MONDAY,
DECEMBER 5, 2022
VOLUME 8
ISSUE 14

THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

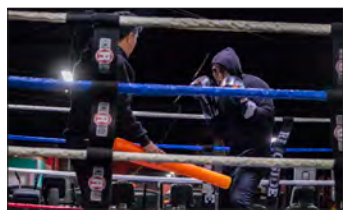
FOLLOW US:
@UTRGVRIDER
/UTRGVRIDER
UTRGVRIDER

UTRGVRIDER.COM

INSIDE:

A&E

SPORTS



PROPOSED

Bill would allow UT law school to offer remote courses at UTRGV

Juan Villarreal
THE RIDER

Proposed by state Rep. Terry Canales (D-Edinburg), House Bill 116 would create a distance learning program that would allow the University of Texas School of Law to offer first-year students remote learning options at UTRGV.

HB 116, if passed, would require that the law school offer a minimum of five students located in the Rio Grande Valley the opportunity to take first-year law courses entirely remotely.

The students would be required to move to Austin following the first year and stay the duration of their degree.

HB 116 is not the first proposal regarding remote law courses.

In March 2021, the Texas House of Representatives passed House Bill 695, proposed by state Rep. Armando "Mando" Martinez (D-Weslaco). The bill, which died in the Texas Senate, proposed the establishment of a public law school in the Rio Grande Valley.

See **BILL**, Page 2

THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

State Rep. Terry Canales (D-Edinburg) speaks during the Texas House of Representatives Transportation Committee meeting held Sept. 8 in Salón Cassia on the Brownsville campus. Canales proposed House Bill 116 which, if passed, would allow the University of Texas School of Law to offer first-year students remote learning options at UTRGV. Also shown is committee Clerk Dylan Matthews.

Inside the Public Utilities Board

Natalie Lapsley
THE RIDER

Leadership of the Brownsville Public Utilities Board is delegated to a board of seven directors, six of whom are appointed by the city commission, with the final member being the mayor.

PUB Forensic Examination: Last in a Series

Currently, the board consists of Chair Sandra Saenz, Vice Chair Patricio Sampayo, Secretary and Treasurer Sandra Lopez-Langley, Jude A. Benavides, Joseph L. Hollmann, Arthur "Art" Rendon and Mayor Trey Mendez.

The six appointed members serve four-year terms, after which they are eligible for reappointment for one additional term, according to the BPUB newsroom website.

"This appointment is voluntary, and board members receive no financial compensation for the time they spend," the website reads. "... All BPUB employees are required to pay the same rates and are subject to the same conditions as any other customer."

See **PUB**, Page 3

Helping combat hunger on campus

Teresita Dominguez
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Student Food Pantry is a campus resource that provides free food options to current students who may need it.

UTRGV Survival Guide: Last in a Series

The pantry's mission is to assist students in need by providing food supplements to those who have been impacted by financial problems and are experiencing difficulty meeting their basic need of adequate nutrition, according to its website.

Operating on both campuses as a subsidiary of the Food Bank of the Rio Grande Valley, the only qualification required to benefit from this resource is enrollment at UTRGV, according to Douglas Stoves, associate dean for Student Rights and Responsibilities.

"There's no qualifying, like, amount [or range of income] or anything else like that," Stoves said. "You just have to be a student, a registered student, and be hungry."

The pantry, which provides 40 pounds of groceries in each order, offers protein, starches and vegetables, according to Stoves.

Orders for assistance must be placed online through the pantry's website, where students select their corresponding campus and fill out a brief section of information. The form includes a portion where students select which food options they prefer.

During distribution days, 2 to 5 p.m. Tuesday and 1 to 4 p.m. Friday, students pick up their order at the pantry. If an Edinburg student is unable to pick up their food during the listed hours of operation, pantry employees place the order in a locker so the student can pick it up at a later time.

The pantry is open most of the year.

"We're pretty much open all year round, summer, everything," said Nadia Valdez, the program coordinator for the Student Food Pantry. "The only days we close are actual holidays and one week for winter, for Christmas and New Year's. The rest of the days we're open."

Another resource offered by the department is the Swipe Out Hunger program.

UTRGV Dining Services is collaborating with the national program, Swipe Out Hunger, to provide a Meal Swipe Bank to combat student food insecurity, according to its website.

See **PANTRY**, Page 3

On the College Board

THE RIDER FILE PHOTO

Maggie Hinojosa, UTRGV's senior vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs, speaks about the results of the Athletics Fee Referendum during a news conference last November in the University Center on the Edinburg campus. Hinojosa was recently named a board trustee for the Southwestern Region of the College Board.

Brigitte Ortiz
THE RIDER

The College Board has appointed Maggie Hinojosa, UTRGV's senior vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs, as a board trustee representing the Southwestern Region for a five-year term.

Hinojosa was one of seven new trustees appointed Nov. 1 to College Board's 31-member governing board, bringing a "wealth of experience and knowledge from schools, districts, and universities across the country," according to its website.

The College Board is a "not-for-profit organization, with guidance from the trustee committees, three national assemblies and six regional assemblies."

Trustee responsibilities include approving the organization's mission, strategic goals and objectives; establishing policies related to membership, programs and services; approving the annual budget and major program fees; fulfilling the organization's audit committee responsibilities; reviewing material initiatives; and advising the CEO, who is responsible for the management of the organization, according to its website.

See **TRUSTEE,** Page 8

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Information Technology
The IT Service Desk has moved its location from the Academic Services Building (EACSB) 1.102 to the Computer Center (ECCTR) Lobby.

H.O.S.T. Club
The **Hospitality and Tourism Management Student Organization** will meet from 12:30 to 1 p.m. in Robert C. Vackar College of Business and Entrepreneurship Room 110 on the Edinburg campus.

German Club Informational
The **German Club** will host an **information table** and a **Christmas concert** on the Brownsville campus from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Student Union and from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday near the Main Building on the East Front Lawn.

Sorority Informational
Sigma Gamma Lambda National Sorority will hold an **informational session** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Hot Dogs, Hot Cheetos Sale
The **Society of Automotive Engineers-RGV Baja Racing Team** will sell hot dogs and Hot Cheetos from noon to 2 p.m. on the Science Promenade on the Edinburg campus.

Snack Stand
The **Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers** will sell food from 3:30 to 4:30 p.m. today, 3 to 6 p.m. Tuesday and from 3 to 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Engineering building on the Edinburg campus.

Tuesday

Criminal Justice Meeting
The **American Criminal Justice Association Sigma Kappa Chi** will meet from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Health Affairs Building West Room 2.212 on the Edinburg campus.

Fashion Show
The **House of Fashion** will hold a **renaissance-themed fashion show** from 4 to 7 p.m. in the Chapel on the Edinburg campus.

