

**11 UTRGV students tes positive for COVID-19** 

Alejandra Yañez

A UTRGV official clarified last Friday morning that 10 student athletes and one student within close contact tested positive for COVID-19 this week.

It is still undetermined if the close contact case is related to the student athletes, said Doug Arney, vice president for Administrative Support Services and chair of the UTRGV Infectious Disease Committee.

The term close contact means any individual who has been within 6 feet of an individual with a confirmed COVID-19 case in the last 14 days, according to the UTRGV COVID-19 website.

Arney said he wants it to be clear that protocols are in place but "it's up to the coaches and athletes to abide by those protocols."

He attributes the "outbreak" to two possible factors: not following protocols and protocols that did not work.

"So, if that's the reason, we address it with the coaches and the student athletes ... to have those conversations and correct that bad behavior, if there is bad behavior," Arney said. "I don't know, in these situations, what has occurred yet."

He said the university is



still reviewing the situation and will make adjustments if needed.

"This week, we've had a little bit of an outbreak," Arney said "We're trying to figure out how many and we're doing the contact tracing with those individuals."

He said the students are being quarantined in 50 rooms provided by the university in separate wings in the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus and the Village Apartments in Edinburg.

"They're isolated," Arney said. "They follow certain protocols; they stay quarantined so they don't infect others. ... But, some people choose to isolate at home with their parents."

He added when the quarantine period is up, the students will be tested again and released if they test negative. Robert Benavidez/THE RIDER

In an interview last Tuesday, Jonah Goldberg, senior associate athletic director for communications, said student athletes are not required to wear a facial covering during practice.

Asked if student athletes will be required to wear a facial covering during practice after the reported cases, Arney replied it is hard to breathe when student athletes

See CASES, Page 2

# Meet the 2020 Texas U.S. Senate candidates

#### <u>Fernanda Figueroa</u>

THE RIDER This election year, the race for one U.S. Senate seat from Texas is taking place and here is what you need to know about the 2020 candidates, John Cornyn, Mary "MJ" Hegar, Kerry Douglass McKen-



health care, the Affordable Care Act," said Terence Michael Garrett, a political science professor at UTRGV. "Democrats, in general, support the ACA [Affordable Care Act], whereas the Republican Party, in terms of where they stand, is sort of this dismantling of the Afford-



## **b i a s e d a r t i c l e** Tips and tricks on spotting misinformation

#### Brigitte Ortiz The Rider

A biased article is something written by someone with a particular interest in something or someone. Two UTRGV professors say students should read multiple articles and ask questions to verify the information.

Priscilla Flores, a lecturer in the Department of Communication, said bias in the media is a global phenomena that is not exclusive to any particular economy or political system. "So knowing the nature of bias is going to help the readers counteract prodigious-ness," Flores said. "And what I want them to know is that it is not always categorical, but it can become embedded in the context determined by the news outlet." She encourages students to follow 10 critical thinking questions when consuming news. Who created or paid for the message? What is the purpose of the story? Who is their target audience? What techniques are being used to attract their attention and

non and David B. Collins.

Sen. Cornyn (R-Texas) has been in office since 2002 and is looking to win his fourth term as senator.

Cornyn is running his campaign with a focus, per his official campaign website, https:// www.cornyn.senate.gov/, on maximizing resources and minimizing regulation, fighting for the health and well-being of Texans, fighting crime, protecting communities and empowering victims, immigration and border security, fostering economic growth, education and keeping promises to our military.

Democrat Hegar is Cornyn's prominent opponent. She is a veteran and teacher, most famously known for suing WWW.DBCGREENTX.NET

Green Party candidate David B. Collins is running for the Texas U.S. Senate seat held by Republican John Cornyn. Collins is running against Libertarian Douglass McKennon, Democrat MJ Hegar and Cornyn.

the U.S. Air Force to remove the Combat Exclusion Policy, which excluded women from having combat positions.

In 2017, Hegar ran for the U.S. House of Representatives' 31st District seat, losing to incumbent John Carter. According to her official campaign website, https://mjfortexas.com, Hegar's campaign is focused on providing quality health care, ensuring women's reproductive rights, ending child separation, fighting against climate change, passing common-sense gun safety legislation, extending protections to the LGBTQ+ community and fixing Texas' criminal justice and policing system.

"If you want to know some real differences, well, you'd have to look at things like able Care Act.

While not considered major opponents, Libertarian candidate Douglass McKennon and Green Party candidate David B. Collins are also in the running for the Texas U.S. Senate seat.

Historically, third party candidates do not have a huge impact in elections, but because the Senate race is so tight, the third-party candidates will affect the election, especially Hegar.

According to his campaign website, https://www.mckennon2020.com, McKennon is, "campaigning to be a Senator who works hard to protect the freedom that we still have, fight against anyone who seeks to erode our freedom and coop-

See **SENATE**, Page 2

See MEDIA, Page 2

# **ION CAMPUS**



The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. A PDF copy of the newspaper can be accessed online at utrgvrider.com. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

> **EDITOR-IN-CHIEF** Jacqueline Peraza **ONLINE EDITOR** Estefania Hernandez SOCIAL MEDIA EDITOR **Danielle Perez COPY EDITORS** Arisbeth Rodriguez Avery Arizola Alejandra Yañez CARTOONIST Elizabeth Mendoza **SPORTS REPORTERS** Karina Rodriguez **Ivan Palacios** SPANISH REPORTER Paulina Longoria REPORTERS Sol Garcia Omar E. Zapata **Brigitte Ortiz** Alejandra Yañez Fernanda Figueroa **PHOTOGRAPHERS** Aaliyah Garza Jacqueline Wallace Roxanna Miranda **ADVERTISING SALES** REPRESENTATIVES Monica Llanas **Dorilee Saycocie**

FACULTY ADVISER Michell Godinez

STUDENT MEDIA DIRECTOR Azenett Cornejo

STUDENT MEDIA PROGRAM ADVISER Jesus Sanchez

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS Ana Sanchez Maggie Castillo

#### **CONTACT:**

**EDINBURG CAMPUS** 1201 West University Dr. ELABS 170 Phone: (956) 665-2541 Fax: (956) 665-7122 **BROWNSVILLE CAMPUS** 1 West University Blvd. Student Union 2.16 Phone: (956) 882-5143 Fax: (956) 882-5176 Email: TheRider@utrgv.edu © 2020 The Rider

# **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### Tuesday Cookie Decorating The Student Union will host Haunted а Cookie House

Decorating Contest. Participants will receive an email with instructions, date and time for pickup. The first 40 students to RSVP on VLink will receive a free cookie haunted house. Wednesday

#### People Series: Celia Cruz

Students can honor, share and learn about the late Cuban singer Celia Cruz's legacy at 1 p.m. via Zoom. The series, sponsored by the Center for **Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center**, will feature a range of people, cultures, identities and much more. Zoom registration is available through VLink.

