

# THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

MONDAY, APRIL 1, 2019 WWW.UTRGVRIDER.COM VOL. 4, ISSUE 25

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*"... there's a real high percentage that women get sexually assaulted when they're in college."* Page 4

# OVERCOMING CHALLENGES



Speech Pathologist Denise R. Garcia reads to Patricio Calleros during a therapy session last Thursday at the Moody Clinic in Brownsville. The session aims to teach Patricio action verbs.

## Clinic helps brothers with autism

**Jessica Mendez**  
THE RIDER

The feeling of uncertainty can storm down a parent when their child receives a diagnosis, but when Dr. Claudia Garcia knew two of her children were under the autism spectrum, she was determined to find all resources available for them to overcome the challenges of the

disorder. April is Autism Awareness Month. Autism is a neurodevelopmental disorder characterized by repetitive behaviors, social and cognitive impairments, as well as communication difficulties. The color blue is used to show support for people with autism.

Brothers Alejandro, 7, and Patricio Calleros, 5,

were diagnosed with autism at an early age. However, Alejandro's diagnosis surprised his parents when his fraternal twin brother Sebastian had no indication of being in the spectrum.

Garcia, a Brownsville resident, said she suspected Alejandro's condition at an early age and was able to

See AUTISM, Page 11

## Sexual Assault Awareness Month begins

**Klaudia Cedillo**  
THE RIDER

"I still think about it, even now. It's always in the back of my head. I always tell myself there was nothing I could do, but then it's led to this spiral of depression," "Ash" said.

"This happened when I was a sophomore in high school, and for the past, like, six years, I've been avoiding it, but at times it snips at my heels, so I just got to keep running."

"Ash" is not her real name to ensure the protection of her identity.

**"My trust in them completely vanished in that moment. I no longer wanted to hang with them. And I didn't for a long time."**

"I'm OK talking about it now, and I don't let it control me or my emotions."

Sexual assault is a "taboo subject" that has plagued people across the world, but some of these individuals often stay silent, whether out of "fear," "confusion" or "a mix of negative emotions" from this terrible crime, making this issue seem less severe than it actually is. This month, awareness of this prevalent problem will be spread throughout the university with a variety of events.

Cynthia Jones, a philosophy professor and director of the Office for Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention, said bringing awareness to the reality of what sexual assault is,

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## No free speech, no funding

**Eric Montoya**  
THE RIDER

To avoid losing federal research funding, universities will have to comply with President Trump's new executive order, which asks for universities to promote free speech on campuses.

"Taxpayer dollars should not subsidize anti-First Amendment institutions," Trump said during a ceremony before signing the executive order March 21 at the White House. "And that's exactly what they are--anti-First Amendment. Universities that want taxpayer dollars should promote free speech, not silence free speech."

Trump signed the executive order titled, "Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities," which aims "to enhance the quality of postsecondary education by making

it more affordable, more transparent, and more accountable," according to the order.

However, there has been confusion about what this executive order means, since universities already have to adhere to the First Amendment, which guarantees freedom of religion, expression, assembly and the right to petition.



Donald Trump

"It shouldn't really have an effect, legally speaking, because the First Amendment already covers this question," said Charles Olney, a UTRGV political science assistant professor. "Public

See SPEECH, Page 11



## City to ask feds for funding to deal with immigration influx

**Victor G. Ramirez**  
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

The City of McAllen will seek to request reimbursement from the federal government for costs associated with the immigration influx, a city official says.

"Basically, [there] was legislation added to the [Federal Emergency Management Agency] bill a few years ago," Ramirez said.

See MCALLEN, Page 3



# 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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MORE THAN A  
NEWSPAPER



## ANNOUNCEMENTS



**Today**  
**Motivational Mondays**  
**University Recreation**

will host a group session at noon in the second-floor conference room of the UREC on the Edinburg campus. A registered dietitian will be available at the session to answer questions on how to improve daily meal plans. The session will discuss how to make infused water. For more information, email urec@utrgv.edu.

**Ice cream bar**  
**The Student Union** will serve **free ice cream** with toppings at noon in the Student Union Commons on the Edinburg campus. For more information, call 665-7890.

**Camping 101**  
**University Recreation** will host a **camping seminar** at noon on the Student Union Lawn on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the event will take place at the same time Tuesday on the Chapel lawn. For more information, call 665-7808.

**Student Ensemble Series**  
**Patron of the Arts** will present the **UTRGV Low Brass Choir** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. Admission is free. For

more information, call 882-7025.

**Tuesday**  
**Support group**  
**The Office of Victim Advocacy and Violence Prevention** will host a **free support group** at 12:15 p.m. in Health Affairs Building West 1.142 on the Edinburg campus. The support group is for dating, domestic violence, and sexual assault victims and survivors. For more information, call 665-8287.

**Wednesday**  
**Intercultural Movie Series**  
**The University Library** will host a screening of the film **“Keep the Change”** at 11 a.m. in Salón Cassia (Main Building 2.402) on the Brownsville campus. For more information, call 882-8221.

**Gaming tournament**  
**A “Super Smash Bros. Ultimate” tournament** will take place at noon in the game room on the Brownsville campus. Students can play for free and get a chance to earn VBucks. For more information, call 665-7890.

**Health fair**  
**The Texas Southmost College Recreation Center** in Brownsville will host a **health fair** at 11 a.m. Free eye screenings, glucose, body fat and body mass index testing and more will be available. The fair is open to TSC and UTRGV students. For more information, call 295-3710.

**Thursday**  
**Teacher Job Expo**  
**The Career Center** will host school district representatives from across the state and country from 9 a.m. to noon in the PlainsCapital Bank El Gran Salón on the Brownsville campus. On the Edinburg campus, the event will take place at the same time Friday in the Health and Physical Education 1 Complex. A list of employers attending the event will be available on Handshake. For more information, email careercenter@utrgv.edu.

**Friday**  
**Racquetball tournament**  
**The Texas Southmost College Recreation Center** in Brownsville will host a **racquetball tournament** at 1 p.m. Students can register at imleagues.com/recreationcenter with their school email. Other emails will not be accepted. Sign up to join a team or create your own. For more information, call 295-3710.