Wednesday

Texas Rising Meeting
Texas Rising will hold a meeting for **new and current members** from noon to 1:30 p.m. in Student Union Room 2.24 on the Brownsville campus. There will be **free food**.

Coffee and Careers
The **Career Center** will hold an **informational session** for students who might have questions about interviews, internships, resumes and jobs from 2:30 to 3 p.m. via Zoom.

Play Festival
Students in creative writing Lecturer **Robert Moreira's** ENGL 4351 class will present a **10-Minute Play Festival** from 7 to 10 p.m. Wednesday and Thursday in Liberal Arts Building South Studio Theatre Room 107 on the Edinburg campus. The original plays were written by Nathan Alaniz, Dennis Barrett, Ramiro Castro Jr., Cassandra Chimely, Victoria Escamilla, Edgar Garcia, Jared Garcia, Nicholas Garza, Susana Lupercio, Josias Martinez, Elijah Medrano, Justin Ozuna, Anthony Ramirez, Ravinia Ramirez, Jesus Saenz, Jalissa Segura, Ashley Soto, Monica Vasquez, Matthew Vaughan and Monica Villanueva.

Thursday

La Fiesta
Alpha Psi Lambda will host an event to meet the **associate members of Alpha Psi Lambda** from 4 to 9 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Academic Building Room 1.100 on the Brownsville campus.

Friday

Toy Drive
The **Exercise Science Club** will collect **toy donations** for the **Child Development Center** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at 880-998 W. Van Week St. in Edinburg.

Saturday

Winter Ball
The **Center for Student Involvement** will host a **Winter Ball** from 7 to 9 p.m. in the University Center Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Dress code is formal. There will be **free food.**

--Compiled by Landon Burns

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Nov. 17 and 29.

Nov. 17
10:28 a.m.: A staff member on the Edinburg campus reported an unauthorized purchase of $679.60 at Sam's Club on his assigned university credit card. The case is under investigation.
1:28 p.m.: A faculty member on the Brownsville campus reported she had received a concerning email from a former student. The email was reviewed, and it was determined no criminal offense had occurred.
11:16 p.m.: A resident assistant for the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus reported the interior of an oven had caught fire while she was cooking. She used a fire extinguisher located inside the apartment to put out the fire. No damage was observed. The building was checked and cleared for reentry. A work order was submitted to replace the fire extinguisher.
Nov. 18
1:22 a.m.: An officer was notified via email that a student believed that she was being followed by a male student while on the Edinburg campus. The officer contacted the student via telephone who reported she was fine but was made to feel very uncomfortable by a male classmate who followed her earlier in the day. It was determined that no criminal offense had occurred, but a referral to the Dean of Students Office will be submitted since there have been previous other reports of the same behavior involving the male student.
6:24 p.m.: An employee on the Edinburg campus reported receiving an email on her UTRGV email account from an unknown person who was demanding monetary benefit for not releasing certain intimate visual material to family members. The case is under investigation.
Nov. 23
10:31 a.m.: A student reported that an unknown woman requested her personal email while on the Edinburg campus. The student found this suspicious and declined the request.
4:31 p.m.: An officer contacted a student reporting another student yelling at her while driving by in Hidalgo. No criminal elements were found. The case was generated for documentation purposes.
Nov. 26
3:47 p.m.: Officers made contact with a non-affiliated man at the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. The man claimed he was a student and an on-campus resident. This was determined to be false and he was issued a criminal trespass warning. The man then left campus without further incident. At 11:02 p.m. Nov. 27, an officer responded to Heritage Hall Apartments on the Edinburg campus in reference to the non-affiliated man. The man was arrested and transported to the City of Edinburg Municipal Jail for holding pending arraignment.
Nov. 27
2:51 p.m.: A University Recreation Center employee on the Edinburg campus reported a man and a woman who were in the swimming pool after hours.
Nov. 28
12:33 p.m.: Officers were dispatched to the UT Health San Carlos site in reference to a suspicious man entering the building. The man was identified by witnesses to be the same person who was previously issued a criminal trespass warning. The case is under investigation.
1:42 p.m.: An officer met with an employee on the Edinburg campus in reference to her non-affiliated husband making multiple phone calls to the university and making disparaging remarks against her. The case is under investigation.
2:16 p.m.: A UTRGV Financial Services employee on the Edinburg campus reported an attempt to cash a fraudulent check bearing the university's insignia. There was no monetary loss, and the case is under investigation.
8:39 p.m.: A student reported she had an altercation inside the Science Complex on the Edinburg campus with another female student with whom she had recently ended a relationship. Officers determined there were no criminal elements to the disturbance.
Nov. 29
3:04 p.m.: An officer made contact with a student who reported that an unidentified man was following her and taking pictures of her in the University Library on the Edinburg campus. The responding officer determined that no crime occurred. The officer told the student about services offered by the police department, such as the Safe Walk program.

--Compiled by Arisbeth Rodriguez

BILL
Continued from Page 1

Both bills deal with the issue of students in the Valley being able to take remote courses for their law programs. They were proposed after St. Mary's University in San Antonio and the South Texas College of Law in Houston were allowed to offer remote learning for their law students.

Patricia Roberts, dean of St. Mary's University School of Law, said the school must receive permission from the American Bar Association to start the program.

"We are the southmost law school in the country," Roberts said in a phone interview last Tuesday with The Rider.

Remote law school programs in Texas are a fairly new concept.

The St. Mary's program, which began accepting applications this year, accepts only 26 students for remote learning. Eight hundred students attend the law school currently.

The South Texas College of Law in Houston opened applications for its law program on Nov. 15. The online law program will begin in Fall 2023.

If the proposal were to pass, the minimum number of students accepted into the UT law school's Rio Grande Valley program would be five.

Asked why fully online law degrees are being offered, Roberts replied, "There areas of Texas ... where people don't have access to get a law degree."

In a written statement, Canales said the Valley "faces a geographical barrier to law school, with the nearest school located more than 3 hours away."

The concept of an online law degree has had its share of criticism.

"There are some who believe students lose too much," Roberts said.

But in his email last Tuesday to The Rider, Canales wrote, "Children in the Rio Grande Valley deserve access to the highest levels of education right here in our region."

HB 116 was filed on Nov. 14.

If this bill were to pass, it would make the UT School of Law the first public law school in the state to offer remote courses. St. Mary's University and the South Texas College of Law are private institutions.

The Rider reached out to Catherine Frazier, director of media relations for the UT System, for comment about the proposal. Frazier responded in a Nov. 28 email, writing, "because this is pending legislation ... I cannot comment on this bill."

The newspaper also contacted Matt Pene, senior media relations manager for the University of Texas at Austin, for comment. In a Nov. 23 email, Pene replied, "We don't comment on proposed bills."