#### **Scary Storytelling**

The Student Union will host Scarv Storytelling for students to share

Oct. 6

their scariest stories from 2 to 3:30 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available through VLink.

#### **UTRGV Kahoot**

Students can join the Campus Activities Board to learn more about our institution from 4 to 5 p.m. and have a chance to win **VBucks**. RSVP is available through VLink.

#### Watch Party: 'Dead Kids'

The UTRGV Leadership and Mentoring office will host a Netflix Watch Party to celebrate and honor Filipino American History Month. The movie "Dead Kids" will be shown at 7 p.m. RSVP is available through VLink. The first 30 students to RSVP will receive a movie snack pack. Thursday

#### Watch Party: 'Hocus Pocus'

The Student Union will host a Disney+ Watch Party and show the movie "Hocus Pocus" at 5:30 p.m. RSVP is available through VLink.

#### **Rope the Vote Rally**

Students can join the Civic Engagement Alliance at noon to dive into details of the upcoming election and look at the different presidential candidate platforms with guest speakers and opportunities to participate in trivia and win prizes. RSVP is available through VLink. Friday

#### **Spooky Monster Smash**

The Campus Activities Board will host a Spooky Monster Smash Tournament at 5 p.m. Participants are required to create a Discord account. RSVP is available through VLink.

#### Watch Party: 'Alex Strangelove'

The movie "Alex Strangelove" will be shown at 7 p.m. The film is part of The Leadership and Mentoring office's Netflix Watch Party movie series in observance of LGBT+ History Month. RSVP is available through VLink.

--Compiled by Brigitte Ortiz

## POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 6 and 12.



3:03 p.m.: An officer conducting a traffic stop for a violation on the 1400 block of West Van Week Street in Edinburg discovered that the vehicle was displaying out-ofstate license plates

belonging to another vehicle. The nonaffiliated individual was cited for the traffic violations. The out-of-state license plates were confiscated as evidence and the vehicle was impounded. The case is under investigation. **Oct.** 7

2:21 p.m.: A staff member reported that he twisted his left ankle when he stepped off the sidewalk onto parking Lot E-28 on the Edinburg campus. The staff member was treated at the Employee Health Clinic and requested that the incident be documented.

#### MEDIA Continued from Page 1

increase believability? What might have been omitted and why? Where does the story originate? Who is the source of the story? What does the news story make them want to think or do? Who stands to benefit from the message? Where might I go for more information?

Flores said we have the power to control the information.

'When it comes to our news, I believe that we all need to slow down and pause and really digest what it is that we're taking in and that we do our due diligence with checking out the source and the credibility and reliability before sharing, before spreading misinformation, intentionally or not, you know,'

**SENATE** Continued from Page 1

**5:01 p.m.:** A staff member reported receiving a suspicious email inquiring about work invoices. The email was determined to be fraudulent. Oct. 8

6:08 p.m.: An individual was seen entering a barricaded area of Lot B-4 used as a COVID-19 testing site on the Brownsville campus. The individual was uncooperative and argumentative with the officers during the incident. He was issued a criminal trespass warning for UTRGV properties.

#### Oct. 9

12:05 a.m.: A student reported her vehicle was struck while it was parked in Lot E-28 on the Edinburg campus. The vehicle sustained visible damage. The case is under investigation.

1:40 p.m.: An officer responded to the Engineering Building on the Edinburg campus in regard to an active fire alarm. The building was evacuated, and the Edinburg Fire Department

she said. "But the big takeaway is slow things down. We live in a world where everything is faster, quicker, better. ... But there's nothing like our brain power, and we need to use more of that rather than going on ... autopilot mode."

William Sokoloff, an associate professor in the Department of Political Science, said students should also look at websites.

"Is the website a government website or a website of an education institution?" Sokoloff said. "Is the article or information from an academic database and, you know, this sort of thing does require some effort and energy. You can't walk around reading anything that appears in front of you. We're bombarded with an excess of information. The trick is having the skills and the critical discernment to access the valid-

net, is focused on such issues as advocating for the Ecosocialist Green New Deal, improved Medicare for all, advocating for women's reproductive rights, canceling student debt, a moratorium on fossil fuel infrastructure, immigration reform, closing overseas military bases and financial reparations for Indigenous and African Americans.

was notified. It was determined that a smoke detector in a service elevator was activated. The area was checked, and the fire department cleared the building for reentry. A work order was placed to have the fire system checked.

Oct. 10 4:01 a.m.: An officer responded to Heritage Hall on the Edinburg campus in regard to the housing coordinator reporting two students who appeared to be intoxicated in a room. It was later determined four underage students consumed alcoholic beverages in the room. Two liquor bottles were found in the original dorm where they were all gathered. All four students showed signs of intoxication, admitted to drinking and refused medical attention. The case will be referred to Student

review. --Compiled by Fernanda Figueroa

Rights and Responsibilities for further

ity and credibility and reliability of the source."

Because early voting for the Nov. 3 presidential election is taking place, he said if students want to know information about the state of the economy and unemployment, then they should visit the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website.

"If you want to know about crime, you can go to the Bureau of Justice Statistics," he said. "Crime is actually going down but if you listen to politicians and people blogging, they would say it's going up. It's not true. Of course, it depends on where the crime is taking place, what types of crimes and so forth. There are an enormous amount of very good sources. Social media is not a good source."

paign website, http://www.dbcgreentx. race always impacts the outcome of an election, said Sy ivia Guiizalez-Gu an assistant political science professor at UTRGV. "It does affect the newcomer more than it does the incumbent. So, right now, Hegar being single digits off of Cornyn, that third party could be taking votes from her." Early voting ends Oct. 30. The deadline to request a ballot by mail is Friday. Election Day is Nov. 3.

### MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Delivering news to UTRGV no matter the circumstances.



erate with other Senators to regain the freedom that has been lost.'

Some of the issues McKennon is focused on include solving veterans' affairs, improving immigration reform, ending the opioid crisis and environmental stewardship.

Collins' platform, per his official cam-

A third-party candidate in a tight

#### CASES

Continued from Page 1

run up and down the court with a mask on, but they should wear one outside of practice.

"Just like all campus community members, when you get off that sport and you get into a crowd or walk down the hall, you have to have your face covering on just like everybody else,' he said.

On Sept. 16, the NCAA Division 1

Council announced the return of men's and women's basketball seasons, which are scheduled to begin Nov. 25.