**Faculty Artist Series**  
**UTRGV Patron of the Arts** presents pianist and Associate Professor **Juan Pablo Andrade** at 7 p.m. in the Texas Southmost College Performing Arts Center in Brownsville. The program will feature works from Mozart, Beethoven, Debussy and more. Admission is free. For more information, call 882-7025.  
--Compiled by Jessica Mendez

## POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 15 and 25.

**March 15**  
**9:30 a.m.:** A fire alarm was triggered by a water flow activation in Health Affairs Building East on the Edinburg campus. The Edinburg Fire Department later cleared the building for re-entry.

**UPDATE:** University Police arrested a 19-year-old student on charges of felony theft in connection with two cases of credit card/debit card abuse reported on Feb. 28 and March 8. The student was arraigned and transported to the Hidalgo County Jail.

**March 17**  
**9:07 p.m.:** A resident returned to her apartment and found empty alcoholic beverage containers in the common area, and full alcoholic beverages in the refrigerator at the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus. Contact was made with another resident who said the alcohol belonged to a friend visiting her from out of town.

**March 18**  
**7:24 a.m.:** An officer responded to an active fire alarm at the John Austin Peña Clinic near the Edinburg campus. It was determined that a smoke detector triggered the alarm. The Edinburg Fire Department later cleared the building for re-entry.

**7:52 p.m.:** A student reported losing his keys on either the Brownsville campus or Lincoln Park.

**9:03 p.m.:** An officer responded to a reference of a disoriented student in the Mathematics and General Classrooms building on the Edinburg campus. The officer determined that the student displayed signs of intoxication from an alcoholic beverage inside the classroom and was deemed to be a danger to himself or others due to his plan to drive. The officer contacted the student's mother who arrived and accepted responsibility.

**March 19**  
**10:27 a.m.:** A library staff member informed a group of students that the library was closing soon, and

was slightly pushed by a student for disrupting their recording session at the University Library on the Edinburg campus. The staff member told the student that the contact was not appreciated, and the students left the study room without further incident.

**March 20**  
**12:18 a.m.:** A small electrical fire was reported coming from an in-ground electrical box by the UTRGV sign on University Drive on the Edinburg campus. Officers and the Edinburg Fire Department were dispatched to the location but could not determine the cause of the fire. The electrical box was checked by a UTRGV electrician and a work order was submitted.

**5:39 p.m.:** A vehicle collision involving two unaffiliated drivers occurred on West Schunior Street near the Edinburg campus. No injuries were reported.

**March 21**  
**1:34 p.m.:** A staff member reported accidentally breaking the window of a parked, unattended vehicle while he was trimming grass in Lot E-22 on the Edinburg campus. Arrangements were made to repair the window.

**March 22**  
**1:08 a.m.:** A resident assistant requested an officer in reference to a student under 21 who had allegedly consumed alcohol in an apartment at the Village Apartments on the Edinburg campus. She was cited for consumption of alcohol by a minor and released. Another student over age 21 who allegedly bought the alcohol was identified and arrested on a charge of furnishing alcohol to a minor. He was

later taken to the Edinburg City Jail.

**March 23**  
**11:28 a.m.:** Areas were left without electrical power in the Main Building and the Music, Science and Learning Building on the Brownsville campus. Officers walked through the building and determined that they were partially affected by the power outage. The director of Campus Facilities was notified of the power outage.

**March 25**  
**7:07 a.m.:** An officer responded to reports of a wire stuck in the lock of an entrance door to the Education Complex on the Edinburg campus. The wire was removed, there was no damage to the door and no signs of forcible entry were seen.

**9:06 a.m.:** A fire alarm was triggered by a heat detector in the boiler room at the University Library on the Edinburg campus. The Edinburg Fire Department later cleared the building for re-entry.

**2:35 p.m.:** A public safety officer reported damage to a University Police public safety unit at the police compound area on the Edinburg campus. He does not know how or where the unit was damaged.

**8:22 p.m.:** A non-affiliated man was found asleep on the ground on the 1400 block of West University Drive near the Edinburg campus. He was determined to be highly intoxicated under the influence of alcohol and found to be a danger to himself. The man was arrested on a charge of public intoxication and was taken to the Edinburg City Jail.

--Compiled by Klaudia Cedillo

## CORRECTION

A photo published in the Feb. 11 issue of *The Rider*, accompanying an article headlined “College of Sciences receives \$1.4M for ‘community engaged’ courses,” misidentified the recipient of the grant. The College of Science received the grant, not biology

Associate Professor Teresa “Paty” Feria. The students in the photo participated in the event where the College of Science was awarded the National Science Foundation grant. The article also incorrectly reported the scholarship amount. The correct amount is \$250.



# Department to host conference on migrants

**Samantha Garza**  
THE RIDER

Seven activists will be featured at a conference hosted by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology on the "Defense of Migrant Families and Human Rights."

The conference will be held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday in Health Affairs Building West 1.404 on the Edinburg campus. Students, faculty and community members are invited to the event.

Jose M. Villarreal, Department of Sociology and Anthropology lecturer, will serve as host and a panelist for the event.

"The panelists are experts," Villarreal said. "They are not only academics, but they are activists who are at the forefront of defending migrant families and we need to be more conscientious of those who are less fortunate and try to do the right thing, to help in any capacity that we can."