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
Abigail Ollave

ONLINE EDITOR
Danielle Perez

COPY EDITORS
Arisbeth Rodriguez
Natalie Lapsley
Daynara Gutierrez

EDITORIAL CARTOONIST
Alejandro Peña

A&E REPORTER
Omar E. Zapata

SPORTS REPORTERS
Matthew Gonzalez
Jose Medina

SPANISH EDITOR
Fatima Gamez Lopez

REPORTERS
Brigitte Ortiz
Landon Burns
Andrea Flores
Teresita Dominguez
Juan Villarreal

PHOTOGRAPHERS
Roxanna Miranda
Daniela Martinez Salazar
Ramiro Castro Jr.
Aura Velasquez
Isabel Morales
Aurora Acevedo

DISTRIBUTION ASSISTANTS
Jesse Valencia
Jesus Solis

ADVERTISING SALES MANAGER
Leslie Ramirez

MARKETING SPECIALISTS
Viviana Infante
Anthony Vega

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

LUPE advocates for immigrants, farmworkers

PHOTO COURTESY LA UNIÓN DEL PUEBLO ENTERO

Various border groups, including *LUPE* Votes and ARISE, hold a news conference outside the state Capitol in Austin, where a hearing before the Senate Committee on Border Security took place Nov. 15.

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

La Unión Del Pueblo Entero has testified against Operation Lone Star during a hearing before the state Senate Committee on Border Security at the state Capitol in Austin and lobbied for undocumented farmworkers in Washington, D.C.

"There is no better place to raise a family than the Rio Grande Valley, which was the case until Operation Lone Star started in March of 2021," Tania Chavez, director of management analysis at *LUPE*, told the Senate Committee on Border Security Nov. 15.

Since its start, Operation Lone Star has resulted in over 325,000 migrant apprehensions, over 21,900 criminal arrests and more than 19,400 felony charges, according to a Nov. 18 news release from the office of Texas Gov. Greg Abbott. During this border mission, the Texas Department of Public Safety seized over 352 million lethal doses of fentanyl.

Chavez and fellow *LUPE* representatives Alexis Elicerio, a civic engagement organizer, and Evon Bueno, a data entry clerk, called for the immediate termination of Operation Lone Star, accusing the state military mission of being a waste of state funds.

Chavez explained to the committee how she lived as an "undocumented citizen" for 20 years in the Rio Grande Valley and knows firsthand what it is to live in fear.

"Dining at restaurants, with CBP and DPS officers sitting right next to you, gives you a grouching pain in the stomach," she told the committee. "Operation Lone Star is the latest attempt from Gov. Abbott to criminalize immigrants and people of color and border residents, like myself, in the Rio Grande Valley."

Abbott's focus has been border security. The Operation Lone Star initiative has cost the state more than $4 billion since its launch, according to the news release.

"Recently, The Monitor, our local newspaper, released photos of overcrowded jail facilities in Hidalgo County, a result of the unnecessary arrests of immigrants crossing the border looking for humanitarian aid and a dignified way of life," Chavez said.

In an interview with The Rider, Elicerio said he hopes *LUPE*'s testimony provides a different perspective of Operation Lone Star.

"We kind of present to them, like, our communities that are actually being harmed, you know, people in the community," he said. "People that have to deal with the consequences of all these bad legislations. So by going in person and going to testify and making our case, showing them ... a different perspective from what they are used to hearing, which is just law enforcement, you know, pushing their own narrative, which is usually very inaccurate or misinformed on what is actually going on in the Valley."

Members of *LUPE* asked the senators to investigate the operation.

"Senators, before you allocate more funds to Operation Lone Star, we ask that you investigate Operation Lone Star and immediately cut funding for the program," Chavez said. "Sen. [Juan "Chuy"] Hinojosa, you and your colleagues should condemn Operation Lone Star because it is harmful for our border communities. It is harmful for your Valley."

Hinojosa, a member of the committee, showed support for *LUPE* members and shared how, as a child, he was deported with his mother, who was not legally living in the country.

On Nov. 15 and 16, *LUPE* members lobbied members of Congress to pass the Farm Workforce Modernization Act in Washington, D.C.

"The Farm Workforce Modernization Act is a bipartisan immigration, agricultural legislation that would provide undocumented farmworkers and their immediate family members legal immigration status and a pathway to citizenship in the future," said Joaquin Garcia, director of organizing at *LUPE*.

The House of Representatives passed the bill in March 2021. It is now in the Senate, where it requires 60 votes to pass.

"I feel like, you know, nationwide, farmworkers are essential workers," Garcia said. "And they are crucial to the well-being of America, the community, the economy [and] the food supply."

He said farmworkers had to work hard during the pandemic.

"Farmworkers were out there doing the work, because food had to be on people's tables," Garcia said. "Unfortunately, a lot of these people that maybe don't have documents, they didn't get any stimulus checks. So they had to work hard to sustain their families, even during a pandemic. They have earned the right to apply for legal status. And by passing this act, it would also help secure America's food supply."

During the D.C. trip, *LUPE* members met with members of Congress, including U.S. Representatives Joaquin Castro (D-Texas) and Veronica Escobar (D-Texas).

"We took three farmworkers with us to the trip and they [gave] testimonials of all the work that they have been doing," Garcia said. "At some point, these farmworkers were undocumented as well. So they talked about all those things with Congress members. ... Hopefully, this bill comes to the floor so that they can vote in favor of it."

PANTRY

Continued from Page 1

"Based on the number of meal plans that Sodexo has sold to our residents on campus, [the program] will match that and they'll go and donate one meal per every meal sold," said Roberto Cantú, executive director of Auxiliary Business Services on campus. "So, this year we donated 507 [meals].

"... Students will fill out the form [online] and they'll get a certain number of requests over a few days. ... Our team will go ahead and add a meal plan credit on the student ID."

To participate, the student must be currently enrolled, as well as have access to the Dining Hall on the Edinburg campus.

The pantry also offers opportunities for volunteering and accepts donations. Students who are interested in volunteering may register through Engagement Zone. Donations can be made during distribution times or by placing the donations in the yellow drop-off box located at the pantry, according to Stoves.

Valdez and Stoves said any student can stop by and use this resource.

"We're here to help out," Valdez said. "You don't necessarily have to be going through something to come here. You just have to be a currently enrolled student. This is just free food, basically. It's like extra money that you're saving up. We're here. We want to help."

The Student Food Pantry is located in Cavalry Hall 101 and 102 on the Brownsville campus and in University Center 114 on the Edinburg campus.

For more information on volunteering, donations or the Swipe Out Hunger program, visit the Food Pantry website at utrgv.edu/foodpantry/index.htm.

PUB

Continued from Page 1

Saenz, who is a partner at Spanky's Burgers in Brownsville along with her husband Ronnie, was first appointed by District 1 City Commissioner Nurith Galonsky Pizaña on July 2, 2019.

