At the Super Finals, Team A finished third and Team B finished fourth behind the University of Texas at Dallas, which finished first and second and hosted the event Oct. 22-23. Texas Tech University Teams A and B placed fifth and sixth, respectively.

UTRGV Chess Team A secured a bronze, placing third in the tournament. Team

B played a close game, securing first until the final round, when it lost, causing it to finish in fourth place.

"We almost won the competition," Team B member Tamas Petenyi said. "So, it was actually [a] great team effort. However, due to that loss in the last round, we finished in fourth place, overall."

At the Hollywood Masters Tournament Oct. 25-30, Viktor Gazik, Juraj Druska, Tamas Petenyi, Jakub Fus, Ekin Ozenir, Tianqi Wang, Dante

Beukes and Sila Caglar represented UTRGV. The competition is hosted by 1000 GM, "a volunteer organization with a mission to create an ecosystem to generate and financially sustain 1,000 Grandmasters" in the United States, according to the organization's website.

Asked how he felt about the L.A. competition, Gazik, who tied for first, said the experience was similar to the Super Finals.

"I think it's, like, actually a similar experience to Richardson because I was leading the tournament and in the last round it was enough to draw," Gazik said. "I knew that if I didn't win ... one of the [other] players [could] win because I had, like, one point advantage. ... I was fine with that. I understood what I did wrong."

In the Hollywood Masters, Ozenir, who recently joined the UTRGV Chess Team, finished 40th, but ranked 25th overall. He was pleased to be able to use this tournament as a practice opportunity, having mostly played chess in Europe.

"It also helps students and people learn how to progress with themselves, you know, how to practice, how to have patience, how to build confidence for themselves. But, ultimately, it also builds friendships, which I do like. And, even if it's small, it still helps progress the community."

**--Kevin Zhou  
2022 State Grade Championships  
State Champion**

"I'm happy after this tournament because now I know how [the tournaments are] in the U.S. and now I'm more ready for the others," he said. "Even though my tournaments are not so good, I feel like I learned a lot of stuff."

Chess Program Manager Alex Mista said the tournaments were crucial in determining how each new team member added in August performed.

"We have a totally new team and it was good to see how they work with our veterans and ... we can draw some conclusions to see how they perform," Mista said.

The chess team will compete in two more tournaments before the Pan-American Intercollegiate Team Chess Championship in January, the 2022 Norm Invitational Friday through Nov. 22 and the 2022 U.S. Masters Championship Nov. 23-27. Both tournaments will be held in Charlotte, North Carolina.

### MSA Team

On Oct. 8 and 9, the UTRGV Mathematics and Science Academy Chess Team competed in the 2022 Texas State Grade Championships where the Grade 11 team earned the state championship for the second year in a row and member Kevin Zhou became the state champion.

"I was very proud of myself," Zhou said. "I felt that my hard work, because I played chess for many, many years, I felt that it's finally paid off after countless of years. ... It also showed me that chess is also a lot about teamwork, team bonding. And yes, you should build yourself up over many, many years of practice and training. But, at the same time, it also requires many hours of team building, too, which I felt very proud of, because not only was I able to achieve something great, but our school, our team, was also able to achieve something very great."

Zhou said that because of this experience he now knows what it feels like to play against high school division players

and can continue his growth for upcoming tournaments and become a better chess player.

"We are very gracious to have Kevin finally joining our Math and Science Academy [Team] because Kevin was already the state champion," Chess Coach Bartek Macieja said. "I remember him winning the middle school state championship in 2020. Now with Kevin, we will definitely have a very strong team."

Macieja said the MSA team fulfilled his expectations of winning the championship.

"Actually, we have very good team tradition in that competition," he said. "We started it last year and we won. ... Last year, we had so many successes that we got an official resolution from the State of Texas and so I hope with the new generation of students, we just continue this very good tradition of having an excellent team, excellent students, since we will be successful both individually and in team standings."

David Ortiz, chief organizer of the Texas State Grade Championships which was held on the Edinburg campus, told The Rider that organizing the competition was fulfilling.

"There was definitely some rust we needed to shake off because it had been, you know, over four years since we had our last any type of tournament there due to COVID," Ortiz said. "So, there was a lot of communication that we had to talk to with different organizations at UTRGV. Our main organization, Student Involvement, kind of forgot that we were allowed to do these tournaments, so we had to just kindly remind them what we used to do and prepare our volunteers to host the event. But, overall, the event was a great success."

Macieja told The Rider that the next competition the MSA team will prepare for is the Texas State Scholastic Chess Championships, which will take place March 3-5, 2023, in the McAllen Convention Center. According to [kingregistration.com/event/tcasuperstate2023](http://kingregistration.com/event/tcasuperstate2023), winners of the top three championship sections will qualify for the 2023 U.S. Chess National Invitational.

He said in the spring semester, Mathematics of Chess, will be offered. It is the second edition of the course.

"The first was in the Spring 2020 semester," Macieja said. "We are the second institution in the United States that offers such a course. The first one was Harvard University, so it's

an honor for us to be the second."

The purpose of the course is to use chess as an educational tool, so no prior knowledge of chess is required, according to Macieja. It is open to all majors, is a three-credit hour, upper-level course and has no prerequisites. Registration for the course is open for the 2023 semester.

### Chess Club

Macieja told The Rider the Chess Club at UTRGV is open to everyone and consists of students of all different levels.

Ortiz, who is in charge of the chess club, said it allows non-titled players to compete at the collegiate level.

"We do have to put in some effort with the fundraising to get there, but the club has grown over the years and we get to keep taking our college players to certain national competitions and local competitions so they can keep, you know, honing their skills to get better," he said.

Another goal is to increase the number of chess coaches in the Rio Grande Valley.

