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THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

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DEMOCRATIC TSUNAMI





DIEGO VITA / THE RIDER

U.S. Rep. for District 15 Monica De La Cruz greets attendees at her watch party on election night at the Verta Hotel in McAllen.



DIEGO VITA / THE RIDER

Bobby Pulido gives a speech at his watch party in his hometown Edinburg. Pulido defeated Monica De la Cruz for District 15 U.S. Representative.



HUGO A. SEPÚLVEDA / THE RIDER

Republican candidate Eric Flores's attendees at his watch party on Election Day Tuesday at Stefano's Brooklyn Pizza in Harlingen.



MARIAJOSE GARZA / PULSE MAGAZINE

Cameron County poll workers count Election Day votes Tuesday at the county courthouse.

Blue "earthquake" shakes midterm elections

HUGO A. SEPÚLVEDA
THE RIDER

After midterm elections, the results demonstrated Texas voters sought change. According to a political science professor, people may have voted for Democrats because Republican's promises were not met.

As of Wednesday, the midterm elections results in Texas have Democrats James Talarico for U.S. Senator with 5,444,982 votes, and Gina Hinojosa for Texas Governor with 5,230,789 votes.

In local races, Democrat Vicente Gonzales remains in his seat as U.S. Rep. for District 34 with 66.16% in Cameron County. In Hidalgo County, Democrat Bobby Pulido won U.S. Rep. for District 15 with 74.38%.

Mark Kaswan, professor for the School of Political Science, Public Affairs, Legal and Security Studies, said the results from the midterm election were not as expected.

"This election, the results are ... to put it mildly, an earthquake, and you never see an earthquake coming, which is why I like that better than a tidal wave because you see a tidal wave coming," Kaswan said. "Frankly, I don't think anybody saw this election as becoming as strong as it was."

He said he felt Democrats were going to do well in the elections, but the results proved "they did far better than anyone expected," especially in Texas.

"The results in Texas are mind-blowing," Kaswan said. "I don't think anyone could have predicted that after 30 years, over 30 years of not winning a single statewide election, Democrats swept all of the statewide races, every single one, including the Supreme Court and the Court of Criminal Appeals."

He said in 2025, President Trump told the Texas legislature to redistrict to give Republicans five additional seats in Congress.

"They did what he asked them to do. The Republicans lost four of those five seats that they had specifically drawn to win," Kaswan said. "And not only that, they lost two additional seats. So, Republicans actually ended up instead of with a net plus five, they ended up with a net negative one. ... Then you go around the country and race after race, Nebraska sending a Democrat ... to the senate for the first time in 100 years. It's just amazing."

With Democrats flipping Congress, he said they will be able to undertake investigations and deal more oversight over the executive branch.

"Oftentimes, one of the things when you have a party in the White House that's different from the ones that control the Congress ... [and] is really strongly opposed to the president, they can do things using their oversight capacity that make it very difficult for the executive branch to really operate," Kaswan said.

In the 2024 presidential election, Texas voted for Donald Trump, including Cameron (52.5%) and Hidalgo County (51%).

ELECTION RESULTS

Gina Hinojosa was elected the first Latina as Texas Governer with 5,230,789 votes in favor. Texans also elected James Talarico and Bobby Pulido to represent them in Washington D.C. The last time Texas was blue was 36 years ago.

When asked about why residents changed from voting for Republicans in 2024 to Democrats in Texas this midterm, he replied he thinks voters felt betrayed, especially in the Rio Grande Valley.

"They had been promised lower prices. They had been promised no new wars. ... They had been promised immigration policy that was gonna be tough, based on, as President Trump put it, 'the worst of the worst,'" Kaswan said. "So, what are people seeing? They see the highest gas prices that I think I've ever seen in Texas. ... You go to the grocery store and everything else, you're seeing a lot of higher prices. The new war in Iran, that's the main cause of the main causes, but not the only cause for the higher prices."

He said these factors, including the immigration enforcement, have made the people lose their trust in the Republican Party.

"I think [the Republican Party] may have a hard time getting it back," Kaswan said. "Now, that's not to say that people necessarily trust the Democrats, and ... really the question there is whether the degree to which the Democrats are able to actually follow through on some of their promises."

When asked whether ICE enforcement could change under the new administration, he replied Democratic representatives may not be able to eliminate ICE, but could cut back funding.

"There might be at least an attempt to put some limits on what they can do, but part of the problem for Congress is that they have to get Donald Trump's agreement to any of those kinds of limits," Kaswan said.

With Talarico as senator and Hinojosa as governor, he said a funding increase of higher-education institutions in Texas can be expected, as well as reversing budget cuts that happened under the Abbott administration.

"For example, under [Gov. Greg] Abbott, there was a ban on any programs that would specifically benefit Mexican American students, because they saw that as part of the sort of DEI initiative," Kaswan said. "It was actually written into legislation. So, that would have to get through the legislature, but some of that was executive orders. ... Those executive orders could be overturned, which means additional services for students at ... like UTRGV that have very large populations of Mexican American students."

He said what makes this election one of the "most significant" is people realizing they have the power to make a change.

"That is absolutely the most important thing about this election, that it reminds people of their capacity, that democracy matters. Elections matter," Kaswan said. "And that the billionaires have a lot of power, but, you know what? ... So do we."

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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ASNNOUNCEMENTS

Today

Union Unplugged: Caneluna Jazz Collective
The **Student Union** will present Union Unplugged featuring Caneluna Jazz Collective at 11 a.m. at the Student Union on the Brownsville campus and at the same time on the Edinburg campus. The performance brings live jazz music to campus.

Boli Fundraiser
The **Catholic Student Association** will host a boli fundraiser at 11 a.m. on the outdoor grounds on the Brownsville campus. The sale is an opportunity for students to support the organization's fundraising efforts.

First Gen Platica
First Year Experience will host First Gen Platica at 11 a.m. at the University Center ballroom on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Wednesday in the Math, Science and Learning center Room 1.105 on the Brownsville campus. The gathering provides an opportunity to connect and talk about the first-generation college experience.

Henna Outreach
Baptist Student Ministry will host Henna Outreach at 1 p.m. at Library courtyard. The outreach offers an opportunity to connect with members of the organization.

Guest Speaker Series: Judge Keno Vasquez & Attorney Zach Zamora
The Pre-Law Society will welcome Judge Keno Vasquez and attorney Zach Zamora for a guest speaker event at 5 p.m. at Liberal Arts Building North Room 125 on the Edinburg campus. The program gives students an opportunity to hear from legal professionals.

Tuesday

UTRGV Vaqueros Fitness Challenge
University Recreation will host UTRGV Vaqueros Fitness Challenge at 11 a.m. at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. The activity highlights fitness and student participation.

First Gen Takeover
First Year Experience will host First Gen Takeover at noon on the chaple lawn on the Edinburg campus and at the same time Thursday at the Student Union Lawn on the Brownsville campus. The gathering is part of programming for first-generation college students.

Tuesday Bible Study
Christians at RGV will host Tuesday Bible Study at noon at the Life and Health Science Room 1.104 on the Brownsville campus. Participants will gather for a discussion of scripture.

Wednesday

ASCE UTRGV Fundraiser
American Society of Civil Engineers will hold a fundraiser at 10:30 a.m. at the University Library media courtyard. Students can visit the fundraiser and support the student chapter.