After a motion made by Mendez during a city commission meeting July 20, 2021, Saenz was reappointed to the board for a second term.

Sampayo, a managing director for CMI Hospital Group since 2005, according to his LinkedIn profile, was appointed to the utilities board on June 16, 2020, by former District 4 City Commissioner Ben R. Neece. District 2 City Commissioner Jessica Tetreau opposed the motion, according to the meeting recording.

Initially, Tetreau moved to table the appointment so the commission could look for an appointee from District 2, which was not represented on the board at the time. When that motion failed, Sampayo, from District 3, was appointed.

Lopez-Langley is vice president and business development officer for the First Community Bank Brownsville branch, a position she has held since January 2012, according to her LinkedIn profile. She was appointed to the utilities board on July 2, 2019, after City Commissioner At-Large "B" Rose Gowen made the motion to appoint.

Benavides, who was appointed to the utilities board July 2, 2019, currently works as an associate professor in the School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences at UTRGV.

The Rider reached out via phone and email for an interview regarding his role on the board and the application process, but, as of press time, Benavides had not responded.

On Aug. 2, 2022, the commission appointed Hollmann to the board, a motion made by City Commissioner At-Large "A" John Cowen Jr. Hollmann currently serves as a group leader at Draper, a nonprofit engineering innovation company, but has worked other positions at the company since 2017, according to his LinkedIn profile.

Arthur "Art" Rendon, appointed on July 20, 2021, after a motion made by District 3 Commissioner Roy De los Santos, serves as Transportation Director for the Brownsville Independent School District, a position he has held since September 2011, according to his LinkedIn profile.

--Rider Editor-in-Chief Verilu Infante contributed to this report.

My safety is not up for debate

Aurora Acevedo
PHOTOGRAPHER

Not a day passes when I do not worry for my own safety.

Specifically, I mean that I always worry for my own safety because I am absolutely scared of being hurt by people with nothing more than just cruel thoughts in their heads.

It has been about five months since I graduated from high school, and my current college experience is quite nice.

I like being granted this freedom to do things on my own, such as driving, getting my own gas, buying my own necessities and whatnot. I enjoy it!

But throughout each of these things I do, I always fear for my own well-being.

I am terrified of getting harassed or worse, God forbid.

I cannot get my own gas without holding pepper spray near me, without rushing back to the car and locking it just because a man nearby buying gas staggers because of how drunk he is.

I could not close my previous home's gate peacefully without getting catcalled and whistled at by someone who drove by. I was 12.

I cannot listen and visibly sing along to my songs in my own car without getting stared at by a driver in a lane next to me while waiting for the stop light to turn green. I could not even pretend to ignore the situation because I was moments away from getting recorded, if not saved by the light turning green. This was just a month ago.

I cannot order a meal at McDonald's in shorts in the summer heat at over 100 degrees without having a man sit next to me and stare at me, constantly inching toward me while I did my best to avoid him.

> In no situation, ever, should anyone live in constant fear of being harassed or assaulted.

"Well, what were you wearing?" and "They did not do anything to you. Why are you judging?" are a few of the many phrases I have heard from people (even my own family members) in response to me expressing my frustration toward the things I have experienced. And I am sick of hearing it.

Throughout these incidents, I have always been covered up. Not once was I ever "asking for it."

Why should I wait for something to happen to me for me to decide that the person had harmful thoughts toward me?

I am exhausted from having to "cover up" when I am wearing appropriate clothing. My clothes are not an invitation for you to harass me. Nothing I wear is an invitation for anyone to take advantage of me, or look at me in a promiscuous way.

I am exhausted from constantly fearing for my life. This should not even be one of my worries.

And it's not just me going through these incidents, either. It's a majority of women going through moments of nonstop harassment and catcalling. Not even celebrities are an exception to this.

In an 1998 interview with television host David Letterman, Jennifer Aniston was being disturbed by none other than Letterman himself. The interview as a whole was disturbing to see, especially when Letterman had no respect for Aniston's personal space, getting mere centimeters from her face while putting her hair in his mouth. He even went as far as grabbing her back and believe it or not, he made her apologize for his own wrongdoing.

This was in public. This was live, with people being able to access and see it, and he had the audacity to harass her in that way. Imagine if it was not a live incident.

If that does not give you chills, I don't know what to tell you.

In no situation, ever, should anyone live in constant fear of being harassed or assaulted.

VAQUERO VOICE

Who do you think will win the World Cup and why?

Sergio Elizondo
mechanical engineering junior

"Right now, I think France is probably going to take it. So far they've been performing very impressive compared to most of the teams. Initially, I thought it'd be Argentina, but I'm not entirely sure just because, I just think, the overall performance of France has been better in the World Cup so far. "

"I think it's going to be Argentina because they got a good team and got one of the best players in the world."

Joseph Perez
business accounting junior

Paulina Benavides
estudiante de primer año de mercadotecnia

"Yo creo que Argentina, porque vi el juego que jugó contra México y tienen muy buena defensa".

"Yo digo que Argentina porque tienen a Messi".

Eduardo Espinosa
estudiante de primer año justicia penal

Jose Rodriguez
estudiante de primer año de ingeniería civil

"Yo creo que el equipo que va a ganar la copa mundial es Argentina. Y es porque en las clasificaciones para la copa mundial llevaban 36 juegos invictos, o 34, entonces andan muy bien. Y es lo único que le falta a Messi para ser el mejor de la historia".

--Compiled and photos by Roxanna Miranda

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.

LUPE aboga por inmigrantes, trabajadores agrícolas

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

La Unión Del Pueblo Entero testificó en contra de la Operación *Lone Star* durante una audiencia ante el Comité de Seguridad Fronteriza del Senado estatal en el Capitolio estatal en Austin y presionó a favor de los trabajadores agrícolas indocumentados en Washington, D.C.

"No hay mejor lugar para criar una familia que el Valle del Río Grande, que era el caso hasta que comenzó la Operación *Lone Star* en marzo de 2021", dijo Tania Chavez, directora de análisis de gestión de LUPE, al Comité Senatorial de Seguridad Fronteriza el 15 de noviembre.

Desde su inicio, Operación *Lone Star* ha resultado en más de 325,000 detenciones de migrantes, más de 21,900 arrestos criminales y más de 19,400 cargos por delitos graves, según un comunicado de prensa del 18 de noviembre de la oficina del gobernador de Texas, Greg Abbott. Durante esta misión fronteriza, el Departamento de Seguridad Pública de Texas incautó más de 352 millones de dosis letales de fentanilo.

Chavez y otros representantes de LUPE, Alexis Elicerio, un organizador de participación cívica, y Evon Bueno, una empleada de entrada de datos, pidieron la terminación inmediata de la Operación *Lone Star*, acusando a la misión militar estatal de ser un desperdicio de fondos estatales.

