

THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY



HALLOWEEN ISSUE

THE RIDER

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.

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MORE THAN A NEWSPAPER

Delivering news to UTRGV no matter the circumstances.



ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today Day of the Dead: Ofrendas

The UTRGV Library will host **Luncho Libre Day of the Dead: Ofrendas** for students to learn about altars and discuss popular topics. The event will take place from noon to 12:45 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available through VLink.

Tuesday Meet the Deans

Students can meet with their **respective deans** to ask any questions, voice concerns or share ideas about their **degree, programs and internship opportunities** from 12:15 to 1:30 p.m. and at the same time Thursday. The event will be hosted by the **UTRGV Student Government Association**, and students will have the chance to win door prizes. RSVP is available through VLink.

Crafting Paper Flowers

In celebration of **Day of the Dead**, the UTRGV Library will host **Luncho Libre Day of the Dead: Crafting Paper Flowers** at noon. Students will need to bring **tissue paper, gift wrap or colored paper, string and scissors**. RSVP is available through VLink.

Wednesday Day of the Dead Trivia

Students can test their **Day of the Dead knowledge** and learn more about the traditional holiday in a trivia game hosted by the **UTRGV Library** from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom. Trivia questions will include topics such as **flowers, origination, festivities, and foods associated with Day of the Dead**. RSVP is available through VLink.

Magic Night

The **Campus Activities Board** will host a virtual show by magician **Brian Miller** at 6 p.m. RSVP is available through VLink.

Thursday E.P.I.C. Halloween Night

Students can join the **Engaging Peer in College (E.P.I.C.)** mentoring programs for a **Halloween night** featuring a **costume contest, trivia games and more** from 4 to 5 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available through VLink.

Día de los Muertos Face Off

The **First Year Experience** program and the **Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center** team invite students to a **face-off** contest in which they will put on their **Día de los Muertos** makeup live and on camera for a chance to win some prizes. **Three finalists** will receive swag from the DREAM and FYE departments.

AMSA Halloween Party

Students can join the **American Medical Student Association** as it examines some of the **spookiest medical cases in history**. A costume contest will also take place from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available through VLink.

Halloween Escape Room

The **Campus Activities Board** will host a **spooky virtual escape room** from 9 to 10 p.m. via Zoom. The event is on a **first-come first-serve** basis. The first 50 students to RSVP will get a chance to participate. RSVP is available through VLink.

Day of the Dead Lotería!

Students can play **Lotería** and **win prizes** from noon to 1 p.m. via Zoom. The event is hosted by the **UTRGV Library**. RSVP is available through VLink.

Friday Netflix Watch Party: 'Eerie'

The **UTRGV Leadership and Mentoring** office will host a **Netflix Watch Party** in observance of **Filipino American History Month**. The movie **"Eerie"** will be shown at 7 p.m. RSVP is available through VLink. The first 30 students to RSVP will receive a movie snack pack.

-Compiled by *Brigitte Ortiz*

POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 12 and 18.

Oct. 13

12:44 a.m.: A staff member reported losing his university-issued key Oct. 9 in the Engineering Building on the Edinburg campus. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

3:46 p.m.: A Facilities employee reported being involved in a minor accident while driving a university-owned utility vehicle on the Edinburg campus. The windshield broke after the vehicle struck a tree near the Academic Services Building. No injury was reported.

Oct. 14

1:36 p.m.: A staff member reported graffiti in the men's restroom on the first floor of the library on the Brownville campus. The markings were done in red marker and Facilities had already been called to remove it. The case is under investigation.

2:22 p.m.: An officer responded to the Financial Services Building on the Edinburg campus in reference to an active fire alarm. Upon arrival, the officer was advised that a custodian had accidentally activated the alarm while cleaning. The Edinburg Fire Department arrived at the location and cleared the building for reentry.

Oct. 15

2:06 p.m.: An officer responded to Lot B-11 on the Brownville campus in reference to a two-vehicle accident involving a university-owned vehicle. A staff member driving the university vehicle reported striking an unattended vehicle while reversing. Both vehicles sustained minor damage and no injuries were reported.

5:03 p.m.: A staff member reported losing her university-issued keys on Oct. 14. A report was generated for documentation purposes.

--Compiled by *Fernanda Figueroa*

Honoring the dead virtually

Paulina Longoria

THE RIDER

UTRGV students can celebrate the Day of the Dead throughout the week with Lotería and trivia games, and hands-on activities.

From noon to 12:45 p.m. today through Thursday, the University Library will host its 33rd annual Day of the Dead celebration with the Luncho Libre Series.