NCAA athletics programs were allowed to begin practice last Wednesday.

Arney said basketball players are being tested once a week but when the season starts, it will be three times a week.

The Rider requested an interview with Chasse Conque, vice president and director of Athletics, but it was

declined in an email last Wednesday afternoon from Goldberg that stated in part:

Regarding [your] inquiry, we are not granting interviews, but we do have a statement (below). For attribution purposes, you can attribute it to the department. The official name is UTRGV Department of Intercollegiate Athletics."

Goldberg attached the statement

See CASES, Page 7



Christopher Gabler, program coordinator for sustainable agriculture and food systems and assistant professor at the School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences, speaks at the grand opening and ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Brownsville Research and Community Garden on May 4, 2017.

#### Sustainable food program grown cohort of joining as freshmen, and we're Sol Garcia

THE RIDER

Since Fall 2019, students have been able to enroll in the sustainable agriculture and food systems degree program through ApplyTexas.

The interdisciplinary major best suits students who are interested in helping create a more sustainable food system, said Christopher Gabler, program coordinator for the degree program.

"You still get your traditional issues related to food production, but you get a lot more training in other disciplines, related to humanities, related to economics, related to social sciences, that help you grasp the multidisciplinary nature of having a sustainable food system,' said Gabler, who is also an assistant professor in the School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences.

The major was initially created in 2017 but was not launched until Fall 2018. Students could not select the major through the admissions website, ApplyTexas, though. So, several current students are upperclassmen who transferred. However, some freshmen have joined this year, Gabler said.

"Most of the new students were people who came in the kind of traditional route of coming in through the regular

#### actively recruiting," he said. "We're just approaching 30 students, and we're hoping to double that for the next few years."

Four introductory courses were created for the degree program, including introduction to sustainable agriculture, sustainable horticulture, introduction to agricultural engineering and introduction to food science, Gabler said.

Those are four new introductory-level courses that we created for this program, and they complement other courses that already exist," he said.

Sustainable agriculture and food systems is meant to provide hands-on training and experiential learning, and some courses satisfy this by working at the university's community gardens. To stay safe from the risk of COVID-19, students are trained in small groups while socially distancing, Gabler said.

"Our approach has been to bring students in, so they can get that hands-on training in small groups, spreading our effort out, still giving them that essential, personal experiential learning that they're going to need to succeed going forward," he said. "[We're] doing it in a way that's safe, respecting social distancing, respecting all the rules related to safe

See MAJOR, Page 8

# ON CAMPUS 3 **'Stronger than cancer' UREC hosts virtual Zoombathon**

"It's always a big

event of the fall

semester."

-Kusy Zarzosa

#### **Paulina Longoria** THE RIDER

University Recreation will host its annual Zumbathon for Breast Cancer Awareness Month from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Saturday via Zoom, where the UTRGV community can dance, learn about self-examination and win prizes.

This year, "an estimated 276,480 new cases of invasive breast cancer will be diagnosed in women in

the U.S., as well as 48,530 new cases of non-invasive (in situ) breast cancer," according to the National **Breast Cancer Foundation** Inc. website.

Men can get breast cancer, too. The website states that "an estimated 2,620 men will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year in the U.S. and approximately 520 will die."

Fay Kennan, the fitness and wellness coordinator for University Recreation, said every year the department hosts a breast cancer awareness event at its facility, but now it will be virtual.

"This year we're gonna go virtual considering that we are dealing with COVID-19, and we don't want anyone exposed and we want to follow protocols," Kennan said.

In collaboration with Student Health

Services, Health Education Coordina tor Eddie Quintanilla will provide information about wellness at the beginning of the Zoombathon.

"We just want to tell the students that we have health services here for them,' Quintanilla said. "If they want to learn more about information on breast cancer, or they have any concerns, they can come to the [Health Services Clinic] and find out more about it to talk to a professional.

He also said the event is an opportunity for him, as the only health education coordinator of the university, to invite students to go to the Health Services Clinic and find out about the services that they provide and how to reach out Fitness instructor for help.

A short YouTube video will also be shown to make students aware of self-examinations to detect breast cancer.

Fitness instructors Kusy Zarzosa Jessica Maltos and Shelby Flores will conduct the Stronger Than Cancer Zoombathon.

Zarzosa said this is the first time the Zumbathon goes virtual.

"It's always a big event of the fall se-mester," she said. "We usually have a

See ZOOMBATHON Page 7



University Recreation Zumba Instructor Jessica Maltos directs her Strong Zumba class last year at the Recreation Center on the Edinburg campus.

#### Paulina Longoria THE RIDER

To celebrate Filipino American History Month, the Cultural Council is hosting Netflix watch parties via the Teleparty Google Chrome browser extension, and the Filipino Student Association is sharing daily cultural sessions via Instagram.

October was recognized as Filipino American History Month in the United States by Congress in 2009, but the Filipino American National Historical Society has observed it since 1991, according to its website. The celebration "commemorates the first recorded presence of Filipinos in the continental United States, which occurred on October 18, 1587, when 'Luzones Indios' came ashore from the Spanish galleon Nuestra Senora de Esperanza and landed at what is now Morro Bay, California," the website states. Founded in 1982, the society promotes "understanding, education, enlightenment, appreciation and enrichment through the identification, gathering, preservation and dissemi-nation of the history and culture of Filipino Americans in the United States." From 7 to 9:30 p.m. Wednesday, the Cultural Council will host a Netflix watch party with the Filipino thriller film "Dead Kids," directed by Mikhail Red. The film is about a group of mis-



"These specific movies are either directed by a Filipino American director and ... they include Filipino American actors ... so we wanted to showcase and highlight that for the month for students to enjoy," Sandoval said.

Students must register on the Cultural Council VLink to receive the link to the Zoom meeting.

Marco Castillo, a Spanish junior and student assistant for Leadership and Mentoring, said students will receive instructions on how to install the Teleparty browser extension on Google Chrome during the Zoom meeting before the watch party and then the link to join. "When we were choosing the movies, we were trying to make it fun, but of course, I always try ... to get learn-ing out of something," Castillo said. "We're trying to balance it out, like information and learning, and then having fun.' He said he encourages students to come to the watch parties to engage with others. The first 30 students that RSVP to the Netflix watch parties are given a Filipino snack pack. Students will be emailed to set up a time to pick up their snacks on the Edinburg or Brownsville campus. Students can receive only one snack pack per celebration month to allow

COURTESY PHOTO

Students celebrate Filipino American History Month with food and games Oct. 8, 2019, on the Brownsville campus. This year, the Cultural Council will host a Netflix watch party via the Teleparty Google Chrome browser extension. The Filipino Student Association will post daily cultural sessions on Instagram.

fits and a socially awkward teen who plots a kidnapping that turns out deadly.