¡Qué Rico! Aguas & Antojitos
UTeach Student Organization will host ¡Qué Rico! Aguas & Antojitos at 11 a.m. at the Main Building courtyard on the Brownsville campus. The event centers on beverages and snacks.

Air Hockey Tournament
The **Student Union** will host Air Hockey Tournament at 2 p.m. at the Student Union Game Room on the Edinburg campus. Students can participate in a recreational competition.

KDX Final Review
The **Kappa Delta Chi Sorority's Alpha Beta chapter** will hold a final review at 6:30 p.m. at the Student Academic Center Room 1.101 on the Edinburg campus. Participants will use the session to review chapter-related material.

Game Night Social!
The Filipino Student Association will host a game night social at 7 p.m. at the Science Building on the Edinburg campus. Students can gather to socialize and play games.

Thursday

Rise and Shine Burrito Sale
Marine Life Scholars Club will hold a morning burrito sale at 8:45 a.m. at the Main Building courtyard on the Brownsville campus. Students can stop by the fundraiser and support the organization.

Holy Mass
The **Catholic Student Association** will host Holy Mass at noon at the Chapel on the Edinburg campus. Students and other attendees can join the scheduled religious service.

6th Psychology Club Meeting
The Psychology Club will hold its sixth meeting of the term at 3:30 p.m. at Mathematics and General Classroom Building Room 1.202 on the Edinburg campus. The event will bring members together at the Mathematics and General Classroom Building.

Vaqueros Clubs Training: V Link 101
The **Center for Student Involvement** will host V Link 101 training for student clubs at 3:30 p.m. at the Palmetto Room in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus. The training focuses on using the university's student organization platform.

Boxing
University Recreation will offer a boxing fitness class at 6:30 p.m. at University Recreation on the Edinburg campus. The class focuses on boxing-inspired physical fitness.

Friday

Plug In & Spin Up
Student Media will host Plug In & Spin Up at 2 p.m. at the Student Academic Center Room 1.101 on the Edinburg campus. The listing does not describe the activities planned for the event.

Student Government Association 9th Senate Meeting
Student Government Association will hold its ninth Senate meeting at 2:30 p.m. at the Interdisciplinary Engineering & Academic Building Room 1.208 on the Edinburg campus.

Saturday

Volleyball Practice
The **Filipino Student Association** will host Volleyball Practice at noon at the University Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

Fall 2026 Family Day
UTRGV will hold Fall 2026 Family Day at 1:30 p.m. at Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg. The event is scheduled during the university's football weekend.

Football Tailgate Party: UTRGV vs. Stephen F. Austin
The **Student Union** will host Football Tailgate Party: UTRGV vs. Stephen F. Austin at 2:30 p.m. at Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg. The gathering is scheduled ahead of the football game against Stephen F. Austin.

Sunday

KDX New Member Initiation
The **Kappa Delta Chi Sorority's Alpha Beta chapter** will hold a new member initiation at 9 a.m. at Education Complex Room 2.102C on the Edinburg campus. The ceremony marks a milestone for the chapter's incoming members.

--Compiled by Diego Vita

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 27 and Nov. 3.

Oct. 27

9:18 a.m.: A female student at Troxel Hall on the Edinburg campus reported that an unknown person knocked on her dorm room door while calling out her name.

10:41 a.m.: An officer responded to a two-vehicle collision in Lot E16 on the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported.

11:17 a.m.: A male student reported losing his headphones at the University Library on the Brownsville campus on Oct. 19.

12:41 p.m.: A male student reported losing his iPod case at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus on Oct. 26.

2:38 p.m.: An employee reported losing a university identification card at her residence in July. The report was filed at the Clinical Education Building on the Harlingen campus.

2:38 p.m.: An employee reported losing a university identification card on Oct. 16. The report was filed at the Clinical Education Building on the Harlingen campus.

3:32 p.m.: An employee at the Institute of Neuroscience on the Harlingen campus reported the theft of a laptop.

3:47 p.m.: An officer responded to a two-vehicle collision in Lot E9 on the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported.

4:36 p.m.: A female student at The Village apartments on the Edinburg campus reported that an item marked as delivered to her mailbox was missing.

5:05 p.m.: A male student reported his scooter stolen from a bike rack at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus.

7:03 p.m.: A female student reported discovering minor damage to the rear of her vehicle after leaving it parked and unattended in Lot E39 on the Edinburg campus.

10:34 p.m.: A male student reported his bicycle stolen from a bike rack at the University Recreation center on the Edinburg campus.

Oct. 28

10:30 p.m.: A female student reported losing her vehicle key fob in Lot E16 on the Edinburg campus.

Oct. 29

1:05 p.m.: An officer observed a student operating a scooter on the Bronc Trail covered walkway on the Edinburg campus and informed him of the university's personal transportation device policy.

1:38 p.m.: While on patrol off campus in Hidalgo County, an officer observed a minor two-vehicle collision. No injuries were reported.

6:13 p.m.: A student contacted university police with questions about an encounter with an outside law enforcement agency off campus in Hidalgo County.

6:15 p.m.: A former student contacted university police with questions about an encounter with an outside law enforcement agency off campus in Hidalgo County.

Oct. 30

8:05 a.m.: An employee at the Community Engagement and Student Success Building on the Edinburg campus reported that an unaffiliated man requested to review security camera footage of an Aug. 18 incident at the Testing Center. The employee asked him to leave, and he complied.

10 a.m.: An officer responded to a single-vehicle collision at Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium on the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported.

11:31 a.m.: An officer responded to the Bronc Trail covered walkway near the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus after markings were found on laminated posters. The criminal mischief case remains under investigation.

11:45 a.m.: An employee at the Student Services Building on the Edinburg campus reported losing a university-issued proximity card. The university's information technology division was notified to deactivate it.

9:52 p.m.: An employee reported a university golf cart parked outside the Liberal Arts Building North on the Edinburg campus went missing. Officers later found the cart in parking Lot E36 with no apparent damage.

Oct. 31

9:37 a.m.: A student at Unity Hall on the Edinburg campus reported a smoke detector in his dorm room briefly sounded before shutting off, as it had several days earlier. Officers observed no smoke or fire, and a work order was submitted for repairs.

10 a.m.: An unaffiliated man left several voicemails on the university police department's landline containing concerning remarks about a person who had filed a criminal report against him. The obstruction or retaliation case remains under investigation.

2:51 p.m.: Officers received a report of a fox in the bleachers at Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg. Edinburg Animal Control safely captured and removed the animal.

11:25 p.m.: An officer was alerted to a dumpster fire in the 1800 block of Kuhn Street off campus in Hidalgo County. The officer used a fire extinguisher, and the Edinburg Fire Department responded to ensure the fire was out.

Nov. 1

10:17 a.m.: An officer responded to the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg after nicotine pouches were found near a restroom in the east-side tailgate area.

Nov. 2

8:30 a.m.: An officer responded to a two-vehicle collision in Lot B1 on the Brownsville campus. No injuries were reported.

8:40 a.m.: A student reported his sunglasses were stolen at Casa Bella Apartments. The report was filed at the police department lobby on the Brownsville campus, and the theft case remains under investigation.

9:03 a.m.: An employee reported misplacing a university-issued key at the Baseball Stadium on the Edinburg campus. The key was last seen about three years earlier and no longer grants access to its intended area.

9:03 a.m.: An unaffiliated man expressed concern that an unsecured parking lot at the Robert and Janet Vackar Stadium in Edinburg may have been entered by a vehicle. An officer checked the area, found no one and confirmed the gate was secured.