Shannon Pensa, the head of Special Collections and Archives for the University Library, said Luncho Libre "is a series that the University Library launched in the month of October as a way to engage students in virtual lunch dates to just talk about whatever pre-planned topic."

The events are as follows:

--today: Day of the Dead: *Ofrendas*, a brief presentation on the significance of *ofrendas* and students' traditions in their home, such as creating altars

--Tuesday: Crafting Paper Flowers, which are the Mexican or Aztec marigolds used on altars

--Wednesday: Trivia with topics associated with the celebration

--Thursday: Day of the Dead *Lotería*.

Pensa said each session will have two hosts and prizes such as UTRGV Library swag. Each winner of *Lotería* will earn a prize.

Students will receive an email confirmation on how to log in to the session and a Lotería card to use for the game, which can be printed at home or used on Microsoft Paint. Registration for this event is limited to 30 participants due to the number of cards that will be sent out.

"Since it is a virtual event, we really do



RIDER FILE PHOTO

The UTRGV Department of Sociology set up an altar for Día de los Muertos last year in honor of migrants who died while crossing the Rio Grande border and the El Paso shooting victims.

hope to engage with students," Pensa said. "I know not everyone likes to use their video and microphone features in Zoom, but we hope that they'll turn cameras on, at the very least microphones on so we can have a little discussion."

From 5:30 to 6:45 p.m. Thursday, the First Year Experience program and the Center for Inclusion and Diversity and the DREAM Resource Center are hosting the Día de los Muertos Face Off 40-minute contest via Zoom where students can do their own sugar skull makeup.

The event's VLink states participants should log in no later than 5:30 p.m. as the 40-minute countdown starts promptly

at 5:40 p.m.

Natasha Gonzalez is an English junior and guru for First Year Experience at UTRGV. A guru helps freshmen and sophomores transition to university life.

She said FYE is collaborating with the center because they like its mission to make everyone feel included and build the university community together.

"We're gonna ask our participants to turn on their cameras so that we can interact with them and it's just gonna be like a fun little makeup competition," Gonzalez said. "We're basing it on Día de los Muer-

A safer spooky season

Professor provides tips for celebrating Halloween

Sol Garcia
THE RIDER

With COVID-19 and Hidalgo and Cameron counties' ban on certain traditional Halloween activities, such as trick-or-treating and haunted houses, celebrating the spooky season looks different this year.

Tania Garcia, a mass communication senior, said she usually celebrates Halloween with friends from outside the Rio Grande Valley, but this October that is not an option.

"[My friends] would normally either come down or [I] would go out there and visit, just pretty much go out and have fun, and go to parties and dress up," Garcia said. "This year, because of COVID, we're not traveling."

While she may not be able to see her long-distance friends, Garcia will still celebrate Halloween with her immediate family.

She and her family will perhaps have a small cake, an array of candies and dress up within their household, "so that we can have fun with each other," Garcia said.

They will ensure they stay safe by wearing facial coverings, having hand sanitizer readily available and other regular precautions, she added.

Garcia said she has always looked forward to Halloween, but now it is more important than ever to celebrate it, not only because of the pandemic, but also because of mental health issues that can arise from consistently staying home.

"Because of everything happening, it's most important now to be able to have fun, or at least pretend for one day that everything is at least somewhat OK," she said.

Jose Campo Maldonado, an assistant professor and director of infection



Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

surveillance for the UTRGV School of Medicine, advises students who will celebrate Halloween with others to hang out outside and avoid crowded spaces, such as parties.

"You need to be aware that if you're in a closed environment, especially in a place where people are crowded, [you] will be more [at] risk of virus transmission as compared [to] doing something outdoors," Campo Maldonado said.

While COVID-19 is still prevalent, that does not mean the community should stop celebrating Halloween. However, community members should engage in low-risk activities instead of high risk, he said.

"I don't think that the fact that COVID-19 is going around means that all type[s] of celebrations or activities around this theme, the Halloween

theme, should necessarily stop," Campo Maldonado said. "There are some safe activities that can be done at home."

Low-risk and safe activities include carving pumpkins with your family or viewing decorations with your family and neighbors, he said.

"Those types of activities can be helpful [and] are not as risky as picking up candies at someone else's home, where you don't know if ... dividers are in place," Campo Maldonado said, referring to trick-or-treating, which local counties have banned.

He recommends students visit the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's website to learn about more low-risk Halloween activities.

CDC recommendations include:
--a virtual Halloween costume contest
--a Halloween movie night with your

household
--an in-house scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search.