"There's a big need that schools need, and they're

See **CHESS**, Page 11



# Celebrating First-Gen!



Andrea Godoy, a learning instructional specialist for TRIO Student Support Services-UTRGV, receives a commemorative T-shirt from Omar Mascorro, an administrative coordinator for the UTRGV Academic Advising Center, last Tuesday at the First-Gen Celebration on the Brownsville campus. The event was sponsored by the Office of Student Success to acknowledge first-generation Vaqueros.

Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER PHOTOS



Nursing juniors Micaela Mendez (left) and Lizette Negrete get their free cupcake last Tuesday at the UTRGV First-Gen Celebration at the Main Building on the Brownsville campus.



Students, faculty and staff line up to get food and a T-shirt at the UTRGV First-Gen Celebration event at the Main Building on the Brownsville campus. More than 300 people attended the celebration.

# Making the dream become a reality

**Omar E. Zapata**  
A&E REPORTER

After putting in countless hours, Brownsville artist Cleiri Quezada is taking the next step in her musical career by signing with a record label and planning to record and release her first studio album in 2023.

Raised in Brownsville with roots in Jalisco, Mexico, Cleiri signed with CHR Records June 9 with the agreement of having a full 10-track album.

CHR Records is an independent record label based in Harlingen, which was founded in 2017 by Charles Hearn, Hilda Lamas and Rick Garcia. The label focuses on multiple genres that include Tejano, conjunto and blues, to name a few.

Always intending to launch a music career, the 2021 Brownsville Music Legacy Awards' Best New Singer and Songwriter said she has been singing since she was a child at church and whenever opportunities became available.

"Music has always been my passion," Cleiri told The Rider by telephone from Teocaltiche, Jalisco, Mexico. "I always knew I would get involved in music. ...

I certainly did not predict that, in the near future, I would be putting this project together."

Performing in her former band, Even Four Five, before the COVID-19 pandemic, they reunited in July 2021 with the condition that the band perform under Cleiri's name for the goal of marketing herself as a solo artist.

Cleiri is employed at the Brownsville Public Utilities Board as senior communications and public relations coordinator. She is a former editor-in-chief of The Collegian, the student newspaper at legacy institution University of Texas at Brownsville.

Last summer, she had a residency at Isla Grand Beach Resort on South Padre Island and said it is exciting for her to take this direction in her musical career and is looking forward to what the future is going to bring.

"It's very nerve-wracking as well because, now ... I have to dedicate the time now to really put all the effort into writing and producing this album," Cleiri said. "It's going to be my first studio album. ... It's a huge project that I have, but I'm very excited and I feel very blessed to have this opportunity."

During contract talks with CHR Records, she made it known what certain elements she wanted in the album and for it to be fully in Spanish.

"I want it to be, like, my breakthrough into the music industry," Cleiri said. "So, I want it to reflect my heritage because I'm Hispanic but, you know, there's a very specific part of Mexico that my family's from. Right now, I'm in Teocaltiche, Jalisco, and so it's where mariachi was born. It's not going to be a mariachi album, but it is going to be heavily influenced by Spanish ballad sounds and very strong guitar acoustic sounds, as well."

With the album in the early stages of production, Cleiri hopes it has an original but familiar sound that people all over Latin America and the United States can enjoy.

She is working with CHR Records co-founder Garcia to produce the album.

"Hopefully, between now and the end of the year, we'll have a complete 10-song package done to present at

See **DREAM**, Page 11



CLEIRI QUEZADA  
PHOTO COURTESY  
CUAHEMOC  
VILLARREAL

## Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

**Danielle Perez**  
ONLINE EDITOR

**Aries**-Buying materialistic things can be exciting and beneficial. However, this month you may want to consider if they are necessary. As you get older, learn how to be financially responsible in case of an emergency. Try creating a budget to help stay on track and be aware of what is needed.

**Leo**-Thinking about your past is OK, but avoid getting stuck in thought. Every day is a new opportunity to make a difference, either with yourself or others. The next time your past is brought up, focus on why it happened and where it has brought you. Moving forward is easier said than done but progress is made when you set your mind to it.

**Sagittarius**-Since so many things are happening at once, you tend to forget about yourself. Try to put your mental health as a priority, despite the number of things you need to do. In the end, it will be to your benefit and in return, you will be rewarded by creating great work.

**Libra**-Think about where you see yourself in the future and what changes you'd like to make. Once you have pictured it, start planning the steps to make it happen. Remind yourself that it's never too late to start adjusting your life for the better. Instead of having a negative mindset, switch it to a positive one and go after what you desire.

**Gemini**-Lately, you've been questioning if the path you're taking, either in a relationship or career, is right for you. The universe suggests jotting down pros and cons from the situation to identify the purpose it serves in your life. By doing so, you will be provided with a clearer perspective.

**Aquarius**-Due to the amount of responsibility your career has, it is essential to discuss thoughts with others. Life can take a toll on your well-being, so it is essential to keep it in check. Grabbing a coffee with friends or meditating throughout the day can relieve built-up stress.

**Scorpio**-Although your birth month is coming to end, spend the remaining days celebrating yourself. Birthdays are once a year, but who's to say you can't extend it to celebrate during your zodiac month. Apply and focus the energy you have received throughout this month and transform it into self love.

**Pisces**-Being a student requires a great amount of work. For that reason, divide all assignments and family events according to how you are able to handle it. Sometimes, as a student, you want to jump from task to task, which leaves you feeling drained. Find a balance between your education and personal life to develop a routine that you are content with.

**Cancer**-Challenges will always arise in any situation. Your reaction and the way you deal with them is what matters most. Learn to address things correctly, leaving anger or pride behind. Figure out what is troubling you and acknowledge it. Avoid entering the new year with bad habits.