The conference will feature Ana Bulnes, the consul of Honduras in McAllen; Norma Pimentel, executive director of the Catholic Charities of the

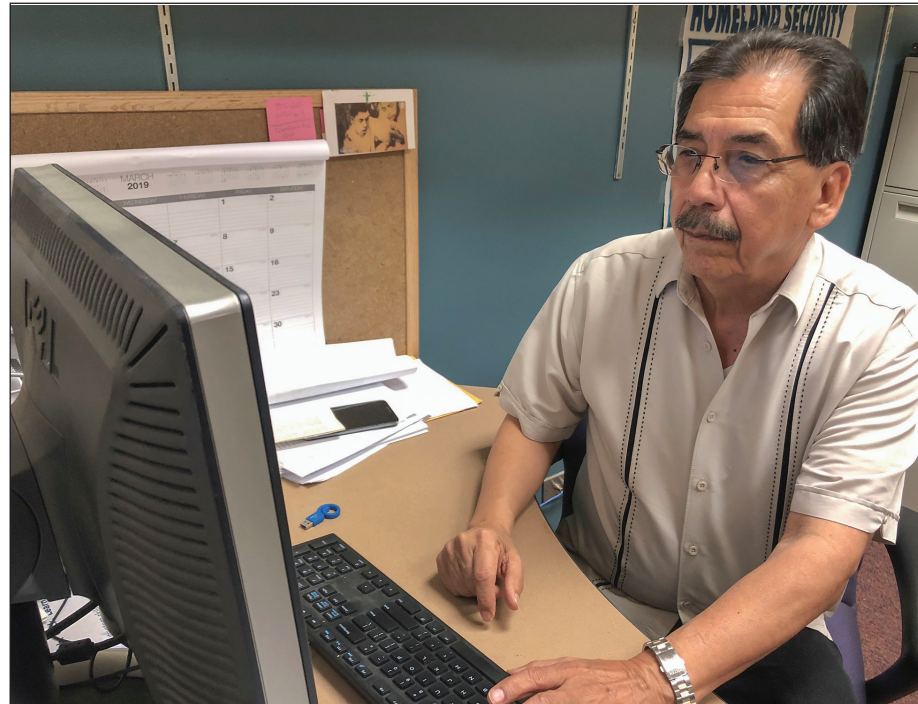
Rio Grande Valley; Eduardo Canales, secretary and treasurer of South Texas Human Rights Project; Cristy Andrino, the consul of Guatemala in McAllen; Elisabeth "Lisa" Brodyaga, immigration attorney; Nephtalí De León, author and muralist; and Jorge Lopez, an activist for the Chicano movement.

Villarreal, who on his personal time is a community activist and advocate, said he visited the Catholic Charities Respite Center in McAllen. The center is a nonprofit organization that helps the "poor" and the "vulnerable population" in the community, according to its website.

"There were about 1,000 or 1,500 people there: families, men, women and children" he said. "And the staff is overwhelmed. They need volunteers."

The department hopes the conference will "spark" the effort in the audience to become proactively involved in the community and become volunteers.

"We are hoping to educate the UTRGV community and the Rio Grande Valley community of the real issues behind the migration," Villarreal said.



Samantha Garza/THE RIDER

UTRGV sociology Lecturer Jose M. Villarreal will serve as host and a panelist in the conference, "Defending Migrant Families and Human Rights," scheduled from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Wednesday in the Health Affairs Building West 1.404 on the Edinburg campus. The conference will be hosted by the Department of Sociology and Anthropology.

# Lecturer receives Lifetime Achievement Award

**Nubia Reyna**  
THE RIDER

Jack White, a social work lecturer and executive director of the Good Neighbor Settlement House, has been awarded the Lifetime Achievement Award by the National Association of Social Workers.

Founded in 1955, the National Association of Social Workers is the largest membership organization of professional social workers in the world, with more than 120,000 members, according to its official website.

The purpose of the association is to "enhance the professional growth and development of its members, to create and maintain professional standards, and to advance sound social policies," the website states.

White, who has been working in the social work field for 50 years, said he was surprised to receive the award because it means a lot to him.

"It means a great deal to me," White said. "I've been involved in social work for 50 years and I have served in communities where respect and recognition don't occur, but here, in Brownsville, where sometimes it's awfully hard to deliver services to the [neediest] but recognition is part of the culture here. It was an incredible honor to have been recognized."



Robert Benavidez Jr./FILE PHOTO

Jack White, executive director of the Good Neighbor Settlement House, speaks on Aug. 29 during an event held to celebrate the 65th anniversary since the establishment of the Good Neighbor Settlement House.

The award, which White received on March 20 in Weslaco, is a recognition for someone who has and continues to serve as a professional in the field of social work.

"I'm honored to have been recognized by my peers and friends," he said. "To me, the opportunity to be a part of serving families and individuals in my community has been really important."

White, who also served in the military, said he loves the United States but there

are still a lot of things to be improved.

"I love my country, but I

**"I'm honored to have been recognized by my peers and friends. To me, the opportunity to be a part of serving families and individuals in my community has been really important."**

**Jack White**  
Executive director of GNSH

do know there are things that we need to correct or fix and

I have been able to work in communities where we dealt with poverty, with racism, with lack of resources in major ways," he said. "To me, it is satisfying, and it gives me a sense of having a role with the members of the community."

White has been the director for three years at the Good Neighbor Settlement House in Brownsville, where he helps oversee employees and get funding to keep the nonprofit agency viable and functional.

The settlement house assists the homeless and those

seeking political asylum in the United States.

"We provide meals, three meals a day, showers, a change of clothes, medical services, a place for them to receive their mail, call those people that are important to them [and] interpreters services," White said. "We picked up refugees that have not been processed but have been picked up by Border Patrol."

"Because their lack of space, they have been discharged to their families in the United States. So, we managed something like 90 mothers and children last [Tuesday]."

White encourages students from any field to volunteer at the Good Neighbor Settlement House because it gives them the opportunity to build employment skills that they will never get in other settings.

"Volunteering here gives a person an incredible opportunity that they'll never get in any other setting and it leads directly to building employment skills that they will find important as they finish school and move on to any other field, whichever they choose," he said. "Here, you will learn how to be a part of a team, you will learn to fulfill specific objectives, you will learn to be flexible and able to respond to crisis and at the end of the process, you will acquire skills that apply to

## MCALLEN Continued from Page 1

ago by Congressman Henry Cuellar that allows for a municipality to receive reimbursement for money spent in response to a humanitarian crisis," said Xochitl Mora, director of Communication for the City of McAllen. "That was added ... after the initial first wave of the Central American immigrants to the area when Congressman Cuellar still represented part of McAllen."

In 2015, Cuellar (D-Texas) added a provision in the federal appropriations bill that allowed the State of Texas to use FEMA funds to reimburse local governments and nonprofits for their costs incurred to provide humanitarian relief, according to a news release.