At 7 p.m. Wednesday, there will be another Netflix watch party for "Eerie," a Filipino horror film also directed by Red. The film is about the unexpected and gruesome death of a student at a Catholic girls' school.

Last Wednesday, students watched

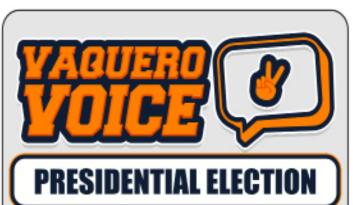
the Filipino history film "Goyo," which was directed by Jerrold Tarog, and showcases one of the youngest generals during the Philippine-American War.

Vanessa Sandoval, a program coordinator for Leadership and Mentoring and adviser for the Cultural Council, explained the reasons the movies were chosen.

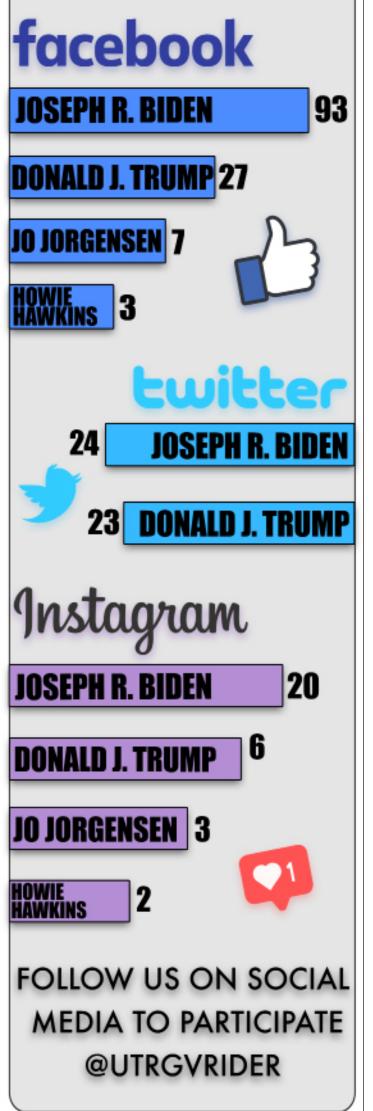
See FILIPINO, Page 8

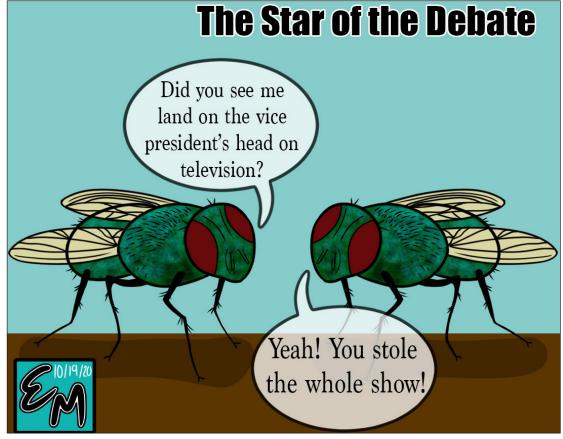
# 4 OPINION

October 19, 2020 THE RIDER



On Oct. 12, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "Who will you vote for in the 2020 presidential election?" The results are shown below.





# Seeing the light in the darkness



Miranda THE RIDER There is no doubt this year has been hectic, and it has brought out the worst

<u>Roxanna</u>

and the best in many of us.

I knew college was supposed to be stressful, but the anxiety of going through it from a corner desk in your room every day can be tough.

This year, I had my first "meltdown" earlier than expected, considering I usually save those for midterms.

Assignments were coming in by the hour and I felt so lost as to which to prioritize.

However, I sat down, thought it through and decided that the situation was not going to overcome me. I have never become as organized as I am today. To be honest, if it wasn't for "Zoom school," I would not have chosen the dry erase calendar I have up on my wall right now as the decor for my room.

Yes, some days are harder than others, and maybe this isn't exactly what we signed up for when looking into classes to register for this summer, but it's something we have to learn to make the best of, even if it seems there isn't much "best" about it.

Prioritizing my tasks and having the right motivation has got me through halfway of what is probably going to be considered one of the most nerve-racking semesters.

I have even made time to start working out again because take-out food and being home all day has played me very wrong. I want to say about 10 pounds wrong.

It's not always easy staying positive when there is a virus ruining the New Year's resolutions we probably would not have done this year anyway.

Working on yourself and bringing out the best in you in this unpleasant situation can become very rewarding and satisfying.

This year is totally one for the books, and the worst thing about it is that the holidays aren't even certain anymore. Just a few days ago, Halloween was completely canceled, literally erased from 2020.

Let's hope for the best for the remaining months and make the best of them. Even if it seems like the world is falling apart, there is always a brighter tomorrow. If that doesn't seem to be the case, a brighter day after tomorrow.



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.

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



# <sup>19 de octubre de 2020</sup> THE RIDER NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL | 5 MÁS ÍUCITES QUE EL CÓNCET NOTICIAS EN ESPAÑOL | 5

Paulina Longoria

El Departamento de Recreación llevará a cabo su Zumbathon "Más Fuertes que el Cáncer" anual por el Mes de Sensibilización sobre el Cáncer de Mama de 9:30 a 10:30 el sábado por Zoom donde la comunidad Vaquera podrá bailar, aprender sobre la autoexploración y ganar premios.

En este año, "se diagnosticará un estimado de 276,480 casos nuevos de cáncer invasivo en mujeres en los EE.UU así como otros 48,530 casos nuevos de cáncer no invasivo (in situ, o sea, en el mismo lugar)", según al sitio web de la Fundación Nacional del Cáncer de Mama.

Los hombres también pueden tener cáncer de mama. El sitio web también indica que "un estimado de 2,620 hombres serán diagnosticados con cáncer de mama este año en EE.UU y aproximadamente 520 morirán".

Fay Kennan, la coordinadora de ejercicio y bienestar del Departamento de Recreación, dijo que cada año llevan a cabo un evento de sensibilización sobre el cáncer de mama en sus instalaciones, pero ahora será virtual.

"Este año será virtual considerando que estamos lidiando con el COVID-19, y no queremos a nadie expuesto y queremos seguir los protocolos", Kennan dijo.

En colaboración con Servicios de Salud, el Coordinador



Foto Archivada de The Rider

La instructora de ejercicio Jessica Maltos del Departamento de Recreación dirige su clase Zumba Fuerte el año pasado en el Centro de Recreación del campus de Edinburg.

de Educación de la Salud Eddie Quintanilla proveerá información sobre el bienestar al principio del Zoombathon.