**Taurus**-A connection you are discovering at the moment is making you question reality. Spirit wants you to learn how to determine your decisions when your heart and mind don't match up. Take time to reflect on your emotions and actions. Chatting with a friend could also lead to an answer.

**Virgo**-Despite the year coming to an end, 2022 still has one more thing to show you. A situation will arise where you are forced to play the waiting game. Spirit wants to give you a heads up by advising that at the end, you will have mastered patience.

**Capricorn**-Putting yourself above others is not a selfish thing to do. On the other hand, being self-centered can be. Choose your words carefully when talking with friends because it can lead to a problem. Make sure your conversations are clear and do not give the wrong impression.

## Sudoku



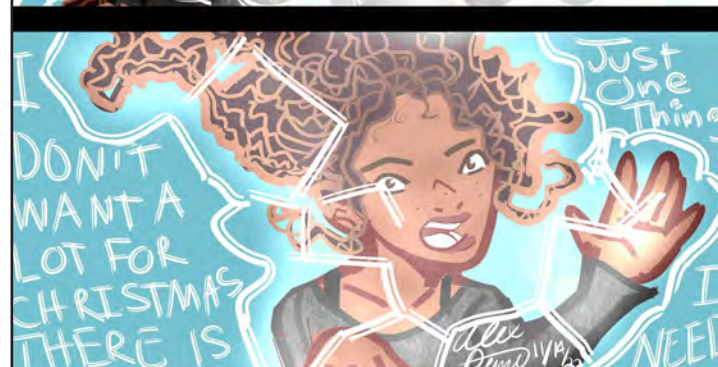
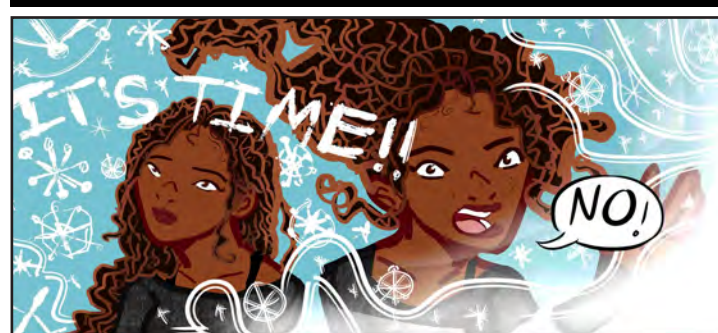
	3							
	6					2	5	
				4		8	1	
		7		6				
9		5		7	8			
		6	3			5	9	
						3		
	1		2	5				6

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

## Dibble Dabbles

by Alejandro Peña







**Ashton McCorry**



Jose Medina/THE RIDER

Kinesiology graduate student Ashton McCorry is a forward for the UTRGV Women's Basketball Team. McCorry is from Wichita, Kansas, and graduated from Bishop Carroll Catholic.

**Q: What movies or shows do you like?**

**A:** "My favorite TV show is 'Prison Break,' and now I'm trying to finish the new seasons. My favorite movie is 'The Game Plan.' I love [Dwayne] 'The Rock' [Johnson]. That's my guy."

**Q: What kind of music do you like?**

**A:** "I listen to everything, but I like more of the older genres. I'm trying to put on all my teammates on some country. I like Luke Combs, Parker McCollum. ... Country throwbacks, you know, 'Summer of '69,' that's a good song. My dad taught me all the old ones."

**Q: Who is one of your role models?**

**A:** "My role model is my mom. It's kind of cliché, but that woman does, like, everything. She's always been such a strong influence in my life. No matter what's going on, like, just carry on and push through to find a way to get stuff done. She's just nice to everybody. She'll talk to you ... and be your best friend."

**Q: What motivates you?**

**A:** "A bunch of the little kids. When I was growing up I was around athletes. I was a coach's kid, so just seeing how they interacted with me makes me want to interact the same way. When I was a freshman in college, and a freshman in high school, all the seniors took care of me. I feel like that's my role, to take care of the younger kids and help them grow into athletes, if they want to be."

**Q: What are your career goals?**

**A:** "After I graduate I either want to coach college basketball or I want to go to [physician assistant] school and work with, like, a neurologist because I have many experiences with concussions, personally. I would love to figure out how to fix it, because they are annoying."

--Compiled by Jose Medina

# Prioritizing students on and off the field



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

Karen Sanchez and Jason Zaragoza, student athletic trainers for the UTRGV Athletic Department, pose inside the Athletic Training Room at the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg Campus.

**Matthew Gonzalez**  
SPORTS REPORTER

The UTRGV Sports Medicine Department oversees the education of student athletic trainers who help provide fitness and strength training for student athletes.

Steven Kraus, associate athletic director of Sports Medicine, oversees four assistant athletic trainers and all student trainers. Kraus supervises the operations of three training rooms, works directly with student athletes and coaches, and coordinates all aspects of sports medicine.

"Our program's primarily observation-based, so what we really try to push, initially, is a lot of modality and rehab use," Kraus said. "Because that is a lot of what they do on a day-to-day basis, [as well as] develop rehab programs and protocols that, depending on whether it's preventative or whether there's [a] certain injury going on, then we usually teach those movements or teach the modality and [that] can help kind of delegate a lot of those protocols and programs for

the students to begin to start managing on their own."

He said the expectation is to "come ready to learn."

"I really tried to push the students to try to pick up something new every day, if they can," Kraus said. "I want them to ask me questions. ... Sometimes there's not going to be new injuries, but it doesn't mean

and a good amount of knowledge," he said. "We have to adapt our teaching style and our learning styles based off of the level of students we have."

Kinesiology senior Karen Sanchez is a student athletic trainer for volleyball and baseball and has been a trainer for three years.

"In the future, I would like to work for the soccer teams," Sanchez said. "I've learned that I have to maintain my self-calm because, first, I like to put the athletes as a priority. ... And then if I'm calm, they're calm. So, that's how I like to keep it. Just stay calm."