Chavez explicó al comité cómo vivió como "ciudadana indocumentada" durante 20 años en el Valle del Río Grande y conoce de primera mano lo que es vivir con miedo.

"Cenar en restaurantes, con oficiales de *CBP* y *DPS* (por sus siglas en inglés) sentados a tu lado, te da un dolor de estómago", dijo al comité. "La Operación *Lone Star* es el último intento del gobernador Abbott de criminalizar a los inmigrantes y las personas de color y los residentes fronterizos, como yo, en el Valle del Río Grande".

FOTO CORTESÍA ALEXIS ELICERIO

Varios grupos fronterizos, incluidos LUPE *Votes* y *ARISE*, realizan una conferencia de prensa frente al Capitolio estatal en Austin, donde se llevó a cabo una audiencia ante el Comité Senatorial de Seguridad Fronteriza el 15 de noviembre.

El enfoque de Abbott ha sido la seguridad fronteriza. La iniciativa Operación *Lone Star* le ha costado al estado más de $4 mil millones desde su lanzamiento, según el comunicado de prensa.

"Recientemente, *The Monitor*, nuestro periódico local, publicó fotos de instalaciones carcelarias superpobladas en el condado de Hidalgo, como resultado de los arrestos innecesarios de inmigrantes que cruzan la frontera en busca de ayuda humanitaria y una forma de vida digna", dijo Chavez.

En una entrevista con The Rider, Elicerio dijo que espera que el testimonio de LUPE brinde una perspectiva diferente de la Operación *Lone Star*.

"Les presentamos como nuestras comunidades en realidad están siendo perjudicadas, ya sabes, personas en la comunidad", dijo. "Personas que tienen que lidiar con las consecuencias de todas estas malas legislaciones. Entonces, yendo en persona y yendo a testificar y presentando nuestro caso, mostrándoles ... una perspectiva diferente de lo que están acostumbrados a escuchar, que es solo de la ley, ya sabes, impulsando su propia narrativa, que generalmente es muy inexacta o mal informados sobre lo que realmente está pasando en el Valle".

Integrantes de LUPE pidieron a los senadores que investiguen el operativo.

"Senadores, antes de que asignen más fondos a la Operación *Lone Star*, les pedimos que investiguen la Operación *Lone Star* e inmediatamente recorten los fondos para el programa", dijo Chavez. "Sen. [Juan "Chuy"] Hinojosa, usted y sus colegas deberían condenar la Operación *Lone Star* porque es dañina para nuestras comunidades fronterizas. Es perjudicial para su Valle".

Hinojosa, miembro del comité, mostró su apoyo a los miembros de LUPE y compartió cómo, de niño, fue deportado con su madre, quien no vivía legalmente en el país.

El 15 y 16 de noviembre, los miembros de LUPE presionaron a los miembros del Congreso para que aprobaran la Ley de Modernización de la Fuerza Laboral Agrícola en Washington, D.C.

"La Ley de Modernización de la Fuerza Laboral Agrícola es una legislación agrícola de inmigración bipartidista que proporcionaría a los trabajadores agrícolas indocumentados y a sus familiares inmediatos un estatus migratorio legal y un camino hacia la ciudadanía en el futuro", dijo Joaquin Garcia, director de organización de LUPE.

La Cámara de Representantes aprobó el proyecto de ley en marzo de 2021. Ahora está en el Senado, donde requiere 60 votos para ser aprobada.

"Siento que, ya sabes, en todo el país, los trabajadores agrícolas son trabajadores esenciales", dijo Garcia. "Y son cruciales para el bienestar de Estados Unidos, la comunidad, la economía [y] el suministro de alimentos".

Dijo que los trabajadores agrícolas tuvieron que trabajar duro durante la pandemia.

"Los trabajadores agrícolas estaban haciendo el trabajo, porque la comida tenía que estar en las mesas de las personas", dijo Garcia. "Desafortunadamente, muchas de estas personas que tal vez no tienen documentos, no recibieron ningún cheque de estímulo. Así que tuvieron que trabajar duro para mantener a sus familias, incluso durante una pandemia. Se han ganado el derecho a solicitar un estatus legal. Y al aprobar esta ley, también ayudaría a asegurar el suministro de alimentos de Estados Unidos".

Durante el viaje a D.C., los miembros de LUPE se reunieron con miembros del Congreso, incluidos los representantes estadounidenses Joaquin Castro (D-Texas) y Veronica Escobar (D-Texas).

"Llevamos a tres trabajadores agrícolas con nosotros al viaje y [dieron] testimonios de todo el trabajo que han estado haciendo", dijo Garcia. "En algún momento, estos trabajadores agrícolas también eran indocumentados. Entonces hablaron de todas esas cosas con los miembros del Congreso. ... Con suerte, este proyecto de ley llegue al suelo para que puedan votar a favor".

Reimagining public art spaces

Omar E. Zapata
A&E REPORTER

A UTRGV student's plan would renovate the George Truan Sculpture Garden next to Rusteberg Hall on the Texas Southmost College campus in Brownsville, blending art, nature and public space.

Sean Hughes, a studio art sophomore on the Brownsville campus, came up with the idea and is sponsored by the UTRGV Engaged Scholarship & Learning program.

Hughes, who produces large metal sculptures, had the urge to pursue this project after realizing UTRGV and Texas Southmost College do not have many art spaces for sculptures or any displays for art around the campuses.

"What we're doing is revitalizing, but the idea is to sow a seed for the powers that be to say 'Hey, this is doable in other places,'" Hughes said.

The UTRGV Engaged Scholarship & Learning program's mission is to develop, promote and facilitate learning and community initiatives that advance student academic success, which include undergraduate research, service learning, academic internships and community engagement, according to the program's website.

George Truan, who died in 1992, was an art instructor for over 20 years at TSC and legacy institution University of Texas at Brownsville and was heavily involved in the community as a member of the Brownsville Youth Council and Patron of the Arts Committee. Truan also served on the TSC Board of Trustees.

The project is pending approval by TSC since UTRGV is leasing the area for Brownsville art students.

Hughes' plan consists of two parts: the bases that the steel sculptures are on and the garden surrounding it.

"The project would basically be taking and removing the sculpture bases ... and replacing them with new [bases] because of how poor condition that they're in," Hughes said.

The sculptures are bolted onto bases made of square tubing and flat-plate steel.

"Because of the fact that they're made of steel and because they've been there for so long, they're rusted and corroded to the point where you can see holes through them and they're falling apart," Hughes said.

There will be 12 new bases for the sculpture garden. The original proposal had plans to create 18 new bases but was reduced to 12 in order to reallocate funds for the garden. Through the program, Hughes is receiving $2,000 for the project from the Engaged Scholarship & Learning program.