Nov. 3

5:12 a.m.: Officers responded to a fire alarm at the University Library on the Edinburg campus. No fire or smoke odor was observed. The building was declared safe for re-entry, and officers were advised to reset the alarm.

--Compiled by Diego Vita

Simple but effective change for UTRGV

JORGE RIOS
THE RIDER

The university introduced Simple Syllabus, a new software designed to improve students' and faculty's experience with course syllabi in Summer 2026.

Simple Syllabus has already been integrated into Brightspace and features UTRGV's Simple Syllabus Library, a new way the university provides the public and students access to all of its course syllabi, according to the university website.

Jonikka Charlton, senior vice provost for Student Success & Academic Affairs and dean of University College, said Simple Syllabus is the new platform replacing the university's previous management tool, which featured various syllabi and broken links complicating the system for students and faculty.

Robert Dearth, interim vice provost for Faculty Affairs, said a few issues with the previous software included slow updates to syllabi and concerns about "finding different versions of [syllabi] in a lot of different places."

Dearth said there are no changes being made to the syllabus requirements. The reason was to simply provide a more user-friendly system and minimize faculty's time managing syllabi.

He said although faculty can still utilize previous syllabi, they must now use Simple Syllabus regardless.

Regarding how this compares to previous syllabi, Dearth said Simple Syllabus features one template and automatic adjustments to dates, vastly improving the efficiency when adjusting and interacting with it.

Charlton said the automation of the software is especially useful for students, providing them with the "most up-to-date information."



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ/ THE RIDER

Film studies sophomore Edward Thomson works on his film class assignment Wednesday at the Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus.

She said this maintains compliance with House Bill 2504 issued on Sept. 1, 2009, which mandates higher-education institutions make course syllabi publicly accessible.

Despite their access to the university's course syllabi regardless of enrollment, students may underutilize this when evaluating potential courses.

Charlton said she encourages students to utilize Simple Syllabus for not just current courses, but future courses as well.

"My suggestion would be to go into Simple Syllabus, look at those syllabi, you know, from either this semester or the last time that they were taught ... because most of the time faculty are teaching the same courses from one year to the next," Charlton said. "So, you would be able to have a sense of what the workload was going to be like. You're able to plan your full schedule with a deeper understanding beyond just the course description."

Juan Escamilla, a computer engineering sophomore, despite feeling mixed about Simple Syllabus, said using syllabi to evaluate courses could be extremely beneficial when registering.

Escamilla said he had previously struggled with finding course syllabi, noting improving accessibility outside of the course could be crucial in filling in that gap.

He added when utilizing syllabi, expectations get a lot clearer and minimize instances where students' expectations for a course are not met.

Thomas De La Cruz, lecturer III in Writing & Language Studies, said Simple Syllabus is a lot easier to use as it automatically adjusts specific dates and he has fully switched over to using it.

De La Cruz said while he is satisfied with and has made a full switch to the new software, he highlighted the fact many of his students do not look at the syllabus in general, which may lead to unnecessary confusion.

"If you look up my syllabus, you see the assignments, ... my ... learning outcomes, ... my teaching philosophy and [whether] it all aligns with [your preferences,]" he said. "I think ... there's issues when we don't do that, and ... the expectations that you had when going into my classroom [aren't] met."

Charlton said the transition to Simple Syllabus may reflect similarities to UTRGV's transition to Brightspace last year, by also simplifying a system through feedback and, despite not as major a change as Brightspace, can also make a major difference for the university.

Charlton said Simple Syllabus is especially crucial right now given that registration opened up a few weeks ago.

Wi-Fi issues on university shuttle buses

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

Some students are struggling to connect to UTRGV's free shuttle bus Wi-Fi, despite the university implementing the service across all shuttle buses this Fall.

Maribel Contreras, director of transportation, said the university assigned an employee to monitor and verify all Wi-Fi systems were functioning on all buses, including charter buses.

She said the monitoring process was complete and all buses should have access to free Wi-Fi.

However, some students who regularly use the shuttle bus have experienced connection errors and limited access to the service.

Maxine Gamez, an interdisciplinary science sophomore, said she rides the shuttle bus Monday through Thursday and has tried to connect to the Wi-Fi on the shuttle buses at least three times without success.

"I don't think I've even been able to connect at all," Gamez said. "I've just used my internet from my phone."

She said having reliable Wi-Fi on the shuttle buses would allow her to complete her assignments and school work without having to depend on her phone's data and battery.

Despite students having trouble with connecting, Contreras said the Transportation Department has not received any complaints about the service.

She explained students must enable Wi-Fi on their devices, select the Vaquero Express network and enter their school email address for verification to gain access to the service.

Jonathan Lopez, a civil engineer senior, said he learned about the shuttle buses having Wi-Fi about two weeks ago. He successfully connected to the Wi-Fi on his first attempt connecting, but has received an error message when he has tried to connect again.

"If the Wi-Fi is not working and I need to do my assignments quickly, I will use my hotspot," Lopez said.

He added otherwise he would complete his assignments when he reaches class or at the library.

David Hernandez, a civil engineering junior, said he has also encountered error messages when trying to connect to the service on the shuttle bus and relies on his cellular data if he needs access to Wi-Fi.

Contreras said customer service assistants use a checklist to verify the Wi-Fi is functioning properly and, if students are experiencing problems, they can report them to transportation@utrgv.edu, so the department is able to investigate and fix the issues.

She emphasized providing internet access allows students to use their commute to check emails, review course materials and keep up with responsibilities.

"Our goal is to transform the daily commute into a more productive and connected experience," Contreras said. "Every improvement we make in our transportation is an investment in our student success."

She added the department will continue monitoring the service and working to improve connectivity for students.



DIEGO VITA / THE RIDER

Students wait near a UTRGV Vaquero Express shuttle bus at a bus stop on the Edinburg campus. The university's shuttle bus service provides transportation for students, faculty and staff.

SGA

Lockers in the business building

MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
THE RIDER

The Student Government Association is developing a proposal to install 40 lockers in the Robert C. Vacker College of Business and Entrepreneurship building on the Edinburg campus to provide students and organizations with storage space.

Valeria Delgado, an accounting junior and SGA Senator representing the College of Business and Entrepreneurship, said the initiative was inspired by students struggling to carry their belongings throughout the day.

She said many students commute from all over the Rio Grande Valley, bringing laptops, clothing, lunches and other belongings to campus.

Delgado added student organizations also struggle to find storage space for materials used during tabling events, guest speaker presentations and tailgates.

The proposal would begin as a pilot program in the business building to determine whether lockers would be beneficial before expanding to other campus buildings, according to her.

"We are starting with roughly 40 lockers," Delgado said. "Of course, the proposal is not finished yet, that's not a set number already."

She said the lockers would be divided into two categories: individual student lockers and designed lockers used as storage for student organizations.

Delgado said the proposal is currently in the drafting stage, with student survey responses helping determine demand for the lockers.

She said she has received positive feedback with many students indicating they would use the lockers if available.

Once completed, the proposal will be discussed with the appropriate department in the business building before being presented to the college's dean for consideration.

Delgado said several issues still need to be addressed including security, funding, locker placement and management.

Kevin Flores, an accounting junior and SGA vice president for external affairs, said he supports the initiative and has encouraged students to participate in the survey.

"I think I've gotten over like 40 people to do it," Flores said.