She plans to have a career in sports medicine and wants to use the skills she is learning in her future career.

"I would like to, in the future, know how to create accurate rehab plans or, when I decide to look for a future job ... recognize and evaluate injuries," Sanchez said. "I've always liked sports, as well as medicine. So I decided to combine them both. And this was my decision, to join this

"I've learned that I have to maintain my self-calm because, first, I like to put the athletes as a priority. ... And then if I'm calm, they're calm. So, that's how I like to keep it. Just stay calm."

--Karen Sanchez  
student athletic trainer

there's not other things that can't be picked up or asked and be learned."

Kraus said students enter the program with different levels of experience and that they accommodate all levels of knowledge.

"So, we get students that enter our program with the least amount of knowledge

See TRAINERS, Page 11

**Men's Basketball**

6:30 p.m.  
**Monday vs. Saint Francis University**

**AT THE UTRGV FIELDHOUSE**

**THIS WEEK IN SPORTS**

**Volleyball**

10 a.m., 1, 4 and 7 p.m.  
**Thursday: WAC Tourney Quarterfinals**

4 and 7 p.m.  
**Friday: WAC Tourney Semifinals**

7 p.m.  
**Saturday: WAC Tourney Championship**

**Women's Basketball**

6:30 p.m.  
**Tuesday vs. University of Northern Colorado**

**AT THE UTRGV FIELDHOUSE**

**ART**

*Continued from Page 1*

every student can get into a particular class based on this schedule. It's a very difficult thing to align. So we do look at it. We are concerned about it."

He said the school is working on alleviating the distance and travel of most students by offering more hybrid classes.

"So we're working very hard to try to help those students, in particular from Brownsville ... knowing that these students have a difficulty in having to travel," Pogue said. "Also, as part of that, one of the reasons that we know that is because many of our faculty also travel and use the bus. So, you know, those faculty are very aware of the issues of travel and the scheduling."

Arendi Garcia, a graphic design senior, said she travels to Edinburg Monday through Thursday. When Garcia took the campus connector for the first time, she thought the Visual Arts Annex would be on the main campus.

"I didn't know there was another bus I needed to take," Garcia said. "I got [to the Edinburg campus] and I was asking, 'Where is this [Visual Arts Annex]?' I don't see it on the map.' They said, 'Oh,

no. It's, like, three minutes away. You need to take another bus.' And I hate that part because it's like, 'Why are we away from the campus?' Like, the [Edinburg] campus has restaurants [and] the bus back to Brownsville is [there], when we have to take another bus, every 15 minutes."

She said the Valley Metro bus from the Edinburg campus to the Visual Arts Annex can take up to one hour to arrive, depending on the bus driver and bus they are driving.

"So it's counterproductive," Garcia said. "They could have made the art building another floor in the main campus and be done with it."

Pogue said the school is working on getting computer labs to offer courses in Brownsville.

"We have a lot of potential for growth in Brownsville," he said. "That's very exciting for us. And we're working very hard to meet that demand and the university is aware of it, and we're working to resolve these issues."

Rodney Gomez, executive director of Parking and Transportation, said students can file a complaint regarding Valley Metro with the Parking and Transportation Services at UTRGV.

"Sometimes, I know they go directly

to Valley Metro, which is fine," Gomez said. "But if they want to let us know, we'll communicate directly with the executive director of Valley Metro and let them know what's going on. We'll take it as far as we have [to] make sure that it's addressed."

Regarding the complaint about a professor disclosing a student's GPA in the classroom, Pogue said he has not been notified of the situation.

In the last School of Art and Design faculty meeting, which was around Oct. 25, he addressed a concern made by a student in which a faculty member released information "that should not have been released."

"It was done very innocently," Pogue said. "It was not done for any other purpose than just an accident. But I did have a discussion with the full-time faculty of the School of Art and Design to discuss these issues."

Another issue that was addressed in the meeting was the critiques of students' artwork.

"I just talked about being very careful not to compare ... students to other students directly within conversations in front of the classroom, to be very careful about how we speak about information in front of other students

and be very careful about when we're talking from one faculty member to another faculty member," he said.

Asked if YouTube tutorials are allowed for use in classroom instruction, Pogue replied that it is not a question of being allowed or not but how it's used and why it's used.

"If a faculty member is using YouTube videos to teach what they should otherwise be teaching, that's inappropriate," he said. "I'd be very concerned about that as director and we need to have a discussion with that faculty about that, about when to use and when not to use a tutorial system or video system."

Pogue said if students have concerns about a professor, they can email him anonymously or file a complaint with their name.

"An anonymous complaint comes to me and I basically look at it and look at the situation as best I can," he said. "Students can file a complaint with their name and that comes to me. I usually look at specifics from the student and then I will approach the issue with the faculty member. When I approach the issues with the faculty members, I protect the students. I never mention students by name."

**CONFERENCE**

*Continued from Page 1*

aspects of it. [Those] could be on social entrepreneurship ... or corporate entrepreneurship. ... All these aspects we saw in this type of conference here."

Garcia, an entrepreneurship and innovation senior, said the conference shows how what is learned in class is implemented.

"We're able to see how these actual business ideas are implemented," she said.

Sarwar and Garcia participated in events at the conference, including the "Marketplace Simulations Entrepreneurship Challenge" and the "Venture Valley E-Sport \$10,000 Tournament."

Sarwar, a computer science graduate student, said Venture Valley is one kind of video game and Marketplace Simulations is more data-based.

Garcia and Sarwar described the game as fast-paced and said many factors must be considered while playing.

"It's just, like, a lot of things to think

of at once," Garcia said.

The goal of "Venture Valley" is to have the highest profit by the end of the game. At the end of the conference, the top 10 played in a tournament.