If students celebrate with neighbors or other people who are not part of their household, they should continue to follow basic safety precautions, such as wearing a facial covering, washing their hands, keeping a safe distance and limiting the group size, Campo Maldonado said.

"There are restrictions, sometimes by county, of how many people can be together for an activity," he said. "I would advise people to make sure that they know that for your county, but numbers that have been used to be reasonable, for example, [are] 10 people because it's easier to control the distance [between each other]."

Many people may believe if they test negative for COVID-19 before meeting up with others, they are safe from the virus, creating a false sense of security since they could be infected after the test and then transmit it to others, Campo Maldonado said.

"You think that it's safe," he said. "You think that you don't need a mask, you think that you don't need to wash your hands, you think that it's fine to not keep your distance."

Alonso Gonzalez, a computer engineering sophomore, said he does not typically celebrate Halloween and he does not plan to do so this year, either. He does not believe his friends will, either, because of COVID-19.

"It's not a good idea to be ... hanging out with people," he said.

For those who will, however, Gonzalez said he advises them to follow healthy guidelines and act responsibly because of the pandemic's negative impact.

"This pandemic is hurting a lot of people and we need to do our best to stop it," he said.

Halloween: From Ireland to America

Fernanda Figueroa
THE RIDER

"First of all, I want to make it clear that Halloween has nothing to do with Dia de los Muertos," said Anthony Knopp, an emeritus history professor at UTRGV.

Halloween is celebrated Oct. 31 and is known for trick-or-treating, candy, costumes, haunted houses and jack-o'-lanterns but its origins are a bit different.

The tradition originated about 2,000 years ago from the Celtic festival Samhain (som-in), celebrated on Oct. 31, in which the Celts, from what is now Ireland, would light bonfires and wear costumes, according to History.com.

"Halloween had its origins in a Celtic festival that marked the end of summer and the beginning of winter," Knopp said. "This was the cutoff to the new year, where the boundary of the worlds of living and the dead became blurred. It was believed that the ghosts of the dead could return to the Earth at this time."

and the druids (Celtic priests) believed that the weakened boundary allowed for them to make predictions about their futures.

"Supposedly, the druids, which were the priests of the Celts, could make predictions," Knopp said. "They would make predictions based upon what the dead told them. They'd have big bonfires and they would wear costumes and tell each other fortunes."

According to History.com, the costumes the druids would wear consisted of animal heads and skins.

During 43 A.D., Roman traditions were merged with the Celtic traditions. One of the Roman traditions involved honoring the goddess Pomona, whose symbol is the apple. This incorporation evolved into today's Halloween tradition of bobbing for apples, according to History.com.

By the 9th century, the Catholic's church influence was noticeable. Nov. 2 was made All Souls' Day to honor the dead and was celebrated similar to the Samhain festival. The celebration was called All

Saints' Day or Allhallows. The night before the celebration was called Allhallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.

THE HISTORY OF HALLOWEEN

The tradition originated about 2,000 years ago from the Celtic festival Samhain (som-in), celebrated on Oct. 31, in which the Celts, from what is now Ireland, would light bonfires and wear costumes.

In the 9th century, the Catholic church established the celebration called All Saints' Day or Allhallows. The night before the celebration was called Allhallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.

By the 1950s, Halloween became the country's second-largest commercial holiday, with Americans spending about \$6 million a year.

In 43 A.D., Roman traditions involved honoring the goddess Pomona, whose symbol is the apple. This incorporation evolved into today's Halloween tradition of bobbing for apples.

The idea of trick-or-treating was borrowed from European traditions, and by the 20th century, Halloween parties became popular and the holiday became more kid-oriented.

SOURCE HISTORY.COM

Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Saints' Day or Allhallows. The night before the celebration was called Allhallows Eve and, eventually, Halloween.

"Souls' Day was celebrated kind of like [the] Samhain festival with the Celts," Knopp said. "People dressed up as saints, angels or devils and bonfires and parades [were had]."

Halloween came to America during the colonial period. During this time, public events were held in which Americans

told each other stories and fortunes, and they influenced celebrations and made Halloween more popular.

The idea of trick-or-treating was borrowed from European traditions, and by the 20th century, Halloween parties became popular and the holiday became more kid-oriented.

"Americans began dressing up in costumes and going house to house asking for food or money, a practice that even-

tually became the trick-or-treat thing," Knopp said. "Parents wanted [Halloween] to be more kid friendly so Halloween lost much of its superstitious and religious overtones."

By the 1950s, "Halloween was simply a kids' event, where people go trick-or-treating and get candy," Knopp said.