He recalled carrying chess boards around campus while helping with Chess Club activities and said having lockers would have made the experience more convenient.

"Just being able to have a locker hold that for a couple of hours, even 30 minutes of [a] class period would be very convenient," Flores said.

He added implementing the program in one college can demonstrate its effectiveness before expanding the initiative to other university buildings.

Amanda Hilbrands, an accounting freshman, said she had not heard of the locker proposal, but said it would be good because she spends most of her time on campus.

"I do spend most of my time on campus and I go from point A to point B... I don't like carrying a lot of things around and it just drains me sometimes," Hilbrands said.

Delgado said she hopes to expand the program to the library, other buildings on the Edinburg campus and potentially the Brownsville campus.

She said she hopes the proposal receives approval in time to begin working towards installing the lockers next semester.

"Even if I graduate, the proposal is still gonna go to the dean and hopefully get approved," Delgado said.

COLUMN OF THE WEEK

Funny how time slips away



MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR
REPORTER

Recently, my family and I have been looking back at old home videos to pass the time and spend time together, since we rarely get the chance to do so.

Watching these videos has brought on a wave of nostalgia that I had not felt in years, even though, in a way, I have always been nostalgic.

The videos show my brothers and me throughout different stages of our lives. One video that particularly stands out is of my brother and me running around a concert without a care in the world while our parents yell at us to come back before we accidentally run into someone.

Most of the videos were recorded before our youngest brother was born. After that, recording family moments became more common on cell phones. It was weird looking back at a time when our youngest brother was not born yet.

Although there are a few videos of him, most of the recordings show us on vacations during summer break.

> "Time keeps flying by, and I don't know how many more opportunities we will have....."

After watching the videos together, it was strange to look back at how happy and carefree we were. We were running around our old apartment, dancing in the rain and enjoying ourselves without knowing how much would change in just a few years.

We are all currently on different paths in life, but somehow, they remain connected.

I am getting ready to graduate college and pursue a career, while my brother is preparing to graduate from high school at the end of May and begin his college education. Our youngest brother is also getting ready to finish middle school and begin his first year of high school.

Looking back at those videos of us as happy children surrounded by family and friends, it was odd hearing the voices and laughter of people we have not seen in years. We rarely have the time to get the family together anymore.

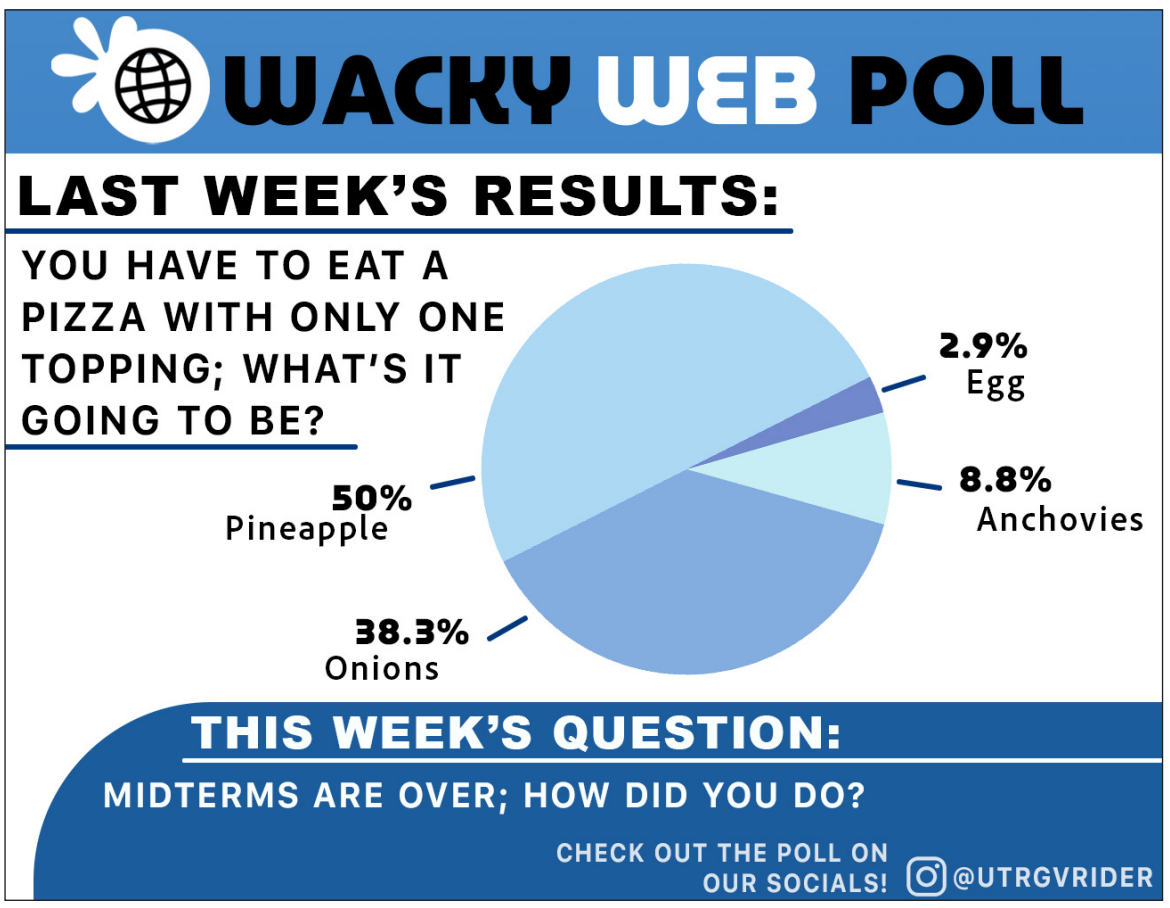
I have found myself longing for moments like those and wishing we could go back and experience them at least one more time. Maybe then we would fully appreciate the moments we were living in. Time keeps flying by, and I don't know how many more opportunities we will have to make memories like those.

Isn't it funny how a certain sound can instantly transport you back to simpler times?

EDITORIAL CARTOON

Victory tastes savory





VAQUERO VOICE

How do you feel about Texas being blue?

-Compiled by Alizzaya Guel



Julissa Ramos
education freshman

A: "Well, in my opinion, I feel like we are actually, like, growing as a state, because ... back then there was a lot of laws that didn't really help people like us. But now that we are blue, we are more open to new possibilities, new opportunities, for not only immigration or for different rights, but also for, like, the public system, because [Gov. Greg] Abbott, he's the one who made the law about ... the private institutions for schools, but in my opinion, I feel like we should support more of the public, because it provides more opportunities, more education, more jobs for teachers. So in my opinion, I feel like we're going to do a great job being blue."

David Gutierrez
excercise science freshman

A: "Pretty cool. I didn't really like the last guy too much. I'm glad that we have someone who can actually, well, hopefully stay here when any disaster happens."





Aileen Negrete
accounting senior

A: "I'm actually really happy about the outcome. I voted ... [Oct. 29,] so I was really happy with the outcome, cause with everything going on in the state of Texas, or in the United States, I feel like it was actually very necessary for us to have that little sign of hope."

Juan Pablo Peña
electrical engineering freshman

A: "I lowkey feel like that's crazy, because after it was Republican for so long, it just switched like that, and I don't know. I feel like Talarico ... both of the ones that were running ... they are not good candidates, in my opinion."