"Solo queremos decirle a los estudiantes que aquí tenemos servicios de salud para ellos", Quintanilla dijo. "Si quieren aprender más sobre la información del cáncer de mama, o tienen inquietudes, pueden venir a la [Clínica de Servicios Médicos] y aprender más sobre ello y hablar con un profesional".

Él también dijo que el evento es una oportunidad para él, como el único coordinador de educación de la salud de la universidad, para invitar a los estudiantes a que vayan a la Clínica de Servicios Médicos y aprendan sobre los servicios que proporciona y cómo acercarse para pedir ayuda.

Un vídeo corto de YouTube también será reproducido para que los estudiantes estén conscientes de las autoexploraciones para detectar el cáncer de mama.

Las instructoras de ejercicio Kusy Zarzosa, Jessica Maltos y Shelby Flores dirigirán el Zoombathon Más Fuertes que el Cáncer.

Zarzosa dijo que es la primera vez que el Zumbathon se realiza de manera virtual.

"Siempre es un gran evento del semestre de otoño", ella dijo. "Usualmente tenemos un gran Zumbathon en las canchas de básquetbol, pero por la pandemia y el tratar de mantener a todos activos y conscientes de que octubre es el mes de la sensibilización del cáncer de mama, lo mejor que les podemos promover ... a nuestros estudiantes es [el] seguir haciendo este Zumbathon".

Zarzosa dijo que habrá una variedad de música para bailar, que va desde salsa, merengue y reggaeton hasta bachata y hip hop. "Tenemos tres instructores enseñando la clase de zumba, así que cada uno de nosotros traerá su propio estilo", ella dijo. "Estaremos motivándolos, como si estuvieran en el estudio con nosotros".

Kennan dijo que el Zoombathon es para todos los niveles de ejercicio.

"Cualquiera puede unirse", ella dijo. "No tienen que tener su cámara encendida. No tienen que tener su micrófono encendido. Sólo los que quieran presumir su talento bailando pueden mantener su cámara encendida durante la sesión".

Ella dijo que no es obligatorio quedarse durante la hora completa, pero que le recomienda a los participantes esperar hasta el final del evento por una rifa.

Al final del evento, los nombres de los participantes entrarán en un sorteo de hasta 30 premios, incluyendo camisetas, toallas, pins de la sensibilización sobre el cáncer de mama y muchos más.

"Es importante que nosotros creemos conciencia porque estamos en la industria del bienestar y ejercicio", Kennan dijo. "Es importante que nosotros difundamos esta información para que nuestros estudiantes estén conscientes de los datos demográficos. ... Tenemos demográficos muy jóvenes, así que es muy importante tener una evaluación temprana".

Los estudiantes pueden registrarse al evento en el VLink del Departamento de Recreación.

# COMMUNITY Latinx, word on the rise?

## Omar Zapata

Latinx is a gender-neutral word for people of Latin American descent possessing a gender identity outside the male/ academia through college settings," Bowles said.

He said through visiting schools across the country, and now virtually, he noticed there are a lot of Generation Z people who use the term. that isn't man or woman? That's not our problem."

"If you have that perspective, which, frankly, is a little cruel, in my opinion, it's kind of hard to argue that for somebody who doesn't have any kind of respect for non-binary people who don't think they matter, or doesn't think that we should go out of our way to try to include them in the language that we use," he said. Bowles said an argument on the issue is the misconception that the term was made by "woke white people" who impose their political agendas on the Hispanic community. "That's just nonsense, because it wasn't invented by white people," Bowles said. "It was invented by queer Latinx people." Bowles said people have also looked at the term linguistically, saying that it violates the rules of Spanish. He said people say that putting an "x" on the end of a Spanish word ig-



Aaliyah Garza/The Rider Graphic

Merriam-Webster dictionary.

Less than 3% of all Hispanic or Latino adults use the term, according to a bilingual survey conducted by the Pew Research Center.

David Bowles, a UTRGV associate professor of English in the department of Literatures and Cultural Studies, told The Rider that the word started in the early 2000s.

He said that the queer Latinx community tried to find a way not to use the masculine default, Latino, to describe a group of people.

"It wasn't really until 2010 that it started gaining traction, and spreading again, you know, first among the LGBTQ population and their allies, then kind of like, into "I get to talk to young people of Latin American descent from all over the place, and Latinx is being used by those young people more and more," Bowles said. "Older generations you know, haven't caught on yet. In fact, when they begin hearing it, they're a little taken aback, right. They don't understand

what it's about. Forty-two percent of young Hispanics ages 18 to 29 are

among the most likely to have heard of the term, according to the survey. From ages 65 and older, only about 7% have heard the term.

Bowles said an argument against the use of the word is people saying, "Why should we be worrying about this small percentage of the population nores the fact that's not the way Spanish works.

"I know that's the way, quote unquote, traditionally, Spanish grammar works, but just because it's been done that way for, you know, hundreds and hundreds of years, does that make it right?" he said. "And that's the thing that human beings can do. They can look at language and say, you know what, there's an ethical and moral problem with the way our language works and we're aware of it, so we should try to fix it."

Bowles said he believes more people will use it in the future, particularly younger people like Gen Z.

He said young people are the ones who change language, and

language is driven by innovations of the younger generations, which is a good way to predict the future use of the word.

"I just think that people underestimate the power of linguistic change and of changing perspectives of the youth," Bowles said. "And because Gen Z has a very different view of gender, and gender fluidity and so forth, they are embracing it in a way that may make it survive."

Yaritza Marin, a public affairs graduate student, identifies as Chicana but in certain spaces will label herself as Latina or Latinx.

"I use the 'a' but if I'm in a space where I think it would

See LATINX, Page 8

# 6 SPORTS October 19, 2020 THE RIDER OCTOBER 19, 2020 THE RIDER

#### Ivan Palacios The rider

UTRGV Athletics rolled out two rewards programs, "Orange Hours" and "Trivia Tuesday" for its GoUTRGV app Oct. 7, giving students new ways to earn points and redeem prizes.

In order to participate in the rewards programs, students must first download the UTRGV Athletics app from the App Store or Google Play Store. Students will be able to customize their experience by providing information such as school affiliation and choosing which sports to receive notifications from.

To earn points, users must choose to opt-in to the rewards program. Once points have been used to redeem a prize, users will be contacted and prize distribution will be coordinated at the end of each month. Prizes are to be announced at a later date.