"So, we are simply stating that we will be seeking that reimbursement, ... however long we need to continue providing support because of the influx of refugees to the area," Mora said. "We haven't submitted anything yet. It is just that ... statement to let the taxpayers know, to let our community

know, to let our elected officials know what we are doing."

Asked how much money the city is spending in connection with the immigrant influx, she replied, "I don't know and I don't know if there will be anybody that will have that dollar amount as of today. It's changing based on the number and what the needs are as they fluctuate."

McAllen isn't the only city on the border that is experiencing an increase.

Last Wednesday, Kevin K. McAleenan, commissioner for the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, held a

news conference in El Paso to discuss the increase in illegal crossing of immigrants on the Southwest border.

"CBP is facing an unprecedented humanitarian and border security crisis all along our Southwest Border," McAleenan said. "And nowhere has that crisis manifested more acutely than here in El Paso Sector. Here in El Paso, we have almost 3,500 migrants in custody this morning, in facilities designed for many fewer. We had over 1,000 apprehensions on Monday. The vast majority are families from Central America."





**SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS**



*“Pienso que es importante que tengamos un tiempo para hablar de lo que es la cosa sexual y cómo identificarlo. Y que tengamos un mes designado a eso, facilita, como el diálogo, o sea, crea un espacio, como, seguro para hablar sobre, pues, un tema que es muy difícil como ese, porque es importante saber sobre eso, saber identificarlo, y evitarlo y educarnos al respecto”.*

**Ashley Silva**  
Manufacturing engineering junior

“I think it’s important because, I don’t know where I heard this, but I think there’s a real high percentage that women get sexually assaulted when they’re in college. So, it is really important because people should know that this is not right. It helps people to understand that they have to maybe help these girls ... or just to inform the rest of their friends that it’s not right and if you see it, report it.”



**Yoshi Ortiz**  
Accounting senior



“I think that Sexual Assault Awareness Month is important so that everyone knows what’s going on around in the area and just so that everybody’s well educated. Some people might not know about the subject. I think it’s a good way to get the word out.”

**Maria Rodriguez**  
Pre-nursing freshman

“I think that Sexual Assault Awareness Month is very important because, quite unfortunately, across the United States, as we do have a rather increase in sexual violence, sexual assault violence amongst students, if you will. I think that as that increase happens, we need to have an increased awareness. That, hopefully, as we have increase in awareness, and that it does happen, we could have a decrease. And our awareness as students and faculty and staff can help to mitigate such circumstances. That’s why I think it’s very important that we have such a month.”



**Gabriel De La Garza**  
History senior

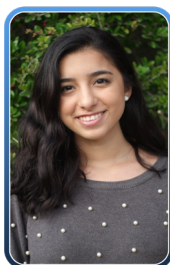
—Compiled by Robert Benavidez Jr. and Aaliyah Garza

**Submit a Letter to the Editor**

*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.*



**It is not your fault**



**Samantha Garza**  
THE RIDER

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and I’m here to share

two stories, mine and a dear friend’s. Both valid. Both not our fault.

Sexual assault is defined as “illegal sexual contact that usually involves force upon a person without consent or is inflicted upon a person who is incapable of giving consent (as because of age or physical or mental incapacity) or who places the assailant (such as a doctor) in a position of trust or authority,” according to Merriam-Webster.com.

As women grow up, we are taught to not wear “provocative” clothes and to act as “ladies.” When I say, “we are taught to,” it is not specific to parents, or to schools. I am talking about our society in general.

My story of sexual assault is probably not that different from others, and depending on your personal view, you might even consider it as “harassment” instead of assault. I’ll leave that up to you to decide.

Like many other teenagers, my friends and I would attend parties and, occasionally, nightclubs. There would always be a moment when I didn’t feel safe. When there was a stranger too close to me, I had to ask one of my male friends to be near me, to “protect me.” I would think of

ways to blame myself: “Maybe, I shouldn’t have worn ...”

Strangers get too close, they touch, they grab and they make unwanted comments about appearance. When this happened, I would walk away, take a moment and think, “It’s just men being men.”

However, I would like to clarify one thing. By going out, I was not asking for anything. This has also happened at parades, carnivals, school events and even in the security of our own homes, as in the case of my friend.

For the sake of this story, and to respect her privacy, I

**“ It can happen to anyone, when it should be happening to no one. ”**

will call my friend Zutana (the Spanish version of Jane Doe).

We met when she was 15 and I was 16 years old, and quickly became good friends. After a couple of weeks of being friends, she decided to confide in me. I remember the tears in her eyes as she told me her story.

Zutana was 13 years old. It was Christmas Day, and her parents were not in town. To celebrate the holiday, other members of her family had gathered at her house. Her brother-in-law said he was going to his house to pick up some things. We will call him “Fulano.”

Zutana didn’t think much

of it and decided she would go with him. After all, it was her brother-in-law. She did not think she was in danger. They arrived at the house, and she went to go watch TV in one of the bedrooms to wait for Fulano to get what he needed.

As she was watching TV, she began to fall asleep. During this time was when Fulano went into the bedroom and began to sexually assault her. The TV then made a loud noise and that is when she “woke up,” and he moved away from her. She told me with tears running down her face that if the TV had not been on, she doesn’t know how far he would have gotten.

It took her a couple of months to gather the courage to tell her mother. Two years later, the mother decided it was time to tell Fulano’s wife. When she heard what her husband had done, she did not believe it. The family decided not to press charges because Fulano is “family.”

Zutana says that on that day she lost the strength to speak up, her innocence and her dignity. She also believes that she lost the sister who raised her. She lost the sister who decided to believe a pedophile rather than her own sister.

It was no stranger, it was her sister’s husband. She was not asking for anything.

Sexual assault does not only happen to women. It happens to children, men, members of the LGBTQ+ community, the disabled and mentally ill, etc.

It can happen to anyone, when it should be happening to no one.