AIR MAIL
PAR AVION

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Simple, pero un cambio efectivo para UTRGV

JORGE RIOS
THE RIDER



ADRIAN HERNANDEZ/ THE RIDER

Estudiante de tercer año de diseño de comunicación visual Hector Serna Cerda checa actualizaciones de clases para el registro de primavera el miércoles en el Edificio de Artes Visuales en el campus de Edinburg.

La universidad implementó Simple Syllabus, nuevo software diseñado para mejorar la experiencia de los estudiantes y del profesorado con los programas de curso en el verano de 2026.

Simple Syllabus ya ha sido integrado en Brightspace y presenta la biblioteca de programas de Syllabus Simple de UTRGV, como una nueva manera por parte de la universidad de proporcionar acceso a todos los programas de cursos al público y estudiantes, de acuerdo al sitio web de la universidad.

Jonikka Charlton, vicerrectora sénior de Éxito Estudiantil y Asuntos Académicos y decana del Colegio Universitario, dijo que Simple Syllabus es la nueva plataforma que sustituye la herramienta de gestión anterior de la universidad, que incluía diversos programas de estudio y enlaces rotos, lo cual complicaba el sistema para los estudiantes y el profesorado.

Robert Dearth, vicerrector interino de Asuntos del Profesorado, dijo que algunos problemas con el software anterior incluyen lentas actualizaciones en los programas del curso y dudas "encontrando diferentes versiones de [programas del curso] en diferentes lugares".

Dearth dijo que no hay cambios en los requisitos en los programas del curso. La razón de hacer esto era simplemente proveer un sistema más amigable con el usuario y minimizar el tiempo del profesorado manejando los programas.

Dijo que a pesar de que el profesorado puede utilizar el software previo para la programación de cursos, ahora deben utilizar Simple Syllabus, independientemente de todo.

En cuanto a cómo se compara esto con los programas de curso anteriores, Dearth dijo que Simple Syllabus cuenta con una plantilla única y ajustes automáticos de fechas, lo que mejora considerablemente la eficiencia al realizar modificaciones e interactuar con el programa.

Charlton dijo que la automatización del software es para ayudar especialmente a los estudiantes, dándoles la "información más actualizada al momento".

Ella dijo que esto garantiza el cumplimiento de la Ley de la Cámara de Representantes 2504, promulgada el 1 de septiembre de 2009, la cual exige que las instituciones de educación superior poner los programas de estudio a disposición del público.

A pesar de que los estudiantes tienen acceso a los programas de las asignaturas de la universidad independientemente de si están registrados o no, es posible que no aprovechen este recurso al evaluar posibles cursos.

Charlton dijo que ella anima a los estudiantes a utilizar Simple Syllabus no solo para sus cursos actuales, sino también para futuros.

"Mi sugerencia sería que vayan a Simple Syllabus, miren los cursos del programa, ya saben, ya sea de este semestre o el último que se enseñó ... porque la mayor parte del tiempo, el profesorado está dando clase los mismos cursos año tras año," Charlton dijo. "Entonces, podrán ver y darse una idea de cómo será la carga de trabajo. Podrán ser capaz de planear su programación completa con un entendimiento más allá de solo la descripción del curso".

Juan Escamilla, estudiante de segundo año de ingeniería en informática, a pesar de tener una mezcla de sentimientos sobre Simple Syllabus, dijo que usar el programa de curso para evaluar los cursos pueden ser muy beneficiosos al registrarse.

Escamilla dijo que él anteriormente ha tenido dificultades encontrando la programación de algún curso , diciendo que, mejorar la accesibilidad fuera del curso podría ser fundamental para cubrir esa carencia.

Agregó que al utilizar la programación del curso, las expectativas se vuelven más claras y minimiza situaciones donde las expectativas de los estudiantes para un curso no se cumplen.

Thomas De La Cruz, profesor de Estudios de Escritura y Lenguaje, dijo que Simple Syllabus es mucho más fácil de usar, ya que ajusta automáticamente las fechas específicas, y que ha pasado a utilizarlo por completo.

De La Cruz dijo que si bien está satisfecho con el nuevo software y ha adoptado su uso por completo, destacó el hecho que muchos de sus estudiantes no consultan el programa de estudios en general, lo que puede generar confusión innecesaria.

"Si consultan mi programa de estudios, verán las tareas, ... mis ... resultados de aprendizaje, ... mi filosofía de enseñanza y [si] todo esto se ajusta a [sus preferencias]", dijo. "Creo que ... surgen problemas cuando no lo hacen, y ... las expectativas que tenía al entrar a mi salón de clases [no] se cumplen".

Charlton dijo que la transición a Simple Syllabus podría presentar similitudes con la transición de la UTRGV a Brightspace el año pasado, ya que también simplifica un sistema a través de la retroalimentación y, aunque no se trata de un cambio tan significativo como el de Brightspace, también puede marcar una gran diferencia para la universidad.

Charlton dijo que Simple Syllabus es especialmente crucial en este momento, dado que la inscripción se abrió hace unas semanas.

--Traducido por Hugo A. Sepúlveda

Tradición prehispánica, presente en campus

VALERIA TOKUN HAGA
THE RIDER

El capitulo Alpha Alpha Iota de Sigma Delta Pi, la sociedad nacional honoraria Hispánica colocó el altar para el 2 de noviembre como organización en el edificio Sabal Hall, en el campus de Brownsville, dijo Laura Garza, profesora del departamento de Español de UTRGV.

El altar surgió por el concurso anual de calaveritas y altares que organiza la sociedad. Garza dijo que la decisión responde a la importancia de reflejar la cultura mexicana dentro de la universidad.

"Es importante que la cultura mexicana se manifieste en nuestra universidad, por la misma naturaleza de nuestra institución", dijo.

Añadió que esta tradición cultural es parte fundamental de la vida en el Valle.

Garza dijo que el Día de Los Muertos es una tradición con origen prehispánico que se mezcló con las costumbres españolas, por lo que la describió como sincrética.

"Es importante recordar a los que se han ido, como parte de las creencias prehispánicas y del ciclo de la vida", dijo.

Agregó que hoy la celebración llega a todos los lugares a donde llega la cultura mexicana.

El altar estuvo abierto al público para quienes quisieran colocar la fotografía de un ser querido.

El altar de muertos incluye elementos tradicionales como la sal, el agua, fotografías, incienso y velas.

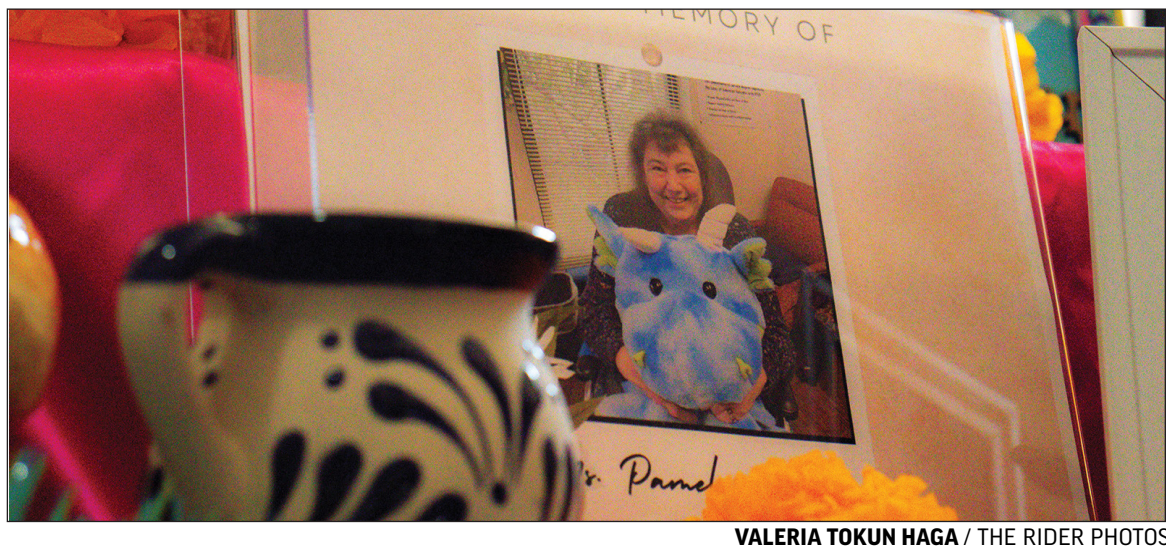
"Cada uno de los elementos tiene una función", Garza dijo.