"Orange Hours" will allow users to earn up to 100 points each day when visiting select restaurants and businesses in Edinburg. Among those locations are Bluewave Express Car Wash, Golden Chick, IHOP, Raising Canes and Taco Palenque, all of which are located on University Drive in Edinburg. Brownsville users can only participate by visiting the Chick-fil-A on Boca Chica Boulevard.

To earn points, users must email a picture of their receipt to goutrgv@utrgv.edu. The receipt must total at least \$5 and be time stamped between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.



Aaliyah Garza/ The Rider

UTRGV Athletics rolled out two rewards programs, "Orange Hours" and "Trivia Tuesday" for its GoUTRGV app Oct. 7. GoUTRGV serves as the go-to app for UTRGV Athletics and is available for both Android and Apple devices.

Users will also be given the chance to earn 50 extra points during a weekly "Orange Hours" special event. Those who check in at the designated sponsor location during the event will be rewarded the bonus points. Details will be announced the day of the special event.

English sophomore Kinsey Paez is excited that she can earn points by visiting places she normally goes to.

"I think it's cool," Paez said. "I can retrieve points from places I already go to all the time."

Biomedical sciences sophomore Victoria Garza is enthusiastic not only about the



rewards program, but also the benefits for UTRGV Athletics.

"I think that this reward system is a great idea," Garza said. "It will keep students motivated to interact with UTRGV's

various athletics programs." While some students are excited about "Orange Hours," Antonio Almendarez, an addiction studies junior, is disappointed he will not have a chance to participate.

"I would love to participate in 'Orange Hours' and earn 100 points," Almendarez said. "Unfortunately, I live in Harlingen. The majority of the locations are in Edinburg and one location in Brownsville, so I would never be able to participate. It would be great if they were able to make it all Bluewaves or Chick-fil-As in the [Rio Grande] Valley."

Those living outside of Edinburg and Brownsville will have a chance to earn points in a different way. In addition to "Orange Hours," UTRGV Athletics also announced "Trivia Tuesday," where students can participate in a trivia game on the GoUTRGV app, earning 10 points just for participating and an extra five points for every question answered correctly. All questions during "Trivia Tuesday" will be based on UTRGV Athletics.

"There is a lot going on right now in the world," Almendarez said. "Trivia Tuesday is a fun, easy and COVID-friendly way to distract myself."

Computer science junior Robert Nivon is ready to get involved and start earning points.

"I think that the GoUTRGV app's new rewards programs is a great incentive to get students engaged to stay in UTRGV Athletics," Nivon said. "I like how there are plenty of ways to earn points. "Trivia Tuesdays' sounds very entertaining to participate in."

Anahisa Gonzalez, a criminal justice junior, is eager to participate in both "Orange Hours" and "Trivia Tuesday."

"I think that this app can help anyone earn some rewards by participating in 'Trivia Tuesdays,' which I am excited to do," Gonzalez said. "During 'Orange Hours,' we can meet new people and help one another out with any sort of questions we may have."

For more details on "Orange Hours" and "Trivia Tuesday," users can visit the GoUTRGV app or contact UTRGV Director of Marketing and Digital Media Kara Lara at 665-7468 or kara.lara@utrgv.edu.

# Athlete of the Week: Jackie Kingsbury

Psychology senior Jackie Kingsbury is an outside hitter for the UTRGV Volleyball Team. She began her collegiate athletic career during the 2017 season. Kingsbury had her career-high of nine digs at the UTRGV vs. Radford game Aug. 30, 2019. During her 2019 season, she was named team tri-captain.



second favorite thing is, like, [the] big team wins."

**Q:** When and how did you start playing volleyball? **A:** "I think I was 8, and I started playing with my mom's police department team. She would play against the fire department

at the Boys and Girls Club, and then I got interested in that." **Q:** How do you think volleyball

has bettered you? A: "I think volleyball, just like other sports, betters you in ways that help you in life later, like communication skills, leadership skills [and] things like that. So, it helps you sharpen up on things, that at that moment, you don't really know that you're working [on]. Then, later on, I noticed myself being a better team player or group member and like school projects and things like that." **Q:** What are your favorite ways to prepare for a game? A: "I like to take a shower before every game. I like to braid my hair, and then when I get to the gym, I like to socialize with everyone. ... Just kind of be a social butterfly. Then later,

towards game time, I like to just sit in the locker room and just be by myself. Then our coach comes in prior to the game and gives us, like, notes on what the other team likes to do and things like that, so we study that for a little bit."

**Q:** What do you plan to do after graduation?

A: "I would hope to get my master's, but if I didn't, I would like to join the FBI or do something in the federal area of law enforcement."

**Q:** What is your favorite holiday, and why?

A: "Thanksgiving and then



Jackie Kingsbury

**Q:** What is your favorite part of volleyball?

**A:** "I like the fact that I get to meet people from different cultures and from different parts of the world. I think my Christmas. Thanksgiving because of the food, and Christmas because of the food." **Q:** If you had to be any animal, what would it be and why? **A:** "If I had to choose one, I would want to be a lion. But I am in love with baby goats, so I'd probably be, like, a baby goat. ... You just have to look up like baby goat videos, and you'll just know [why I want to be one] right away. --Compiled bu Karina

--Compiled by Rodriguez

COURTESY PHOTO UTRGV ATHLETICS Jackie Kingsbury, outside hitter for the UTRGV Volleyball Team.

# Visit us online at **utrgvrider.com**

# October 19, 2020 ARTS & ENTERTAINM THE RIDER author's insig

#### Karina Rodriguez

THE RIDER Senior Spanish translation and interpreting major Javier Flores Jr. published his first novel "Memorias de *Noviembre"* in January 2020.

Flores' novel is about romance and resolving issues from the past.

"It is a romantic novel that takes place in Brownsville," he said. "It's about one protagonist, David. He has his own problems, like, his bad problems [and] his demons. He's been through a lot of things with his family and also in the romantic, you know, things. And, he has losses. So, all these things accumulate, and he is trying to solve them. So, he meets someone, and she is his complement, and she helped him solve his problems."

Flores said he was inspired by a friend.

"One of my friends, Baruch, told me that a man should reproduce, plant a tree and write a book," he said. "So, I was like, 'Well, I can't reproduce right now ... and [I] want to plan my book,' and I did it."

Flores' parents also contributed to his inspiration.

"My parents inspired me to keep on writing because when I first did the manuscript, they both said it was amazing [and] that I should keep on writing and to keep on going with more



Javier Flores Jr., author of "Memorias de Noviembre."

## Keep on writing. That is the best advice. -Javier Flores Jr.

novels," he said.

Flores said the title of his novel was inspired by the month that he finished writing it.

"The first time I wrote the novel was back in 2016, and I started in October, and I finished in November. That's why the title is 'Memorias de Noviembre,' he said.