The second part of the proposal is to relandscape the garden using native drought-resistant pollinator plants.

"You will see milkweeds and honeysuckles and Turk's Cap, and those things flower almost year-round," Hughes said. "They are really necessary as an eco-habitat for hummingbirds and bees and the butterflies, especially because we have both local insect population as well as a migratory insect population. So that would give them, basically, you know, a food source."

He said the garden currently has some bushes, including a rose bush, which are non-native, with some plants having died out.

Teodoro Estrada, a UTRGV graduate school alum, will assist Hughes with designing the layout for sculpture bases and the garden.

Aura Velasquez/THE RIDER
Sean Hughes, a studio art sophomore on the Brownsville campus, explains how the sculpture bases are deteriorating due to age and weathering in the George Truan Sculpture Garden next to Rusteberg Hall on the Texas Southmost College campus in Brownsville. Hughes is seeking approval from the college to renovate the garden and has already built a prototype base.

Already having a list of volunteers from the UTRGV Sculpture Club and the veterans peer group, Hughes said once things get rolling in the spring after approval, he wants to do a training session with the volunteers to show them how to design and construct the bases uniformly, pour the concrete and plant the garden.

UTRGV Sculpture Club President Yvette Larios, an art education senior, and Vice President Hannah Cavazos, a studio art senior, told The Rider they both agreed that renovations of the garden will make it more appealing and attract people to the area.

See **ART**, Page 8

Astrology Rider: Weekly Horoscopes

Danielle Perez
ONLINE EDITOR

Aries-Time is healing your wounds while you're trying to get everything in order again. Soon you will find the answers you've been waiting for, so don't worry. For now, keep doing what you do best and find inner peace. Let your heart release emotions you've been suppressing.

Leo-Don't leave your friends behind. Reach out and connect with them whenever you have spare time. Being there for others is good for the soul and will attract good things toward you. Sometimes, all people want is a helping hand or a shoulder to cry on. Maybe you could be that person for them.

Sagittarius-Life comes with many obstacles from time to time, but they are meant to make you stronger. Don't let issues determine your value. Instead, overcome them by rising above. Understand that things happen for a reason and the universe will always reward you when the time is right.

Libra-Get out of your head and start living the life you've always wanted. The longer you wait, the further you push your dreams. Believe in your capabilities to achieve what you desire. Once you've determined where you picture yourself, turn a new leaf and reach for the stars.

Gemini-Friends are good to have around when times are tough. Learn to confide in them by revealing your emotions in your own time. It's important to know you are not alone, as many would do anything for you. Let your guard down by opening up and being honest.

Aquarius-Soon, you will receive good news. Prepare yourself for the next chapter in your life by planning out the next moves. Be honest and consistent with your thoughts and you'll reach your destination. Don't overwhelm yourself. Just let things happen naturally.

Scorpio-Be grateful for the opportunities that life gives you. At times, you forget how lucky you are and take things for granted. Many people have to work harder than you to be in the position that you are in. Therefore, give thanks to anyone who has helped you achieve your goals.

Pisces-The semester is almost over, so just hold on for a little longer. Soon enough, you'll be at home resting with family and be able to do what you've been wanting. However, during that time, start considering your goals for the following year. Taking a break is good, but don't forget about your purpose.

Cancer-If you feel the need to express yourself, do it. Don't hold back because you're afraid of saying too much. Once in a while, being fully transparent is better than not saying enough. If you don't admit your truth, you'll end up regretting it and contemplating the what-ifs.

Taurus-Your journey will not be like others, so avoid making comparisons. This will only allow people to sway your decisions or routes you take in life. Stand your ground and control what is in your reach by following what you want. Don't let others interfere with your vision or cloud your judgment.

Virgo-Although you may want to forget about what has happened lately, you should comprehend it fully. Afterward, make a choice if you are OK with it or not. Be aware that even though this person may have a higher position, your feelings are still valid.

Capricorn-Perhaps a couple of your family members or friends have had a falling out lately. Although you may want to take sides, try to remain neutral because you'll find yourself in trouble despite whose side you pick. Make an effort to compromise and guide them to a resolution.

Sudoku

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

Last week's puzzle answer key:

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

Dibble Dabbles

by Alejandro Peña

Athlete of the week

Marco Guajardo

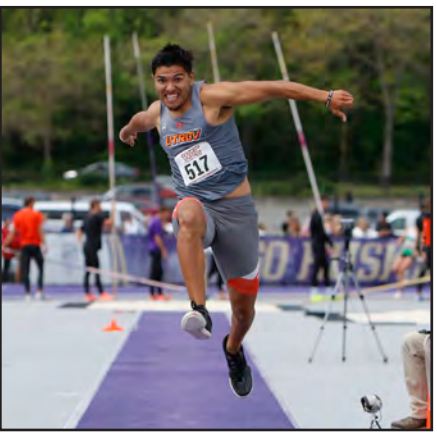


PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Management and entrepreneurship senior Marco Guajardo is a member of the UTRGV Men's Track & Field Team. Guajardo is from San Juan and graduated from Pharr-San Juan-Alamo High School.

Q: What movies or shows do you like?
A: "My favorite shows that I've seen, so far, [are] probably, like, 'Game of Thrones' or '[House of the Dragon]' and I just missed out on those. [Those] are pretty good. ... I'm a big Marvel fan. I love the 'Avengers' movies. All the 'Avengers' movies, 'Black Panther,' all those are really good."