*It is not your fault.*



# Sin libre expresión, no hay financiación

## Trump firma orden ejecutiva para universidades

**Eric Montoya**

EDITOR DE ESPAÑOL

Para evitar perder financiación federal para investigación, las universidades tendrán que acatarse con la nueva orden ejecutiva firmada por el presidente Donald Trump, la cual requiere que las instituciones de educación superior promuevan la libertad de expresión en sus campus.

“El dinero de los contribuyentes no debería subsidiar a las instituciones en contra de la Primera Enmienda”, dijo Trump durante la ceremonia previa a la firma de la orden ejecutiva el 21 de marzo en la Casa Blanca. “Las universidades que deseen dinero de los contribuyentes deberían promover la libertad de expresión, no la libertad de expresión silenciada”.

Trump firmó la orden ejecutiva titulada, “Improving Free Inquiry, Transparency, and Accountability at Colleges and Universities” (Mejorando la Libertad de Indagación, Transparencia, y Responsabilidad en Colegios y Universidades), la cual tiene como objetivo “mejorar la calidad de la educación post-secundaria haciéndola más accesible, más transparente, y más responsable”, de acuerdo con la orden.

Sin embargo, ha habido confusión acerca del significado de esta orden ejecutiva, ya que las universidades en Estados Unidos ya siguen la Primera Enmienda, la cual garantiza la libertad de religión,



Foto Ilustración por Víctor G. Ramirez

expresión, asamblea y el derecho de petición.

“Realmente, no debería de tener ningún efecto, legalmente hablando, ya que la Primera Enmienda ya cubre esta cuestión”, dijo Charles Olney, un profesor de ciencia política de UTRGV. “Las universidades públicas no pueden discriminar en base al contenido de la expresión”.

Olney dijo que las universidades podrían experimentar un efecto conocido como “chilling effect” o “efecto moderador” como resultado de la orden ejecutiva de Trump.

“No es que regules la expresión explícitamente, pero creas un ambiente donde la gente está preocupada y dicen, ‘No

quiero que me investiguen. No quiero ponernos en peligro. Mejor no hay que arriesgarnos”, dijo él. “Así que, si hay un efecto, es probable que sea ese”.

En una entrevista con *The Rider*, Patrick Gonzales, vicepresidente auxiliar de comunicaciones publicitarias de UTRGV, dijo que no cree que esta orden ejecutiva afecte a la universidad.

“Dicho esto, sé que parte de la orden ejecutiva indica que el presidente les dio a ciertos departamentos federales el derecho de implementar pólizas y procedimientos en base a la libertad de expresión”, dijo Gonzales. “Hasta donde yo sé, estas no han sido anunciadas por los departamentos. Así

que, tú sabes, obviamente, tendremos que esperar y ver lo que ellos desarrollen para esta orden ejecutiva y tendremos que cumplir con estas como se necesite”.

La orden no creará una norma más estricta hacia la libertad de expresión en los campus de las universidades, pero “simbólicamente, esta da a entender, ‘Mantendremos los ojos abiertos hacia esto. Los estamos observando’”, Olney dijo.

Al preguntarle si el gobierno federal es capaz de interrumpir la financiación para las universidades que no cumplan con los requisitos de la orden ejecutiva de Trump, él contestó, “No puedes nada más quitarles arbitrariamente los fondos que ya han sido

asignados o determinados, pero una gran cantidad de los fondos federales para proyectos de investigación son administrados por el poder federal. ... Creo que, si nada cambia en particular, en cuanto a lo que los campus están haciendo, y luego el presidente dice, ‘Debido a esta orden ejecutiva, les quitaré \$75 millones de dólares en fondos’, probablemente habrá una demanda”.

Gonzales dijo que UTRGV continuará respetando la Primera Enmienda.

“Nuestra postura es continuar haciendo lo que actualmente hacemos cuando se trata de libertad de expresión en la universidad”, dijo él. “Como universidad pública estatal, debemos adherirnos a la Primera Enmienda y a las legalidades que vienen con ella, y eso es lo que hemos estado haciendo y eso es lo que vamos a hacer”.

Respecto a la ejecución de la orden, Olney dijo que esto no se ha especificado.

“Es muy difícil saber, ya que la libertad de expresión es una cuestión muy amorfa”, él dijo.

Hay muchas investigaciones sobre este tema que prueban que la libertad de expresión no es un problema en los campus universitarios, Olney dijo.

“La investigación que se ha hecho sobre esta cuestión ha sido bastante conclusiva para decir que no existe ninguna crisis de libertad de expresión”, dijo él. “Obviamente, siempre podemos mejorar ... pero no está claro si existe un problema que necesite ser resuelto”.

# McAllen pedirá apoyo federal Para cubrir costos de afluencia de inmigrantes

**Victor G. Ramirez**

EDITOR EN JEFE

La Ciudad de McAllen buscará conseguir un reembolso del gobierno federal para cubrir los costos asociados con el reciente incremento en la afluencia de inmigrantes, una dignataria de la ciudad dice.

“Básicamente, hubo legislación que se añadió al proyecto de ley [Federal Emergency Management Agency] unos años atrás por el congresista Henry Cuellar que permitió que la municipalidad recibiera un reembolso por el dinero invertido como respuesta hacia una crisis humanitaria”, dijo Xochitl Mora, directora de comunicaciones para la Ciudad de McAllen. “Eso se añadió ... después

de que la primera ola de inmigrantes centroamericanos llegó al área cuando el congresista Cuellar todavía representaba parte de McAllen”.

En 2015, Cuellar (D-Texas) añadió una cláusula en el proyecto de ley sobre las consignaciones federales que le permitió al Estado de Texas usar fondos de FEMA para reembolsar a los gobiernos locales y a las organizaciones sin fines de lucro por los costos incurridos para proveer ayuda humanitaria, de acuerdo con un comunicado de prensa.

“Así que, simplemente estamos declarando que trataremos de conseguir ese reembolso ... durante el tiempo que necesitemos proporcionar





# UTRGV students showcase their spring style

**Britney Valdez**  
A&E EDITOR

With the start of the spring season, many people are locking away their coats and thick sweaters until the next holiday season. For those who still want to make use of their winter clothes, the campus community and *The Rider* have collaborated to give advice on how to do so.