Flores also said that while the writing process was short, the editing process was longer.

"So, I finished that, and it was around 30,000 words, but then I edited the following year," he said. "Then I was like, 'OK, I'll finish,' but I kept on editing it. The following year, like [in] 2018, and on to 2019, I hired a publisher and an editor. We did the whole editing, and the book ended up with 70,000 words."

Flores encourages people who want

to write a novel to continue writing. "Keep on writing," he said. "That is the best advice. People think that they have to do things perfectly and [that] they have to have the inspiration and the idea and everything first and then write. ... If you don't have inspiration, just be there and prepare your mind that it's ready to write.

"Memorias de Noviembre," which was independently published, is available on Amazon.com for \$14.99.

# " The Doodler By Elizabeth Mendoza There are scary moments when you think you're TIP done with schoolwork for the week. But then you remember you have to do a discussion activity online.

#### CASES Continued from Page 2

which reads, in part, "The UTRGV men's basketball and volleyball teams have paused team activities due to positive tests of COVID-19. Contact tracing has been completed and the department is following isolation protocols." Arney told The Rider the 11 positive COVID-19 cases will be tallied in the university's weekly report. The university posts on a weekly basis at 5 p.m. Fridays.

positive for COVID-19, Arney replied, 'We've chosen to teach people how to fish. So, if you want to know you can go here. We publicize it often. If you want to know, you can come here and get the information you're looking for instead of us going out and sending it out every week. It's always here. It's updated every week and that's what we've decided on."

questions.

The Rider asked Arney what UTRGV's response is to rumors that student athletes are not abiding by university and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines in regard to wearing facial coverings and practicing social distancing. "My philosophy is, 'Hey, if you don't follow the protocol, you may not have a season," Arney replied. "Why would you want to do that?' Follow the protocol. Everybody else is.'

coverings, to the university hotline at (877) 882-3999.

Asked if policies will change after the reporting of these cases, Arney replied, "Things can always change. We didn't see the details of where these [cases] happened [or] how they happened. Were they outside? Are they roommates? Did it happen on the field? So, we're looking at all those things .... to see what we can do better. We're always looking to improve." To view the university's facial covering protocol, visit, https://www.utrgv. edu/coronavirus/return-to-campus/ university-guidelines/face-covering/ index.htm.

Asked why the university has not issued news releases when a member of the campus community tests

Asked why this method was decided, Arney replied that it's all the information people need to know if they think it's safe to come to campus or not.

He said the most important thing the campus community can find on the website is the daily self-screening

He said students, faculty and staff can anonymously report any rule breaking of CDC guidelines, such as social distancing and lack of facial

#### ZOOMBATHON

Continued from Page 3

big Zumbathon in the basketball court, but because of the pandemic and trying to keep everybody still active and still aware of October being for cancer awareness, the best we can promote ... to our students is [to] continue doing this Zumbathon.'

Zarzosa said there will be a variety of music to dance to, which ranges from

salsa, merengue and reggaeton to bachata and hip-hop.

"We have three instructors teaching that class, so each of us will bring their own style," she said. "We will be motivating, like as if you guys were in the studio with us."

Kennan said the Zoombathon is for all fitness levels.

"Anybody can join," she said. "They do not have to have their camera on. They do not have to have the mic on.

Only those that want to show off their fancy moves can keep their camera on during the session.'

She said it is not mandatory to stay the whole hour, but she recommends that attendees wait until the end of the event for a raffle.

At the end of the event, the names of the attendees will be entered in a drawing for up to 30 prizes, including T-shirts, towels, breast cancer awareness pins and more.

"It's important for us to raise awareness because we are in the industry of wellness and fitness," Kennan said. "It's important for us to disseminate this information so that our students are aware of the demographics. ... We have younger demographics, so it's very important to get a screening early on."

Students can RSVP to the event on the University Recreation VLink.

October 19, 2020 THE RIDER

#### MAJOR Continued from Page 3

8

practices, sanitation, that kind of thing."

The degree program also expects juniors to spend two semesters completing community engagement, whether it is through an internship or another off-campus service. In their senior year, those students then attend courses where they discuss what they learned during their community engagement and how sustainability-related issues can be resolved in the Lower Rio Grande Valley.

"Whether they're in the field of funding in agriculture, or they're in social work or they're actually on the

#### LATINX Continued from Page 5

be more comfortable, not only for me but for those around me to use the 'x' so, I'll use the 'x," Marin told The Rider.

She said she believes it is an ignorant thing for people to deny the term Latinx. If someone wants to label themselves as that, then they should be able to.

"It's like erasing nonbinary or queer

#### **FILIPINO**

Continued from Page 3

others to receive snacks.

Sandoval said the department also created a Spotify playlist where students can add their favorite Filipino music.

"We want to be inclusive, we want our student body to be represented ... the different populations that we have here at UTRGV," she said.

The Filipino Student Association shares short videos every day on their Instagram account, @fsa rgv, to showcase food, music, highlights and the

production side of things, they all are ... together," he said. "They're all talking to each other in ways that, in theory, everyone can understand.

About three students will be sustainable agriculture and food systems' first graduates this December, Gabler said.

'We expect to have our first graduating class later this year, and we're excited about it," he said. "We're looking forward to their feedback on the process."

Those students and future graduates can find employment as production managers who oversee food production, U.S. Department of Agriculture inspectors, policymakers regarding agricultural fields, social workers in the areas of community development and

folk within the Latino community that identify as Latinx," Marin said. "They don't identify with an 'o' or an 'a' and they're most comfy with the 'x.' ... There is no right or wrong way to identify."

She said language is as fluid as our identity, so why can't the Spanish language change with people's identity?

"I think five years ago parquear became officially a part of the Spanish dictionary, when five years before that you would be made fun of for saying that

Filipino culture.

"We have this whole month ... where we're previewing many Filipino-related events on Instagram," said Johnathan Ysquierdo, a multidisciplinary studies senior and FSA's co-president.

Alfred Montejo, a nursing senior and FSA's co-president, explained each day's mini cultural session:

--Language Sunday: Lessons on Tagalog

-Music Monday: Choosing artists of the day or listening to the Spotify playlist with Filipino music

--Culture Tuesday: Sharing Filipino American history

more, Gabler said.

"Being interdisciplinary, there are a lot of options," he said.

Alex Racelis, an associate professor in the School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences, believes students may be unaware how this degree program can create career and professional development opportunities for students.