Entre las imágenes en el altar, había figuras de la cultura y la literatura de la región. Algunos ejemplos que dio la profesora fueron, Américo Paredes quien estudió el corrido, Rolando Hinojosa, un autor del Valle que escribe sobre la región, Gloria Anzaldúa, autora chicana que estudio en lo que fue UT Pan American y icónicos personajes como Selena, Freddy Fender, Dolly Parton y Frida Kahlo.

También se colocaron fotos de maestros fallecidos, miembros de la comunidad y mascotas.

Garza dijo que la organización planea continuar con la actividad.

"Queremos seguir cada año poniendo el altar y renovándolo", dijo.



VALERIA TOKUN HAGA / THE RIDER PHOTOS

La organización de Sigma Delta Pi agregó una fotografía en memoria de la profesora Pamela Herring en el altar de Día de los Muertos para este 2 de noviembre en Sabal Hall en el campus de Brownsville.



La organización de Sigma Delta Pi decoran el altar del Día de los Muertos para este 2 de noviembre con flores de cempasúchil, velas, frutas y retratos enmarcado en Sabal Hall en el campus de Brownsville.

LUCHA celebrates life with Día de los Muertos

KAYLA MARTINEZ
THE RIDER

La Unión Chicana de Hijxs de Aztlán, hosted a Siempre con Nosotrxs event Tuesday which provided pan de muerto, poetry readings and live entertainment at the University Library lobby on the Edinburg campus.

The organization is a Mexican American studies chapter at UTRGV that prides itself on representing Mexican culture on campus through advocacy and community outreach, according to their page on V-Link.

"[The Día de los Muertos Convivió] was already a cornerstone of LUCHA," said Jesus Quiroz, history senior and president of LUCHA. "It's part of our cultura, so we wanted to make it bigger. There's a community out there, so we need to embrace them, if they give [us] the time."

This year, LUCHA invited five students from Universidad Tecnológica de Matamoros to participate in a cultural exchange through a presentation that took place before the convivió, where the students explained various Mexican traditions practiced during Día de los Muertos.

"Our teacher told us, 'Hey, girls, there's a culture exchange activity. Do you want to participate?' And we were like, 'Oh, yeah,' because we are always expecting to visit [the university] and to learn new things about [UTRGV's] culture," said Isabelle Hernandez, an English teaching sophomore at UTM.



KAYLA MARTINEZ/ THE RIDER PHOTOS

Universidad Tecnológica de Matamoros students and La Unión Chicana de Hijxs de Aztlán members gather for a photo at LUCHA's Siempre con Nosotrxs event Tuesday at the University Library lobby on the Edinburg campus.

Hernandez added that she was happy to see that students at the event enjoyed Mexican culture.

"Día de los Muertos is a celebration that is really emotional and so personal in Mexico," Hernandez said. "And we know that here, there are some Mexican students."

Also hailing from Matamoros was UTM's Dance Club, a Folklorico who won at the South Texas College Dance Competition State 2025 in McAllen.

The club performed a traditional Folklorico piece across the library lobby floor, complete with dresses, boots and charro hats.

"There was a lot of dancing, it was really nice," said Lexus Lopez, a former LUCHA officer and UTRGV alum who attended the event.

"I wish more people knew about LUCHA and what they do for the community, especially for us Hispanics," Lopez said. "It's such a beautiful thing to be part of this club. And I wish more people really know about it."

According to the organization vice president Diego Vigil-Alas, LUCHA has grown in membership in the last two years.

"I think it's due to the fact that we push that [LUCHA] is about our culture, and it's about building community," Vigil-Alas said.

Through annual toy drives and food donations, he added the organization takes great efforts to bring community engagement to students at UTRGV.

Vigil-Alas said he does not believe UTRGV promotes its Mexican culture enough.

"[UTRGV], not that it's trying to suppress us or oppress us, but it's trying to highlight the American and Texan culture," he said. "We are in the borderlands. ... There are people who cross every day just to engage with the U.S.A. ... I would hope that [students] would seek that out instead of letting it wither down."

Students interested in joining the organization can find it on V-Link under La Unión Chicana de Hijxs de Aztlán.