Name: Andrew Delgadillo  
Major/Classification: Nursing junior  
Outfit description: Ripped-knee, acid-wash jeans paired with white Converse tennis shoes, a graphic T-shirt, a necklace and a deep rose-beige bomber jacket.

Style advice: Rather than looking toward others for inspiration, he instead aims to dress in casual, street style. "I don't think I look up to anyone in particular. I just try to keep it real casual most of the time and I do like dressing up, but I kind of keep that ... toned down a bit because I like the city look, the casual look. That's more of my style."

His favorite shops include H&M and Adidas, but he is branching out to designer and name brands like Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren. "[Dressing] for the weather could be complicated here, you know, tomorrow it could be summer or today it could be, like, winter, so, it's kind of hard to just plan



Jorge Abundiz / THE RIDER PHOTOS

out what you're going to wear."

Name: Karen Quinonez  
Major/Classification: Nursing freshman

Outfit description: Light pink, long-sleeve shirt, high-waisted skinny jeans, gold tear drop-shaped earrings and pink metallic slip-on shoes.

Style advice: Quinonez utilizes color play in her everyday outfits, while also dressing accordingly to the seasons. "The seasons [inspire my outfits]. I usually like to match the color of my shirt to the color of my shoes." She typically shops at Forever 21. By building a colorful wardrobe, she is able to get use of her winter clothes in the spring as well. "The colors help a lot with [transitioning my wardrobe.] I also wear more sweaters in the fall."

With Texas' unpredictable weather, it's safe to say that dressing practically is difficult.

Typically, in the mornings, it is cool, and it gets warmer toward the afternoon.

To accommodate this, I personally like to incorporate long sleeves and long socks into my outfits to balance out the warm clothes. By doing this, you can lighten the layers of clothing throughout the day, or build it back up toward the evening.



# Stories of practical jokes, embarrassing moments

**Britney Valdez**  
A&E EDITOR

Today is April Fools' Day, the day to share laughs with friends and family. *The Rider* asked the campus community about the times they felt foolish.

According to thelibraryofcongress.org, historians believe that April Fools' Day began in 1582 in France. At the time, France had switched from the Julian

calendar to the Gregorian calendar during the Council of Trent.

People who didn't receive the notice of the change continued to celebrate the start of the new year on April 1 instead of on Jan. 1 and became the target of jokes and teasing, according to the website.

Other origins include "The Nun's Priest's Tale," which tells the story of a rooster fooling a fox on April 1.

Computer engineering junior Ovidio Serrato had been pranked by his brother on Halloween when he was a child.

"One time ... my brother was wearing the Michael Myers, Jason mask and he just came out of the closet and scared me," Serrato said.

He said these less serious moments are fun and help us learn to be more aware of our surroundings.

Accounting junior Rafael

De Anda's family combined their efforts to play a joke on him.

"There was one time where I was asleep on the couch at my home and all my family was there gathered together," De Anda said. "Suddenly, they start screaming and I woke up and started running without any reason. I was so scared, I didn't even stop to see what was happening. I just got up and [ran]."

He said these moments of silliness are what make life exciting.

"They're really important because without funny moments ... life would be boring," Anda said.

Nursing junior Fantasy Arenas and biology senior Deanna-Marie Gonzales have not been significantly pranked, but they both appreciate looking back on memories where the stress of life seemed to have paused.

## Scribbles & Thoughts

By Laia Vite

### BEING IN THE ZONE





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# Climbing like Spider-Man

**Ramiro Barrera**  
SPORTS REPORTER

A civil engineering freshman and a mechanical engineering senior won first place in the women's and men's divisions of University Recreation's second annual Top Rope Climbing Competition last Thursday.

The event is part of the intramurals program that the department hosts. The competition took place on the Rockwall at the UREC on the Edinburg campus.

Recreation Program Coordinator Alex Hintz said the purpose of the event is to introduce people to rock climbing and to the facility.

Other universities also have rockwall competitions, but the difference at UTRGV is

that the contest is open to all UREC members.

In the competition, there are five ropes. Each rope has a different route and points that are added to each participant's individual score. If they complete the routes, they earn the points, but if they fall, the judges decide how many points they earned, depending on how far they climbed.

Ten people competed. In the women's division, civil engineering freshman Martina Garcia placed first with 1,600 points; social work senior Genesis Rodriguez, second place, 1,100 points; and biology junior Gabriela Chaverria, third place, 900 points.

In the men's division, mechanical engineering

senior Osmar Sanchez earned first place with 5,200 points; software developer Mark Lagunez, second place, 4,600 points; and marine biology freshman Gaspar Najera, third place, 3,300 points.

Garcia shared the routines and exercises she practiced to win the competition.

"I usually come here every single day," she said. "I try to climb more than twice a day. I do workouts outside to help out my strength, too."

Garcia has a message for those interested in participating in upcoming climbing competitions.

"It's scary and intimidating to come and see the wall," she said. "But once you try your first route, you'll get the hype and the energy of it, and you'll want to continue coming."



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER

Mechanical engineering senior Osmar Sanchez participates in the Top Rope Competition at the UREC on the Edinburg campus. Also shown is engineering senior Jonathan Elliott.



COURTESY PHOTO

Winners of the Top Rope Climbing Competition are (from left) Gaspar Najera, third place; Osmar Sanchez, first place; Mark Lagunez, second place; Genesis Rodriguez, second place; Martina Garcia, first place; and Gabriela Chaverria, third place.

Column

## The new era for 'El Tri' has begun



**Ramiro Barrera**  
SPORTS REPORTER

Gerardo "Tata" Martino was introduced as Mexico's national soccer team head coach

on Jan. 7. Every time a new coach arrives to "El Tri," millions of Mexicans hope that a new process will let them advance to the famous "fifth game" in the 2022 FIFA World Cup tournament.

"Tata" made his debut as the Mexican team's coach on March 22 against Chile's national soccer team at the Qualcomm Stadium in San Diego, Calif.

Pressure, position, possession, precision and passion. Those are the pillars of Martino's Doctrine and there are no secrets in it. The only secret is to do it well. And do it always; it doesn't matter who you are playing against.