"There was a recent study done about opportunities and careers in the region, and they identified agriculture as one of the biggest career opportunities here in the Rio Grande Valley," Racelis said. "What we're trying to do with this degree is prepare our students to meet those needs in the community and workforce."

word because it was Tex-Mex and now it's officially a part of the Spanish dictionary," Marin said. "So, why can't Latinx be one of those terms? What's so wrong with it?"

Twenty-three percent of U.S. adults who self-identify as Hispanic or Latino have heard of the term Latinx and onethird of those people say it should be used to describe the Latino population, according to the survey.

"In our *comunidad*, there are people

--News Wednesday: Discussing news in the U.S. or the Philippines

--Highlights Thursday: Showcasing Filipino businesses in the Rio Grande Valley or anyone suggested by the FSA's cultural chair

--Food Friday: Watching cooking tutorials

--Celebs Saturday: Admiring Filipino celebrities.

Asked why it is important to celebrate Filipino American History Month, Montejo replied, "We recently came up with this schedule for this month because we never fully ... did an event ... for Filipino American history.

With sustainable agriculture and food systems, students can learn about issues that the Valley faces, he said.

'Food and agriculture in the region is super important, not just with agricultural production, but food-related diseases, hunger, a lot of the issues that the region is dealing with and facing," he said. "The students ... learn about these issues, understand the context here, and what it means for them and the communities and their own personal lives."

Students who would like to learn more information about the major may contact Gabler at christopher.gabler@ utrgy.edu.

who don't fit those gender roles and this term, Latinx, is about protecting them and lifting them up," Bowles said. "And if you think about, maybe, some people in your family that don't have the resources to get by, or something about their personality, or their looks, or whatever that complicates their lives and think about what you would do to make sure that they were happy and had what they needed, and so forth."

We never really praise the Filipino American throughout, like, history or throughout the world. We never really get ... recognition about us."

Noelyn Llasos, an administrative coordinator for Institutional Accreditation, was born and raised in the Philippines and moved to the U.S. when she was 9 years old.

"I think it's really important that we celebrate [Filipino American History Month] so our local community can appreciate and learn about our culture," Llasos said. "It's a good learning experience."

I looked into the beautiful yard, no one as usual. I reached across the fence and plucked a cluster of petite, blue flowers. As I looked up, I saw two small shoes attached to a less than amused woman, just as petite as the flowers with her arms crossed and scowling furiously.

"Sir, I've been waiting for this day. I work hard on my yard and you are ruining it!" Her fists curled. "Dang it! Look at them!" She lifted a stem into her hand gently, "Look at

the poor, poor massacred stems! She better be pretty if she is worth the death of my beautiful little flowers! In fact, I want to see this woman! I sure hope she is beautiful enough to warrant stealing!" She poked her

"Sorry!? Say that to my flowers!" she shrieked.

"No really miss I am. I can pay for the damage. I just-" I looked to the ground, heck I don't have enough money to pay for a flower. I don't even have enough for rent or a bag of ramen I thought. My shoulders drooped.

She threw her hands into the air. "It's far too late to plant anything else. But I still want to see this lady of yours. Dang she must be gorgeous if she is worth stealing for."

I glanced down the street wondering if she was seriously going to follow me. "Let me get my jacket," she marched to her porch steps and grabbed a grubby corduroy jacket and angrily put it on. Soon, she was next to me. "Let's go," she

On the Way Home **BY PILAR BENAVIDES** Sarah muttered a curse as she took in the violent rain. It had been a long day. She had been holed up in her cubicle since eight in the morning getting yelled at by angry customers and was looking forward to rushing home and stuffing her face with some takeout from the Chinese place across her apartment. She knew she was going to be completely soaked by the time she arrived at the bus stop, which made her start walking faster. She felt every step she took fall heavier each time, the rain weighing her down. Like the snap of a twig, her exhaustion broke. She had rounded a corner and rushed right into the chest of a tall man. Sarah stumbled back and spilled forth apologies. Her string of sorries were met with a chuckle from the man. At the sound, Sarah finally peered into the face of the stranger and felt her pinky finger twitch. stranger and felt her pinky finger twitch. The stranger's eyes took in her flushed face and took a step towards her. Sarah's shoulders unwittingly tensed at the slight movement. "You look like you've had one hell of a day," the stranger told her. All Sarah could do was nod. The stranger swept closer still to Sarah and said in a voice so quiet that even the rain seemed to slow in order to listen, "You know, I have nothing to do. I'd be happy to help you destress." Sarah discreetly slid a hand into her bag to double check she

be happy to belp you destress." Sarah discreetly slid a hand into her bag to double check she was prepared. She was. She always was. Sarah managed a second nod to the stranger as he swaggered into a nearby alley. Her face flushed, and she thought she saw stars for a second as she joined the stranger in the alley. She needed this. It had been months since the last time, and while she knew she was being reckless and probably very stupid, she couldn't help the goosebumps that made their way down her back. Soon, the shadows of the alley embraced her, and she walked slowly up to the stranger. He felt powerful. She knew he did from the cocky smirk that spread on his face as she loosened the tie around his neck. His hands were on her hips and his breath was fanning her face. Her eyes met his as she wound a hand around his meck and used the other to plunge a small blade into his carotid artery. Sarah released a breathy laugh as she took in the confusion and horror in her stranger's eyes. "Not so cocky now, are we?" she mocked. His only response was a gurgle of blood from his parted lips. She smiled softly as she traced the curve of his jaw. She savored the minutes that led to his death and finally sighed up at the rain that caressed her face and seemed to wash her hands clean. She emerged from the shadow draped alley with her lips curled into a lazy grin and made her way home. made her way home.

each word. I looked down at the flowers, "Gee I'm sorry miss-" I mumbled

finger a little closer to my face, emphasizing

#### commanded.

I started to walk slowly feeling like a boy on the way to the principal's office, wondering how to explain where we were going. I glanced down the street again, when she sarcastically asked, "How pretty is she?" paired with an eyeroll. "Oh, she's the most beautiful girl to walk the planet," I paused. Deciding to go on, I continued, "She has the most beautiful brown eyes that melt like honey in the light and the softest brown curls." looked down again.

#### "She's perfect."

"What's she like?" The lady prodded, the sarcasm waning. "She is so kind and so sweet. She always knew how to make me smile; she is the best thing that ever happened to me." We walked in silence for a bit.

"Gosh you must really love her then," the lady said. "With my whole heart and more." A tear slipped from my

#### eve.

I looked up from the ground. The looming stone archway marked the entrance to the cemetery. I guided her through the gate, around the familiar headstones to the headstone I knew best. I sunk to my knees placing the small forget me not next to the other wilted blue flowers. "Hey," my voice cracked as I started the usual conversation with her, "I miss you." Another tear slid down my cheek.

By Morgan Farnsworth