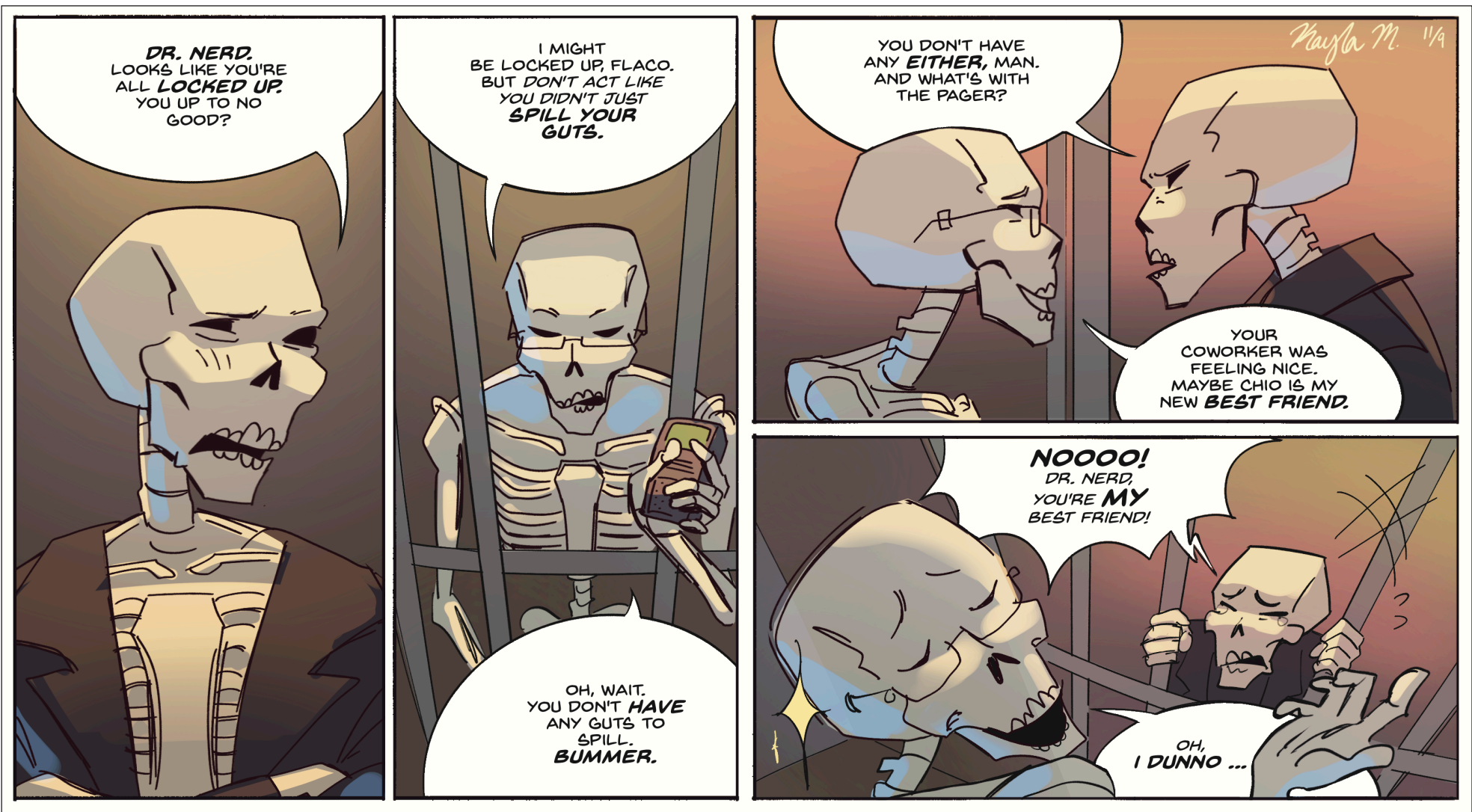


Universidad Tecnológica de Matamoros students receive a basket of snacks, courtesy of La Unión Chicana de Hijxs de Aztlán at their Siempre con Nosotrxs event Tuesday at the University Library lobby on the Edinburg campus.



Students from Universidad Tecnológica de Matamoros place offerings upon an ofrenda at La Unión Chicana de Hijxs de Aztlán's Siempre con Nosotrxs event Tuesday at the University Library lobby on the Edinburg campus.

Cadaver Conversations: Coworkers #9



Men's basketball set the season tone after opener devastation

TIMOTHY DAVID
THE RIDER

The men's basketball scene at UTRGV is on a promising path as the Vaqueros opened with a 81-51 victory against Texas A&M Kingsville on Nov. 2 at the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Senior guard B.B Knight and junior guard Caden Bell led the Vaqueros with 14 points each, from the first half fueled the performance for the rest of the game.

Bell said the team's confidence came from trusting the work players put in during the offseason and seeing that preparation translate into their first game.

"The way that we play with confidence, you know, trusting the work we put in over the summer ... and seeing that translate through the first game, and I want to see it translate through the whole season," Bell said.



TIMOTHY DAVID/ THE RIDER PHOTOS

Texas A&M-Kingsville redshirt guard Logan Gonzalez and sophomore forward Gage Harrison look to attack the basket while UTRGV redshirt senior guard Always Wright and senior guard B.B Knight defend at the Nov. 2 game against Texas A&M-Kingsville at the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.



UTRGV junior guard Chris Uwayo Jr. drives a dunk into the net after finding a route to score at the Nov. 2 game against Texas A&M-Kingsville at the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Knight said he was pleased with the team's chemistry and ability to move the ball in transition.

"I'm just happy how we play as a team, teammates found me and we were able to get out of transition, play fast, push the ball," Knight said.

The Vaqueros established an early lead after senior guard Devon Pryor scored on the opening possession and completed a three-point play.

Following an early basket by the Javelinas, UTRGV went on a 17-0 run fueled by Knight, who scored a layup and two 3-pointers. The Vaqueros held Texas A&M Kingsville scoreless for more than six minutes, building a 20-2 lead through defensive pressure and rebounding.

The Javelinas responded with increased defensive pressure late in the first half, holding UTRGV scoreless for a stretch of four minutes and cutting the deficit to 11 points with consecutive 3-pointers.

The Vaqueros entered halftime with a 42-19 lead. UTRGV also received 16 points from its bench during the first half and shot 7-for-12 from 3-point range.

UTRGV continued its momentum after halftime, with sophomore forward Bobby Crawford Jr. opening the second half with a dunk and adding six quick points following a turnover.

Pryor also connected with Posey on an alley-oop dunk through contact, extending the Vaquero's lead to 50-21.

The team continued applying full-court pressure, forcing turnovers and creating scoring opportunities. UTRGV used a 14-4 run to extend its advantage during the second half.

Senior forward Terrel Wright contributed defensively as the Vaqueros maintained control. Although the Javelinas improved their shooting and connected on four 3-pointers in the second half, UTRGV continued to capitalize on turnovers and limit their scoring opportunities.



Head coach Brandon Chambers shouts at the Vaqueros at the Nov. 2 game against Texas A&M-Kingsville at the Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus. The Vaqueros won 81-51. Edinburg campus.

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

JACE POSEY

TIANA MEZA
THE RIDER



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Redshirt Junior guard Jace Posey is a basketball player from Houston, Texas, who has begun his first season with UTRGV after playing his first three years at Texas Christian University. At the first men's basketball game of the 26-27 season, Posey scored a total of 12 of the 81 points.

Q: What inspires you, and why is basketball such an important sport to you?

A: "I would say my family inspires me, and obviously Jesus, you know, I wouldn't be here without him. And just the things I could do with basketball in my future. I would say those are the things that inspire me. I've been playing basketball my whole life. It's been running in the family, and I take pride in being here in the Valley. I take pride in my last name, so wherever I'm at, I'm gonna have pride on the court."

Q: What brought you to UTRGV after spending a majority of your college experience at TCU?

A: "I would say the coaching staff here, they're very good at communication. They had a plan for me and the program and a vision that I could see. So, I mean, I would say the coaching staff did a great job of getting me here."

Q: Basketball or track and field?

A: "Basketball, haha, that's an easy question."

Q: What is the best basketball movie of all time?

A: "'Thunderstruck,' the one with [Kevin Durant]"

Q: Do you have a favorite basketball player?

A: "I'm a big LeBron fan, so I'd probably say LeBron James."

Q: What's on your playlist when you're conditioning or practicing?

A: "My favorite artist is DaBaby, so I listen to him, or I listen to Trippie Redd."

Q: I read your father spent over a decade in the NBA and is a coach, how has your relationship with your father grown or impacted your relationship with basketball?

A: "I mean, I think it helped in a lot of aspects, like, the parent-child dynamic, like, you gotta listen to the parent. Sometimes, you don't always want to hear what the parent has to say. Same thing in basketball, you know, him being my dad and having experienced a lot of basketball situations that I want to experience. You know, he for sure knows more than me, and as a kid, you kind of have the resentment of hearing something from your dad ... So, it just taught me patience. It for sure taught him a lot of patience. Now, that's the relationship I got with him even after the game, he's just dropping dimes and letting me know what I'm supposed to do and all that."

Q: Do you think because you grew up with basketball as such a staple part of your household that it's changed your view of the sport and you as a player and a person?

A: "I would say so, but I think it might be hard for me to explain, just because it has been in my life for my whole life. I mean, I know what it means to me and my family, though, it puts us in a good situation.

It puts me in a good situation and it's just given me basically countless opportunities."

Q: What are you hoping to accomplish in your last year of college?

A: "I want to get this team to the tournament, I want to be conference champs, we always want to put our best foot forward and we value making a statement, and earn our respect here and in the college basketball world."