Mexico defeated Chile 3-1 that Friday in San Diego. "El Tri" seemed comfortable on the board and on the field, but only in the second half. The first 45 minutes were considered hysteria.

It was a night of experimenting and attempts. Scores often cause confusion, especially a 3-1. This is one of them, because Mexico certainly cannot celebrate or regret it. The first half was a complete stigma. But in the second half, everything changed.

Martino discovered that the group is trying to do what he wants to do, the style of play and ways to improve it. But, obviously, not all the players met

the coach's expectations.

In the second half, the team got better, and this was because of the principles mentioned before. Some of the players already know them, some because of their experience and others because they played with that style of game in their clubs. Some players learned the principles in Europe and others learned them in the Liga MX.

The first test has left a positive result. It's always good to start on the right foot. Mexico was able to win the game because the road to triumph was established from the effective treatment of the ball, starting a play from the defense, not jumping the lines and explosive transitions with speed and depth--the pure style of Martino's play.

The faces of the new Mexican generation stepped forward: Carlos Rodríguez, Rodolfo Pizarro, Raúl

Jiménez, Edson Álvarez, Jesús Gallardo and Hirving Lozano. With them, Martino will generate a future, but he will do it, I suppose, with intelligence: maintaining the base of veterans--Guillermo Ochoa, Andres Guardado, Hector Moreno, Javier "Chicharito" Hernandez--and giving the young players an opportunity to play.

It is true that the style of Juan Carlos Osorio, the previous "El Tri" coach, seemed more attached to the needs of a soccer club than a selection. Martino doesn't do too many experiments. He will put the pieces in place and as soon as he has the chance, will look for a base team with which he can rehearse his style again and again to get what he wants.

The process is underway and many fans, including me, can feel calm, because the work done by Tata in a couple of games is paying off.

**This week's game schedule**

**UTRGV Baseball**

● Three-game series vs. Chicago State University 7 p.m. Friday, 6 p.m. Saturday and noon Sunday.

**Women's Tennis**

● 1 p.m. today vs. Stephen F. Austin State University at Orville I. Cox Tennis Center.

**Men's Track & Field**

● All day Saturday vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex.

**Women's Track & Field**

● All day Saturday vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi at UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex.

**Women's Soccer**

● 2 p.m. Saturday vs. Texas A&M-Corpus Christi (pre-season) at UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex.





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**AUTISM**  
*Continued from Page 1*

start therapy when he was only 2 years old. Her medical background as an obstetrician/gynecologist helped her recognize the symptoms early, even if it was tough at first.

"I could tell, as a parent, obviously, you don't want to, but the signs were there at an early age," Garcia said. "I knew that the sooner that you can recognize some characteristics, if you can start early intervention, the better for the kids."

Both children have been in therapy for more than four years at the Moody Clinic, located at 1901 E. 22nd St. in Brownsville.

Jessica Cuevas, executive director of and a speech pathologist at the Moody Clinic, said the clinic serves about 80 patients a month and offers speech and language therapy as well as physical and occupational therapy for children with developmental disabilities.

Moody Clinic Speech Pathologist Denise R. Garcia has a certificate of Clinic Competence for Speech-Language Pathologists and has been providing therapy for both children for about a year.

She explained Alejandro is categorized with high-functioning autism. He can communicate but his functioning skills are of a 5-year-old, socially and linguagewise.

The speech pathologist started



Robert Benavidez Jr./THE RIDER

Alejandro Calleros shares a laugh with Speech Pathologist Denise R. Garcia during a therapy session last Thursday at the Moody Clinic in Brownsville.

the 30-minute session reinforcing Alejandro's ability to identify the names of his family members by showing him pictures of them on an iPad.

"Sometimes, children with autism have a much harder time telling or giving those responses, so I feel it's very important to target that with them," Denise R. Garcia said.

She also targeted Alejandro's skill of producing long sentences and helped

him with social behavior, such as keeping his hands to himself.

Unlike his brother, Patricio started therapy when he was around 3½ years old, also at the Moody Clinic.

He has a moderate level of autism, and the goal is for him to speak like a 5-year-old, since he is currently at a 2-year-old level.

Throughout the session, Patricio showed his interest in doing activities

with an iPhone instead of the traditional paper cards.

"This generation of kids is obsessed with tablets and, unfortunately, they are learning that way and, so, therapy has to change a little to incorporate the tablet," Denise R. Garcia said.

Despite the communication and social challenges, the brothers are an example of how children in the autism spectrum experience the world in a different way, but they feel just as everyone else, their mother said.

"One of the misconceptions of the kids with autism is that they don't have empathy," she said. "The fact that they don't show their feelings doesn't mean that they don't have them."

Moreover, Claudia Garcia said the Lower Rio Grande Valley lacks specialists and that limits the options of different types of therapy for her children, which is why advocating for autism is important.

In observance of Autism Awareness Month, UTRGV will host an event at noon Tuesday on the Student Union lawn on the Brownsville campus. The American Medical Student Association chapter in the Rio Grande Valley, Student Accessibility Services, the Rehab South Club at UTRGV and the Moody Clinic will be at the event.

An information fair for autism, mental health and disabilities will take place at the event, along with a water paint balloon toss fundraiser for the Moody Clinic.

**ASSAULT**  
*Continued from Page 1*

especially to college students, is important. She said during this month, OVAVP will host several events to help spread awareness of sexual assault to both campuses.

"We're doing a consent event on [the Edinburg] campus on the 18th of April. ... It's just an event to discuss what counts as consent," Jones said. "We're doing a color run on the Brownsville campus on the 25th. We're also doing something called Denim Day, and that's an international event and it's the day before [24th] on both campuses."

She said the definition of sexual assault, according to any university, includes rape, attempted rape, forcible fondling, incest and statutory rape. But, Texas law defines it "explicitly as rape, so if there's no penetration, there's no sexual assault."

"States get to determine what counts as sexual assault although when they do things like uniform crime reporting in the police report, they're supposed to report according to the federal definition, which is the broader definition," Jones said.