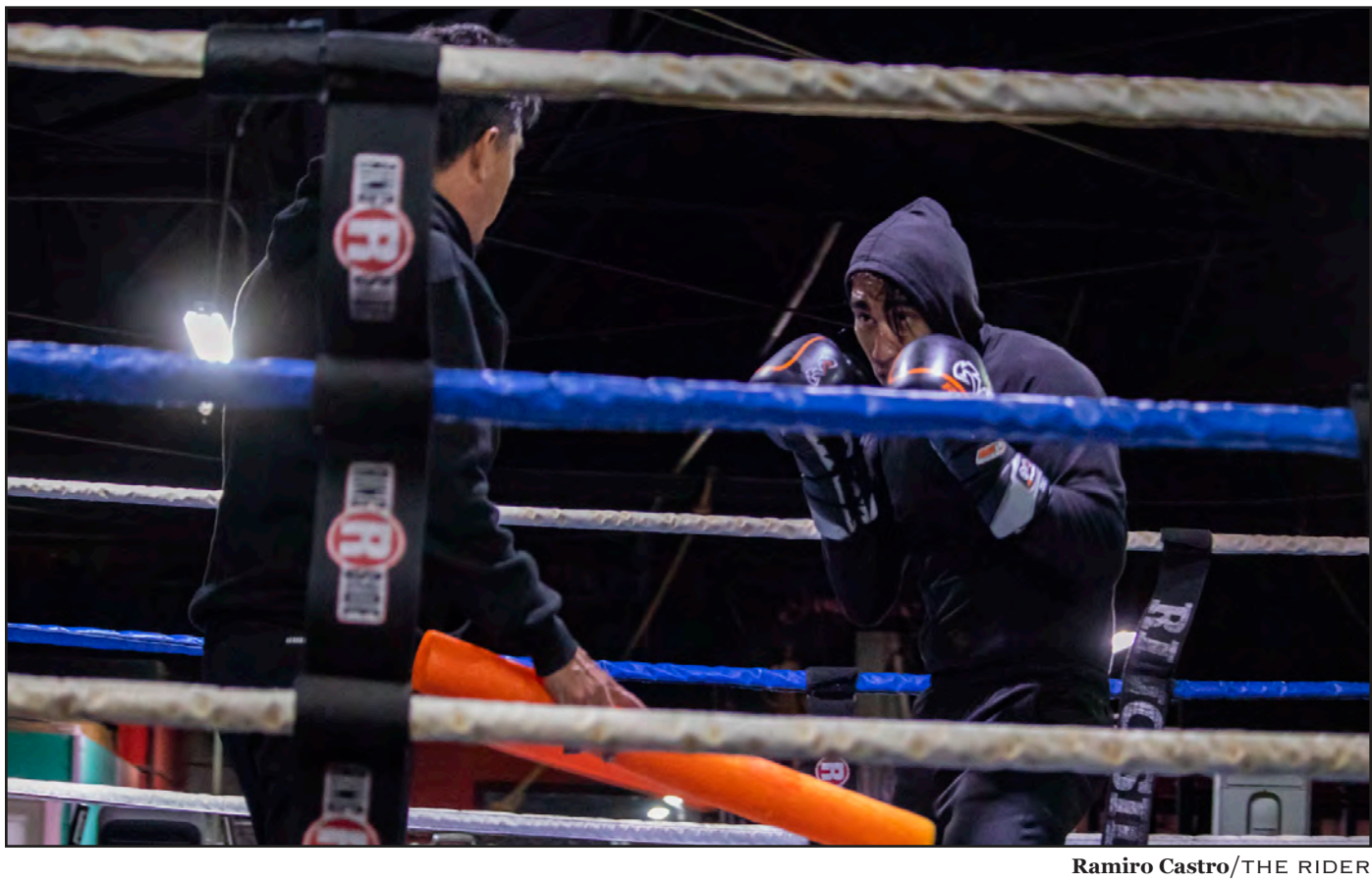
Q: How did you get into track and field?
A: "When I was maybe around like 4 or 5 years old, I was a big baseball player. And, you know, my whole life I thought I was gonna be playing baseball. ... Transitioning from baseball to track was kinda crazy. But my freshman year of high school [is] when I made it to varsity on a track team. And, you know, my first year we went to regionals, and I just fell in love with it. Then I just wanted to continue it. ... I just fell in love with the sport."

Q: Who is one of your role models?
A: "I would probably have to say my mom or dad. ... My mom, she's done a lot for herself. And she always taught me and my sisters, you know, to always strive for your goals. Never back down from what you want. ... My dad was a big baseball player. He always [strived] for what he wanted. And, you know, he's probably one of the best baseball coaches in the [Rio Grande Valley] as it goes right now. ... So, I have to say both my parents have been a big part of my life."

Q: What are your career goals?
A: "I want to stay into the business field for as long as I can. I want to go into real estate, hopefully, open up my own business. But down the line, of course, I am a big trainer. You know, I like to do private trainings here and there on the side for any of these high school kids in the Valley, especially being here from the Valley."

--Compiled by Jose Medina

Graduate student turned pro boxer



Ramiro Castro/THE RIDER

UTRGV graduate student Eduardo Guerra works on his head movement and speed with head coach Omar Figueroa Nov. 21 at the Panteritas Boxing Gym in Weslaco.

Matthew Gonzalez
THE RIDER

Graduate student Eduardo Guerra will compete in his first televised professional boxing bout, a rematch against his last opponent, Nick Molina, at 6:30 p.m. Friday in the Payne Arena in Hidalgo.

Their first bout was Sept. 10 and resulted in a draw, 38-38.

"They called me a few weeks ago, and they're like, 'Do you want the rematch?'" Guerra said. "And I'm like, 'Yes.' And then, like, it's gonna be on ESPN. It's gonna be on TV. Yes, I don't care, I don't care about the weight. Nothing. Just give me the fight. I want the rematch because I know I can beat him. I stayed too close and just did little punches. I didn't want to hurt him. So I was like, 'No. I want the rematch because I know I can beat him.'"

Guerra, 24, said he started boxing at the age of 20 after wanting to lose weight.

"So when I was in high school, I was always an athlete and in college I was working full time at the Jack in the Box across from [UTRGV]," Guerra said. "I was eating a lot of junk food. When I graduated high school, I was 180 [pounds], and then two years later, I was like 240 or 260. I was always like, 'You know what, I'm gonna try boxing.'

"I went to the gym ... and they were like, 'You just pay this coach $20 a week.' So I went, and he wasn't doing anything. I noticed the people he was paying attention to are the kids or the people who are really thin."

The Elsa native said he trained with the help of YouTube videos.

"I would watch Mike Tyson videos and Roberto Duran videos," Guerra said. "Those are the two people who inspired me to box."

Guerra, while also being a boxer, is pursuing a Master of Fine Arts and writing a book about his experiences as an athlete.

"So, right now, I'm currently working on my first book, which is called 'Fight,' and I'm working on that for the master's and I want to have [it] as my thesis," Guerra said. "I remember I got in the ring and I was like, 'Do I have to do this? I'm in college. Do I have to do this? I mean, I could just focus on college and when I graduate, I'll be a teacher, and I don't [have to] get punched in the head.' That was the first time I was like, 'Do I need to do this?'

"I started thinking about self-doubt. And one of the things that I told myself after that was fear disguises itself as the voice of reason. When you're scared of something, you will find all these reasons to not do it and there's all these plausible logical reasons to not go through it. That whole idea kind of inspired the poem, which inspired the book I'm writing."

Emmy Perez, a creative writing professor, said Guerra excels in writing as much as he does in the ring.

"He's taking my graduate poetry workshop in the MFA in creative writing program and he likes to write in multiple genres," Perez said. "In my class, his writing is really performative. On the page and also out loud, he likes to use a lot of wordplay in his poetry, which I find to be very engaging. He writes about boxing and life and sometimes how the two are related. That's only in some of his poems. He also writes about other topics, like relationships. And, as a student in the class, he helps other students because it's a workshop class.