"You have only 10 minutes," Sarwar said. "... I could remember that last, probably 10th participant, he [had] \$18 million [in] revenue. \$18 million. I [made a] maximum of \$5 million."

The conference also had other aspects that the UTRGV attendees found engaging.

"There was this networking event where they served us food and we could all interact with each other," Garcia said. "I realized how important it is to network because you might never know when you need help from [your] peers."

Sarwar attended a workshop hosted by Lucy Brennan, program manager at TechRise by P33, titled "How to Structure a Successful 4-Minute Pitch."

"That was so exciting and it was so engaging and it was so good to me," he said.

Abrams was awarded the

Outstanding Faculty Adviser Award while at the conference.

"I had the opportunity to work with the CEO headquarters leadership a lot and had an impact on the offering ... in terms of the sessions and things for this conference that we had this year," Abrams said about the work he did for this conference. "There was a marked increase in terms of the quality of the conference this year compared to last year."

Abrams also spoke about the conference in terms of size.

"This year there were over 500 students," he said.

Asked about his work as faculty adviser for CEO, Abrams spoke about the methods used to recruit students for the Global Conference.

"Students can be recruited right at the beginning of the semester," he said. "Also, word of mouth, students meeting other students in their respective major."

Abrams noted that students do not have to be business majors to attend the conference.

"It doesn't matter what your major is," he said. "Entrepreneurship touches all industries. ... Students in the college environment should take the opportunities to further their development as much as possible. It's an opportunity to go and learn. ... The conference is good in that ... it is a healthy learning environment, so nobody should be afraid to take the chance."

Sarwar and Garcia agreed.

"You don't need to be a business student," Sarwar said. "I am from the Computer Science department. You could learn many things."

Garcia said the conference is eye-opening.

"Just go if you can," she said. "You learn a lot."

Asked about plans for the Collegiate Entrepreneurs, Abrams was ambitious.

"Although this organization is in the business school, it is open and welcoming to students regardless of their majors and we want to recruit more students," he said. "There is no reason this should not be one of the biggest organizations on campus."

**ALTAR**

*Continued from Page 1*

Besides making the altar, Villarreal's students held group discussions on topics regarding gun control and the failure of law enforcement to intervene on behalf of the children and teachers in Uvalde. He said his students also came up with solutions to attack the problem, such as better police officer training, raising the minimum age for buying an assault rifle and survival training for children.

Noah Al-Hassan, a psychology sophomore, helped organize the altar. Al-Hassan said that although he has no Mexican heritage, he finds the idea of an altar a way to prevent people from being desensitized with the concept of death because these types of events are becoming normalized.

"When I heard there was an *ofrenda* for the Uvalde school shooting victims, I thought this was the perfect way to kind of revitalize the topic because this shouldn't just be glossed over," Al-Hassan said.

Sabine Gonzalez, a criminal justice sophomore, volunteered to help decorate the altar and said she felt emotional about putting up the pictures of the children.

"It's kind of, like, sad seeing that [the victims] were taken so fast," Gonzalez said. "They didn't have a chance to enjoy life, the rest of their lives. When we finished it, I actually cried when I got home because it's kind of, like, 'Why them?'"

Villarreal said he uses his knowledge as an activist involved in community action programs to enhance the students' learning experience in the sociology class.

"The real influence that I can make is in the classroom because ... you know, that most of them are freshmen," he said. "We have nursing students. We have future social workers. We have future criminal justice majors. And, so I try to conduct my classes in a way where it's vivid. It's not just a textbook. ... We go beyond. The real issues are what lies behind the theories and the concepts."

Villarreal expressed his gratitude to all those who helped set up the altar, including students, custodians, Sociology Department Chair William Donner, and Jesus "Jesse" Medina, sociology department administrative assistant.

The altar is located on the first floor of the Liberal Arts Building North on the Edinburg campus and, according to Villarreal, it will remain there for at least a week.



Aurora Acevedo/THE RIDER

Integrated health science sophomore Arath Herrera stands next to the *Día de los Muertos* Altar that was built in honor of the Uvalde and Parkland, Florida, shooting victims. Herrera contributed to the creation of the altar.

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**ARTE**

*Continuación de Página 5*

de no comparar ... estudiantes con otros estudiantes directamente en las conversaciones frente al salón de clases, tener mucho cuidado con la forma en que hablamos sobre la información frente a otros estudiantes y tener mucho cuidado cuando hablamos de un miembro de la facultad a otro miembro de la facultad”, dijo.

Cuando se le preguntó si se permite el uso de tutoriales de YouTube en la instrucción en el aula, Pogue respondió que no se trata de que se permita o no, sino de cómo se usa y por qué se usa.

“Si un miembro de la facultad está usando videos de YouTube para enseñar lo que de otro modo debería estar enseñando, eso es inapropiado”, dijo. “Me preocupa mucho eso como director

y necesitamos tener una discusión con esa facultad sobre eso, sobre cuándo usar y cuándo no usar un sistema de tutoría o un sistema de video”.

Pogue dijo que si los estudiantes tienen inquietudes sobre un profesor, pueden enviarle un correo electrónico de forma anónima o presentar una queja con su nombre.

“Me llega una denuncia anónima y básicamente la miro y miro la situación lo mejor que puedo”, dijo. “Los estudiantes pueden hacer una denuncia con su nombre y eso me llega a mí. Por lo general, miro los detalles del estudiante y luego abordaré el problema con el miembro de la facultad. Cuando abordó los problemas con los miembros de la facultad, protejo a los estudiantes. Nunca menciono a los estudiantes por su nombre”.



FOTO RIDER ARCHIVADA

Un estudiante aborda un autobús de Valley Metro que la llevará al Anexo de Artes Visuales en el sur de Closner Boulevard en Edinburg.