According to the Annual Security and Fire Safety Report 2018, only 11 reports of sexual assault using the broader definition were reported in the span of three years at the university. However, the number reported to the OVAVP office was significantly higher.

As reported by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), "more than 90 [percent] of sexual assault victims on college campuses do not report the assault."

"If I had to guess, I'd say we probably saw between 50 and 60 cases of sexual assault last academic year," Jones said. "That's roughly a norm."

She said although all 50 to

60 have come in, not all of them may have been assaulted in the last year, a few probably recalling past trauma and seeking support.

"We're here to make sure people have the resources that they need and to provide people with support, whether or not they want to report," Jones said.

She said the numbers for sexual assault are "massively underreported," even more so for men.

"Men can be sexually assaulted, they're less likely to, but that doesn't mean it doesn't happen," she said. "They face some very significant barriers to reporting. I've gone with a male to report assault to the police, when they were ridiculed and laughed at."

University Police Chief Raul Munguia recommends staying in groups if traveling at night, asking for a safe walk where campus police escort you back to your dorms, being aware of your surroundings, utilizing

the CampusShield app, and watching for behaviors to try to prevent assault from happening.

He referenced the recent timely warning emailed to the campus community last Thursday, concerning the most recently reported sexual assault, which listed several "behaviors" to watch out for, such as "controlling behavior," "ignoring personal limits" and several others.

The warning stated that a student reported she was assaulted last fall by her ex-boyfriend in her dorm room.

"Ninety percent of women of college age who are sexually assaulted are assaulted by someone they know," Jones said. "So, we're all taught to fear strangers lurking in bushes, which is fine. Don't trust strangers who are lurking in your bushes, by the way, but the reality is that most people are sexually assaulted by someone they know. Numbers are a

little bit lower in the general community, but it's still like 80-something percent. For children, it's even higher, like 95 percent, I think."

"Typically, sexual assaults are serial-like crimes where you have one victim, more than likely there's going to be more somewhere and so my advice is to participate," Munguia said. "You don't have to be the one that goes to court. There may be someone else that is willing to do so. ... Everyone has their way of recovering."

He said the police department also makes sure that the survivor gets in touch with a victim's advocate to explain to them their resources, and the types of aftereffects they may suffer from, such as fear, insomnia and depression.

"It's all about getting the survivor to get back to as normal a life as possible," Munguia said. "We learn to pick up the pieces and move on and have a happy life."

**SPEECH**  
*Continued from Page 1*

universities are not allowed to discriminate on the basis of content of speech."

Olney said universities could experience the "chilling effect" as a result of Trump's executive order.

"There is a phrase called the 'chilling effect' in free speech literature where it's not that you explicitly regulate speech, but you create an environment where people are worried and they say, 'I don't want to get prosecuted. I don't want to put ourselves in danger. Let's just not even get close to the edge,'" he said. "So, if there is an effect, it's likely to be that."

In an interview with *The Rider*, Patrick Gonzales, UTRGV's associate

vice president for University Marketing and Communications, said he does not see the executive order affecting the university.

"With that said, I know that part of the executive order is that the president gave these federal departments the right to implement policies and procedures based on freedom of speech," Gonzales said. "As far as I know, those haven't been announced by the individual departments. So, you know, obviously, we'll have to wait to see what they develop based on this executive order and we'll have to comply with those as necessary."

The order will not create a stricter standard of freedom of speech on college campuses but "symbolically, it says, 'We are keeping an eye on this. We are watching you,'" Olney said.

Asked if the federal government is

capable of taking funding away from universities that fail in complying with Trump's executive order, he replied, "You can't just arbitrarily take funding away that has already been allocated or determined, but a lot of federal funding for research projects are administered through the federal branch. ... I think that if nothing in particular changes, in terms of what campuses are actually doing, and then the president says, 'Because of this executive order, I'm now taking away \$75 million worth of funding from you,' there probably would be a lawsuit."

Gonzales said UTRGV will continue to adhere to the First Amendment.

"Our position is to continue doing what we currently do when it comes to freedom of speech on the university," he said. "As a state public university, we must adhere to the First Amendment

and those legalities that come with it, and that's what we've been doing and that's what we'll do."

Regarding the enforcement of the order, Olney said it is not specified.

"It's very hard to tell because free speech is a very amorphous question," he said. "What do you need to do in order to show that you have met certain standards about free speech? That's not been articulated."

There is a lot of research on this topic that proves free speech is not a problem in university campuses, Olney said.

"The research that's been done on this question has been pretty conclusive to say that there is no free speech crisis in particular," he said. "Obviously, we can always do better ... but it's not clear that there's a problem that needs to be solved."

**APOYO**  
*Continuación de Página 5*

la ayuda debido a la afluencia de refugiados a esta área", dijo Mora. "No hemos enviado nada todavía. La declaración es solo para informar a los contribuyentes, para informar a nuestra comunidad, a nuestros dignatarios, sobre lo

que estamos haciendo".

Al preguntarle cuanto dinero se ha gastado la ciudad en cuanto a la afluencia de inmigrantes, ella contestó, "No sé y no sé si hay alguien que tenga la cantidad monetaria por el momento. Está cambiando en base al número y lo que se necesita".

McAllen no es la única

ciudad en la frontera que experimenta un aumento de inmigrantes.

El pasado miércoles, Kevin K. McAleenan, comisionado de la Oficina de Aduanas y Protección Fronteriza de los Estados Unidos (U.S. Customs and Border Protection o CBP, por sus siglas en inglés), realizó

una conferencia de prensa en El Paso para discutir el aumento de cruces ilegales de inmigrantes en la frontera sur.

"CBP está enfrentado una crisis humanitaria y de seguridad fronteriza sin precedentes en la frontera sur", dijo McAleenan. "Esta crisis no se ha manifestado

tan gravemente en ninguna parte como lo ha hecho en el sector de El Paso. Aquí en El Paso, tenemos casi 3,500 migrantes en custodia esta mañana, en instalaciones diseñadas para una cantidad menor. Tuvimos más de 1,000 aprensiones el lunes. La mayoría son familias de Centroamérica".



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