Moratorium on AI data centers begins for Brownsville

GAEL ESPINOZA
THE RIDER

The Brownsville City Commission unanimously approved the final reading of a 90-day moratorium on artificial intelligence data centers during a special meeting Wednesday at City Hall. The moratorium took effect Thursday.

As The Rider reported on Oct. 12, city officials had previously discussed the possibility of extending the moratorium for another 90. An extension is expected to be discussed Jan. 19, followed by a second and final reading Feb. 2. If extended, the moratorium would expire May 18.

Fourteen residents signed up to speak during the public hearing. Among them was Christopher Basaldu, a resident and co-founder of South Texas Environmental Justice Network, who said the city should consider a permanent ban on AI data centers.

John Cuvillier, a Brownsville resident and co-chair of the Democratic Socialists of America Rio Grande Valley ¡Fuera Data Centers! campaign, said he feels accomplished following the commission's decision.

"This was a people's victory," Cuvillier said. "The city might try to claim it as their own, but that's not true. The people are the ones that showed up week after week, month after month, to make sure that this moratorium passed, and that we established a task force, a community-led task force, meant to work with the community to develop regulations for data centers."

Etienne Rosas, a Brownsville resident and member of the city's Environmental and Conservation Task Force, described the moratorium as "better late than never" and said he thinks the moratorium is the first step toward further action.

"I think the moratorium is just the first step that we need to take in order to do a broader analysis of how these projects impact the quality of life of Brownsville residents," Rosas said. "This was something that was hard-fought by the community."



GAEL ESPINOZA/ THE RIDER PHOTOS
City Commissioner At-Large B Nurith Galonsky (from left), City Commissioner District 3 Gustavo De León and City Commissioner District 4 Pedro Cardenas listen to the public comments on Wednesday at the city commission special meeting. Fourteen people signed up to speak during the public period.

Linda C. Macias, District 2 city commissioner, said the commission hopes to learn more about data centers and determine the appropriate moving forward.

"Our hope is to, one, learn more about it, two, learn what we can do about it," Macias said. "We have implemented an environmental task force where each city commissioner appointed a community member that's passionate about the environment and individuals who have experience as well. We're hoping that through their conversations, we can also learn more. We're also taking community conversations and comments seriously."

However, the moratorium does not affect the 444 acres of land the city disannexed to SpaceX, which has been a concern among some residents.

In a Nov. 5 Facebook post, At-Large A City Commissioner Tino Villarreal addressed residents' criticism of the decision.

"Before this moratorium, any property already zoned Heavy Industrial could have started building a data center through regular permitting process without needing to come before the City Commission for a Specific Use Permit," Villarreal wrote. "The recently deannexed property (444 acres) behind our city landfill is a perfect example … I understand the criticism and concerns surrounding that decision … but there is an important fact that gets overlooked: that property was zoned Heavy Industrial. So, even before deannexation, a data center proposed on the Heavy Industrial portion would not have required [the] City Commission approval. Our City Attorney publicly clarified this during our previous hearings."

Villarreal and Macias said the commission will continue working with the Environmental and Conservation Task Force to research AI data centers.

Macias said the commission is fighting for their residents.

"I think that this is a really positive thing for the city of Brownsville," she said. "We are continuously working with all residents and all citizens. We want to let them know that we are by their side. We are fighting for them. We are with them, and we will continue doing what is best for Brownsville."

Rosas said the task force will base its findings on research, recommendations and available data.

"The Environmental Task Force is going to conduct its analysis based on a lot of recommendations from different cases but also on the data and the facts on the ground," he said. "We will carry out that assessment as we go along, and I believe it probably will lead us to the conclusion that data centers should be banned in Brownsville."

Cuvillier said residents should stand up for what they believe in and make their voices heard.

"I believe a better world is possible, but only if we organize," he said. "I implore folks who aren't already a part of an organization to join an organization, join DSA, join their union, and get involved in the community. Bring their coworkers together, their friends, their family, and come together around things that we have in common so we can make the world better."

Residents can attend Environmental and Conservation Task Force meetings to learn more about AI data centers. The next meeting is scheduled for Monday at 6 p.m. at the Brownsville Events Center, 1 Events Center Blvd.

A conversation with David Blue Garcia

KAYLA MARTINEZ
THE RIDER

Emmy Award-winning filmmaker David Blue Garcia returned to the Rio Grande Valley to share his journey into the film industry during the Communication Department's semesterly COMMversation event Thursday at the PlainsCapital Bank Theatre in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

Garcia, a Harlingen native, is a director, screenwriter and cinematographer known for directing "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" and "Tejano."

The event drew a full-capacity audience and began with communication lecturer Emily Villarreal presenting information about the department's communication major and minor tracks.

For more information about the Communication Department's programs, visit the department's website.

Garcia then discussed how his interest in filmmaking began when he was a teenager skateboarding with his friends.

"I wasn't very good [at skateboarding]," Garcia said. "So [my friends] would just give me the video cameras, so I could film their tricks. Then I realized that I really liked operating the camera and directing them to make them look better."

Garcia said he knew he wanted to become a filmmaker while in high school. However, because filmmaking resources were limited in the Valley at the time, he moved to Austin at 17 to pursue a film education at the University of Texas at Austin.

Starting off with commercials and short films, Garcia eventually debuted his first feature film "Tejano" in 2018, shot in the Rio Grande Valley with help and resources from his friends and family.

"I could just ask people for help, and they just opened their doors," Garcia said. "That's the great thing about shooting in the Valley."

After "Tejano's" release, Legendary Pictures reached out to Garcia to direct "Texas Chainsaw Massacre" after the original director was removed from the project.

"They saw [Tejano] and they thought, 'This guy knows how to make a movie, look what he can do with a little bit of money. Let's give him a lot, see how he does,'" Garcia said.

"Texas Chainsaw Massacre" was released in 2022 and is available on Netflix.

Garcia concluded his presentation by answering questions from attendees, where he provided advice for upcoming and aspiring filmmakers.

"I think it's really encouraging to see someone from Texas come back to the RGV and give us a peek into the film industry," said Anayancy Salinas, a theatre senior who attended the talk. "I feel like we're kind of forgotten down here, we don't really think of the RGV as a film industry."

Villarreal said connections helped the department bring Garcia to UTRGV for the COMMversation series.

"[Students] want to see people who are from the Valley, who have gone and left, and had an amazing career," Villarreal said. "They love when they come back and get to hear about it. We were super excited to have him."

Garcia, who's now based in Austin, told The Rider he was glad to be back in the Valley.

"I'm really glad that I was invited to come speak here at UTRGV, because it's been so great to be back, to have some really good tacos," he added with a laugh. "And to meet and see all the students … This was an incredible turnout."



MARIAH LYDIA ESCOBAR/ THE RIDER PHOTOS
Filmmaker David Blue Garcia points to the audience during his interview with UTRGV student Enrique Suarez. The event took place Thursday at the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus and focused on RGV native who directed "Texas Chainsaw Massacre."



Students fill the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus Thursday as they await to hear from Emmy Award-winning filmaker Blue Garcia. Students learned about Garcia's path to filmmaking as a communications student.



KAYLA MARTINEZ/ THE RIDER
Carlos Perez, lecturer of communications, presents David Blue Garcia with a gift on behalf of the Communication Department Thursday at the PlainsCapital Bank Theater in the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.