**CHESS**

*Continued from Page 6*

looking for more coaches and I believe the chess club is the main organization that can help fill those gaps,” Ortiz said.

Zhou said it is nice for the university to have a chess club because, along with the program, they unify people and create friendships.

“So, ultimately, chess is like, it builds friends,” Zhou said. “It also helps students and people learn how to progress with themselves, you know, how to practice, how to have patience, how to build confidence for themselves. But, ultimately, it also builds friendships, which I do like. And, even if it’s small, it still helps progress the community.”

--Rider Reporter Teresita Dominguez contributed to this report.



UTRGV Chess Team members and International Chess Federation masters Juraj Druska (left) and Jakub Fus enjoy a friendly match Nov. 1 outside the Student Union on the Brownsville campus after the 2022 Texas Collegiate Chess Super Finals in Richardson, where Team A finished third and Team B finished fourth.

Daniela Martinez Salazar/THE RIDER

**DREAM**

*Continued from Page 8*

the first of the year out to the public,” Garcia said. “And I think, personally, she’s going to knock it out of the park.”

Garcia said he initially communicated with Cleiri through Facebook and later met her at an event in San Diego, Texas, where she sang and garnered the attention of the audience and the media.

He said it was when Cleiri was giving interviews to the news media right after the performance that he noticed she had a good personality for the music business.

Initially, she was not ready to commit to the record label but they stayed in touch and, about a year later, discussed the pros and cons of signing with CHR Records. Cleiri decided to sign a deal.

“I’m not entirely sure right now what direction we’re going to take Cleiri in [musically], but the bottom line is she does everything wonderfully,” Garcia said. “... We plan to do a lot of different styles of music and ... the project will kind of just lend itself to whatever creativity comes about.”

He added that with Cleiri being versatile in different genres and bilingual, the sky is the limit for her.

Comparing the progression of the album to a football field of 100 yards, Garcia said it is about at the 40-yard line right now and hopes that the album will come out during the first

quarter of 2023.

With Cleiri, staff writers and producers currently in the studio, the record label hopes to release a Christmas track after Thanksgiving. Garcia also said they hope to possibly release two singles leading up to the album.

“I’m very confident about Cleiri as an artist and I feel very good about marketing her as an artist of CHR Records,” Garcia said. “... It generally takes a little while to break a new artist, but I’m willing to take the journey and she’s willing to do the journey.”

Asked what is unique about Cleiri as an artist, Garcia replied, “Cleiri has a natural drive and passion for the music.”

“This girl is a workhorse,” he said. “She is a nonstop, always thinking about music, kind of an artist. And, really, that’s what separates ... those who make it professionally.”

To find Cleiri’s music, social media and to keep up to date with her, visit Cleiri.com.

“This album is really a labor of my heart and it’s going to take everything from me,” Cleiri said. “I want to be very careful about what I put in this album. I don’t want to put just sounds. ... It’s very important to be able to love what I write and what I hear. And I feel that at the end of the day, this album should communicate to people a story, an idea and a feeling. And that’s my ultimate goal.”



PHOTO COURTESY CUAHTEMOC VILLARREAL

Cleiri Quezada, Latina songwriter, singer and Guadalupe Production Awards Female Vocalist of the Year nominee, poses for the camera. Cleiri is in the process of recording her 10-song debut album to be released in early 2023. Some of her independent singles, such as “La Distancia,” have made an impact on Tejano radio stations.



Ramiro Castro Jr./THE RIDER

UTRGV Athletic Department student athletic trainer Karen Sanchez (from left), Athletic Director for Sports Medicine Steven Kraus and student athletic trainer Jason Zaragoza pose inside the Athletic Training Room at the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

**TRAINERS**

*Continued from Page 9*

program, this internship. I like that I can interact with the athletes as well as care for them.”

Kinesiology junior Jason Zaragoza is a student athletic trainer for the women’s cross-country and track and field teams, and the men’s soccer team.

“I started athletic training as a student aide in high school,” Zaragoza said. “It was the only [medically centered] program in my high school after they took away the [Health Occupations Students of America] program that we had.

So that’s where I got my foot in the door, and ever since then, I’ve been part of athletic training.”

He said he relies on former trainers’ knowledge to bounce ideas off of and to ask them questions he may have.

“Really, I rely a lot on my predecessors,” Zaragoza said. “So, really, just bouncing ideas off of them and just listening to their opinions. And then just, kind of, just going from there. I hope to gain knowledge in the athletic training profession as far as, like, evaluation skills, therapeutic interventions, rehabilitation and things like that.”

## ELECTION

Continued from Page 1

Andrew Smith said Texas “remains almost at the bottom in terms of how easy it is to vote.”

“I think a lot of it just ultimately comes down to education, by which I mean people knowing how to vote ... knowing where to vote, how to find out information on the candidates,” Smith said. “... There seems to be a problem with getting that information out there.”

Inflation, abortion and gun violence each played a role in midterm elections this year, Kaswan said.

“Inflation definitely played a really big role,” he said. “... It showed up as the No. 1 concern of voters, so I think it played a very, very big role ... to the advantage of the Republicans.”

The issues of abortion and gun violence helped Democrats get into office, Kaswan said.

“I think it helped Democrats, but it clearly, you know, was way less on people’s minds than the economic stuff,” he said. “It’s a funny thing, because in terms of what the government has power over, the government has a lot more power over things like abortion and gun policy than it does over the economy. Economy is mostly the actions of private companies.”

Kaswan said there were things about the Nov. 8 election results that surprised him, particularly, the results of the District 27 state senator and Texas governor races.