"He's really encouraging to other students and offers really good feedback in the class to others. I already told several people about his upcoming bout and I hope to watch it, too. I ... admire anyone who is a professional athlete. I think it takes a lot of perseverance. The fact that he's attending graduate school, working and boxing, I think that's an amazing feat. So I'm cheering him on."

For more information on Guerra's upcoming super middleweight class bout, visit hidalgoarena.com.

TRUSTEE
Continued from Page 1

The Rider tried to contact the College Board for comment, but Sara Sympson, director of communication at the College Board said in an email to The Rider, "Thanks for reaching out. We don't have anyone available for an interview this week."

However, James Montoya, secretary of the corporation for the College Board, sent a statement.

"Dr. Hinojosa will bring an important perspective on issues of educational access, opportunity, and success to the shared work of College Board's Board of Trustees," Montoya wrote. "She's been a supportive and active voice on behalf of our members and students, having served on several College Board committees and councils since 2012, including the Higher Ed Colloquium Planning Committee, AP Higher Ed Advisory Committee, Forum Program Planning Committee, Prepárate National Advisory Committee, CSS Financial Assistance Assembly Council, and Southwestern Regional Council. We couldn't be more thrilled to welcome her as a Trustee."

Hinojosa said during a Zoom interview that her role will be to help establish objectives for the College Board.

"[It's] similar to how UTRGV [has] a strategic plan," she said. "The College Board is the same way. ... You're looking at policies related to membership and programs within the College Board. Something also that people probably don't know about the College Board is they're really great at leadership programs within higher education institutions."

Hinojosa views her role as being a voice for students to expand their access to higher education.

"Sitting one day and taking a particular test is not necessarily everything that you've done in your high school career," she said. "For instance, an SAT and AP aren't used as barriers, but instead are used to assess that. In fact, in [the UTRGV] admissions review, when a student applies to us, we don't just look at test scores. We actually look at, 'Did you take any advanced placement courses?' We look at a variety of things because we're also looking at what you've done throughout your career. And so, it's kind of bringing that view to the College Board."

Hinojosa said serving on boards like this benefits UTRGV by learning from other institutions and staff across the country.

"So they're learning ... what some of the best practices are, and so it gives us an opportunity as UTRGV to ensure that our staff are getting some of the best training, that we're getting some of the latest information about what the trends are out there," she said. "There's a lot of changes that are gonna happen with financial aid over the next couple of years. And so, not only getting that information from the U.S. Department of Education, but also hearing through the College Board and the research that they're doing allows us, as an institution, to be at the forefront of that."

Hinojosa said she is looking forward to the opportunity to represent UTRGV at the national level.

"I wouldn't be here if it wasn't for UTRGV and, so, the support from [UTRGV Executive Vice President and Provost Janna] Arney, from [UTRGV President Guy] Bailey is really greatly appreciated from a personal perspective," she said. "Being able to sit at the table at a national level with my peers and learning from them is critical ... to ensure access to higher education across this country."

The Rider asked Arney for an interview, but Patrick Gonzales, vice president for University Marketing & Communications, told the newspaper that Arney was not available.

However, in a UTRGV news release, Arney said having Hinojosa on the board will benefit the university and the region alike.

"Dr. Hinojosa has been in higher education for many years," Arney was quoted as saying. "An appointment like this is tremendous, not only for the Valley to be represented on a national scale, but also for UTRGV to have a direct seat at the table of this organization. We are proud of Dr. Hinojosa, and we have confidence she will represent us well."

ART
Continued from Page 6

"I think it's something that's long overdue," Larios said. "A lot of the pieces there can be replaced and new pieces can be put in."

She said some members of the club who know how to weld and create sculptures will help Hughes.

"It was basically, like, if the school is not going to do it, I'll do it myself, kind of thing," Cavazos said. "I think that's really cool of [Hughes] to do."

Hughes said the idea behind the project is true to what the Engaged Scholar program is all about.

"It's about engagement with our community," he said. "Whether it be within the university or within the two schools ... we kind of occupy this space."

Hughes said he is open to interest from any individual within the university who wants to help by volunteering or by sharing knowledge of horticulture, a branch of agriculture that deals with plant cultivation. People who are interested in the project can contact Hughes at sean.hughes01@utrgv.edu.

Pending approval, Hughes said he wants to start the project within the first couple of weeks of Spring 2023.

The Rider attempted to contact Stella Garcia, TSC chief of staff for the Office of the President, but was told via email by Paula A. Garza, coordinator of Administrative Services, that since the project is under review, Garcia cannot comment on the proposed plan.

Asked what he hopes the project will bring to the community, he replied, "It's such a beautiful place and to understand the history of what the campuses mean to the community."

"This sculpture garden is kind of basically on the border of TSC and UTRGV, and it's shared by both student bodies," Hughes said. "... The potential is limitless. It will be a great community space and a space ... that will be able to display art in the future by students. It can also serve as a model for the type of space that can be made within UTRGV campuses. ... It's definitely a proof of concept of how to blend art and nature and public space."

A Change in Mer-spective
By: Hana Elnahas

It was a perfectly warm day in July in the underwater city of Kuma. All the young mermen and mermaids frolicked around Ocean Mall, enjoying seaweed chips and squid ink drinks and having fun, all in all, except for Mar, troublesome mermaid of the sea, who was stuck in a place she'd rather not be. Her father wanted her to clean the whole reef, which was so unfair, all because she wanted to have fun the last year at the fair! (Actually, she had ruined the reef, with a bucket of ink and to everyone's grief). She spied Sealine sauntering near, with a smirk on her face, and had an idea full of eloquent grace. "Oh Mar," said Sealine, the worst of the worst "if I had to work, I would simply just burst!" Mar paid no attention to the pompous buffoon, for her plan would be put into action quite soon. Sealine laughed out, "Ha, ha," and she laughed out "Hee-hee," but there was absolutely nothing that would get Mar to cede. She took some of the grime and a barnacle she'd taken from the reef and started to spread them on her face, to Sealine's disbelief. "What are YOU DOING?" Sealine rasped in despair: "It's good for your skin, Sealine! Also, your hair!" The shocked mermaid observed contemplatively, then fixed her mane rather decoratively. Sealine shoved Mar away and began to remove the barnacles and the grime, and the reef did improve. Mar swam to her trove, for the next step of her plan which was to trick other Mer-people, as much as she can! With a broken surfboard and some squid ink for design, she wrote in big letters "Reef Skincare" on a sign. She charged fifty seashells for an hour of cleaning (but of course she didn't call it that, strictly speaking). Her treasure grew and grew, along with the line, of mermen and mermaids. It was simply sublime! The lie she had woven from laziness made her rich (not knowing the side effects of "reef skincare, including a terrible itch). Mar swam giddily back to her home feeling grander and wealthier than Caesar of Rome: For whether something is fine or is grime, mer-spective will tell, most of the time.

UTRGV MSA
Authors' Corner