In the race for Texas governor, incumbent Republican Gov. Greg Abbott defeated Democratic challenger Beto O’Rourke to gain a third term in office. Statewide, Abbott garnered 4,426,627 votes to O’Rourke’s 3,539,135, according to the Texas Secretary of State website. In Cameron County, however, O’Rourke outpaced Abbott by a vote of 41,607 to 34,264.

In Hidalgo County, unofficial results show O’Rourke garnered 82,513 votes compared to Abbott’s 56,728.

“I thought O’Rourke would make it closer,” Kaswan said of the statewide gubernatorial election results. “I thought it would probably be within, probably, seven or eight points. And so, I was a little surprised by the size of Abbott’s victory there.”

On the other hand, Smith said “there was

never any doubt that Abbott was going to win that race.”

“I think most polls projected him to win safely,” he said. “I think Beto had trouble getting started. I think the 2020 presidential run for him was the worst thing he could have possibly done. ... It has made him perceived by Texans as someone that’s just going to leave in two years to go run for president again.”

Kaswan said he does not see “much of a political future” for O’Rourke, at this point.

“One of the biggest issues for Republicans that they just hammered on was immigration, right, and the crisis at the border,” he said. “But if you look at the votes for Abbott versus O’Rourke, almost all of the border counties went for O’Rourke.”

In the race for lieutenant governor, Democrat Mike Collier garnered 39,271 votes, or 51.81%, in Cameron County. The incumbent Republican Dan Patrick came in second with 34,335 votes, or 45.30%. However, Patrick won statewide by a vote of 4,307,483 to 3,478,063.

Kaswan said Patrick promised a “full-frontal attack on higher education and taxes.”

“We’ll see to what extent that manifests itself,” he said. “So, that’s something that we probably have to brace ourselves for.”

Kaswan said the results of the race for District 27 state senator surprised him.

Democrat Morgan LaMantia, of South Padre Island, garnered 41,580 votes in Cameron County, or 55.16%, followed by Republican Adam Hinojosa, of Corpus Christi, with 33,800 votes, or 44.84%. Districtwide, LaMantia garnered 87,860 votes to Hinojosa’s 87,291 to win the seat.

“I had actually expected that LaMantia would have an easier time with it,” Kaswan said. “But, you know ... Republicans poured a huge amount of money into supporting their candidates. Democrats did not. So, I mean, just as a voter, I observed [a] ... much higher volume of mail and other communication coming from Republican candidates, as opposed to the Democrats.”

In the race for U.S. Representative District 34, Vicente Gonzalez won with 70,759 votes, or 52.71%, to Republican incumbent Mayra Flores’ 59,404.

Following the news of her loss, Flores took

to Twitter and wrote, “The RED WAVE did not happen. Republicans and Independents stayed home. DO NOT COMPLAIN ABOUT THE RESULTS IF YOU DID NOT DO YOUR PART!”

A McAllen attorney, Gonzalez currently serves as U.S. District 15 representative; however, due to redistricting, he ran for the District 34 seat. Flores was elected to the District 34 seat in a special election last June after U.S. Rep. Filemon Vela resigned before the end of his term.

In the U.S. Representative District 15 contest, Republican Monica De La Cruz defeated Democrat Michelle Vallejo with 80,869 votes to Vallejo’s 67,913, according to the Texas Secretary of State website. De La Cruz is the first Republican to win the district in its 120-year history.

Smith told The Rider it cannot be understated that District 15 redistricted several strongly Republican areas and the outreach efforts by the GOP helped De La Cruz win.

On Oct. 25, 2021, Texas enacted new congressional districts.

On the ballot for attorney general, Democrat Rochelle Garza, a Brownsville native, led with 41,607 votes, or 55.02%, in Cameron County and incumbent Republican Ken Paxton followed with 32,362 votes, or 42.79%. Statewide, Paxton won with 4,268,805 votes to Garza’s 3,482,902.

“I think every poll showed him beating Rochelle Garza, but the fact that he did win by a good margin ... I think that’s the surprising aspect of all of this,” Smith said. “But it just shows you how difficult the electoral map, both in Texas and nationwide, was for Democrats in 2022, where Democrats can put forward a strong candidate in Rochelle Garza, and she still loses to an incumbent Republican.”

Incumbent Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño Jr., a Democrat, defeated Republican challenger and former county judge Carlos Cascos. Treviño secured 40,261 votes, or 52.77%, compared to Cascos’ 36,039 votes, or 47.23%.

For Hidalgo County judge, Democratic incumbent Ricardo “Richard” F. Cortez reclaimed his position for a second term, garnering 86,704 votes to Republican

Esmeralda Flores’ 50,550.

In the race for District 20 state senator, Democratic incumbent Juan “Chuy” Hinojosa won reelection, garnering 101,989 votes compared to Republican challenger Westley Wright’s 70,446.

District 35 state Rep. Oscar Longoria, a Democrat, won reelection, garnering 15,543 votes districtwide compared to Republican challenger Oscar Rosa’s 8,683.

In local elections, longtime City of Edinburg Municipal Judge Toribio “Terry” Palacios, a Democrat, won the race for Hidalgo County criminal district attorney with 83,834 votes against Republican Juan Tijerina, who garnered 54,198 votes. Palacios will replace his nephew, current Hidalgo County Criminal District Attorney Ricardo Rodriguez Jr., who chose not to seek reelection.

Asked how the midterm election results might affect President Joe Biden’s agenda, Kaswan replied, “Congress is going to stop functioning.”

“The idea that we would see anything productive coming out of the next two years of Congress is very unlikely,” he said. “And, if anything, what’s the most likely outcome of this will be chaos and the possibility of very serious economic consequences for the U.S. and for the world.”

Some of the things some Republicans are talking about, such as with the debt limit, would essentially be “holding the world economy hostage,” according to Kaswan.

“Really, their whole agenda is oppositional,” he said. “So they’re going to do what they can to tie up the Biden administration and prevent it from operating. ... It’s going to be pretty ugly. ... Even if the leadership of the Republican Party wants to work in a productive manner, there’s this very substantial portion ... of the party in Congress who really do not want the government to function.”

Smith said the key thing to figure out in the coming years for both political parties is to figure out how to appeal to millennials and Gen Zers.

For complete election results, visit the Texas Secretary of State website.

--Reporter Omar E. Zapata contributed to this report.



“Aaaa!”

A grunt escaped his lips as a thick bramble coiled around his ankle and sent him crashing to the dark, forest floor. Where the sun had gleamed, the moon loomed in, shrouding the world in her ethereal, silvery glow.

“Ow,” the young man moaned dramatically, examining his ankle where the thorns got hold of him. “AAAA! I’m bleeding!”

His huge amber eyes went round in the misty light above, and he sniffed hard to keep from crying.

“It’s okay, just don’t look at it,” he shrugged at himself. He let out a deep breath and glanced up at the heavens. The stars rolled their twinkling eyes at him.

“D-d-dad?” the young guy stammered out, peering over his shoulder. “Dad? Papa? Padre?”

No sound returned except that of the whistling wind through the Weeping Willows; a shrill, thin-sounding hiss swirled around from their leaves, and a shiver jolted hard down his spine.

“Da-ad!” the dude continued, squalling into the night.

Fear about his missing dad made him forget about the brambles cutting

into his ankle; he leaped straight upright, felt a sharp *stab!*, and let out a howl that probably sent a hundred wolves running.

No, that was just an exaggeration. Only *twelve* wolves came thundering through the underbrush.

“AAAAAAA!”

The young master jumped a foot and a half in the air in his fright while the wolves’ gleaming, glowing, green eyes bore into his; their snarling snouts dripped with saliva, and their padded feet scarcely skimmed the shadow-laced grass as they pounded toward him.

Well, if there was something the guy could do, that was run.

Not.

He took two steps before the slithering brambles struck again, and he flailed his arms around before collapsing into the soft grass. The scent of sweet, dew-laden blades filled his nose, and he wondered if that would be the last sensation he ever experienced.

Probably . . .

He felt the ground shake; a huge paw slammed into the small of his back.

A high-pitched scream tore across the black plains.

A second later . . . silence.

## A SECOND LATER SILENCE BY: REESE NITTLER

The kid opened his eyes to see a beautiful wolf splayed unnaturally across the grass. It could be sleeping.

The spearhead in its side said otherwise. “Who saved me?” the guy asked aloud, trying to leap to his feet; clouds scuttled around, making everything black, and this seemed to disorient him further. The world went haywire and started spinning around like a carousel after chugging a Monster Energy drink.

The scent of night-cooled grass returned as he fell, and he felt a sharp pricking sensation in his back. The warm, wet fabric against his skin let him know that *maybe* that wolf had got him, and *maybe* he was acting too dramatic before about that epidermal-layer scratch from the thorn.

Before he could open his mouth to start screeching though, he felt a calloused hand come down hard on his shoulder.

“Shh,” a hoarse voice whispered. “You will be alright.”

“R-really?” the guy asked. His lip started trembling, and he began to shake. He had never been hurt worse than brambles before — and maybe wolf claws were venomous! “Wh-who are you? Are wolf claws v-v-venomous??”

“Venomous?”

The young man glanced up at the warrior who had saved him, receiving a start when he saw a young man not much older than his own sixteen years and eight days; maybe he was even younger.

“Who are you?” the wolf-victim asked. “Are you a tree-hugger?”

The warrior blinked his pale, clouded eyes; he looked like he wanted to face-plant.

“I am Shinoko Hizakabe,” the warrior told the guy on the ground. “I am not a tree-hugger. I eat tree bark for breakfast.”

“Me too,” the victim sniveled. “I’m used to my dad’s peanut butter sandwiches, so tree bark is really nasty!”

“Be quiet please,” Shinoko implored, politely somehow. “Are you looking for your father out here?”

“Y-yeah.”

“I can find him. Track him down. Come with me to my home.”

“You have a house out here? A real house with A/C and hot, running water

and—”

Shinoko fingered his spear and swiped it across the loose fabric of his pants. Wolf blood reddened the dirty, tan fabric.

“I do not know what A/C is,” Shinoko admitted. His face fell as he touched the bloody spear. “I only know that you are a boy. Boys get hungry. I have food.”

“I’m almost a man,” the victim sniffed. “Only a few more years.”

Shinoko patted his upper shoulder above the claw marks, beginning a few inches downward.

“Out here, we are men when we are mature enough to be men; I am a man. I am fifteen. You are probably sixteen and a few days; you are not mature enough to be a man. I will make you dinner. Come.”

Shinoko’s clouded eyes ticked up to where the horizon loomed in a wall of imminent blackness.

“I’m not even offended because I *know* I’m not mature enough to be a man!” the blood-splattered guy said. “I’ll probably never be mature enough!”

“Realization is the first step!” Shinoko said encouragingly.

His dark, scar-laden face lit up in a smile and the young boy, Charlie, began to laugh at that principle.

“I am glad to hear you laugh. I was scared you went into shock,” Shinoko admitted a moment later. “Additionally, when we return to my cave, I will bandage you up, maybe stitch you, and you can sleep in my bed of leaves. I will keep watch.”

“That sounds absolutely great— wait. Did you say leaves? No offense or anything, I’m super grateful, but . . . are there bugs?”

Shinoko blinked and the wind swirled through his shoulder-length, deep black hair.

“There are bugs . . .” he whispered, “*everywhere*. Come on. I will show you the best ones!”

With that, one last scream rang through the air, and Shinoko laughed as he led his new friend to momentary safety.

U.T.R.G.P. M.S.A.



Authors' Corner