Halloween has become the country's second-largest commercial holiday, with Ameri-

YAGUERO VOICE



HORROR FILM VILLAINS

On Oct. 20, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "Which horror film villain is your favorite?" The results are shown below.

facebook

MICHAEL MYERS 36

PENNYWISE 14

THE CREEPER 8

JASON VOORHEES 2



twitter

4 PENNYWISE

3 MICHAEL MYERS

3 FREDDY KRUEGER

2 CHUCKY



Instagram

MICHAEL MYERS 13

CHUCKY 11

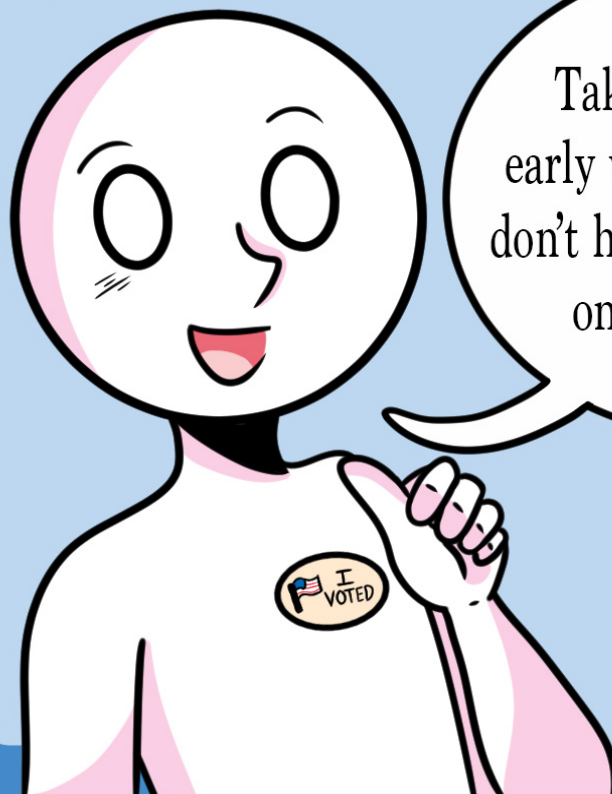
PENNYWISE 8

FREDDY KRUEGER 7



FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE @UTRGVRIDER

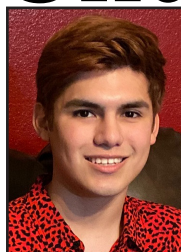
Important Reminder



Take advantage of early voting so that you don't have to wait in line on Election Day!



Understanding grief



Avery Arizola
THE RIDER

my life.

Yes, I have lost friends, opportunities, possessions, but I have yet to feel the sharp knife of grief. I do not understand the pain that comes with death.

Last month, I almost lost my 13-year-old dog to liver disease. It was traumatizing to watch the dog that I have had since I was 8 almost lose her life.

The whole time I thought to myself, "This is growing up. From this moment onward, I

am going to experience more loss and be more equipped to cope with it."

Fortunately, my dog recovered.

However, tragedy did not stop. Within weeks, I was supporting loved ones through their losses, and I struggled to offer proper support.

Apart from listening and offering my condolences, I felt there was a wall that is usually absent when I speak to my loved ones.

I could not say, "I know what you're going through," because I do not. I will never understand grief and mourning until I experience it myself.

In my quest to understand what grief is and how I could help people suffering through

it, I learned that supporting someone that is grieving is about simply being there.

It is important to listen when you are helping someone who is grieving. Ask them how they feel, validate their emotions and express your love and care.

Hold their hand along the way, but also understand that it is not your journey. Offer support, but know that everyone grieves differently and there is no right way to grieve.

Even though I have learned about grief, nothing will prepare me for when it comes. I will find comfort in that fact that I know that I will heal through a painful tug-of-war of letting go and holding on.

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.



VISIT US ONLINE AT
UTRGVRIDER.COM

Una temporada espeluznante más segura

Profesor proporciona consejos para celebrar Halloween

Sol García
THE RIDER

Este año será difícil celebrar la temporada espeluznante con el COVID-19 y la prohibición de ciertas actividades de Halloween tradicionales en los condados de Hidalgo y Cameron, como truco o trato o visitar casas embrujadas.

Tania García, una estudiante de comunicación en masas de último año, dijo que ella usualmente celebra Halloween con sus amigos que viven fuera del Valle del Río Grande, pero que eso ya no es una opción este octubre.

“[Mis amigos] normalmente, ya sea, venían al Valle o iba a visitarlos, básicamente para salir y divertirnos, e ir a fiestas y disfrazarnos”, García dijo. “Este año, por el COVID, no viajaremos”.

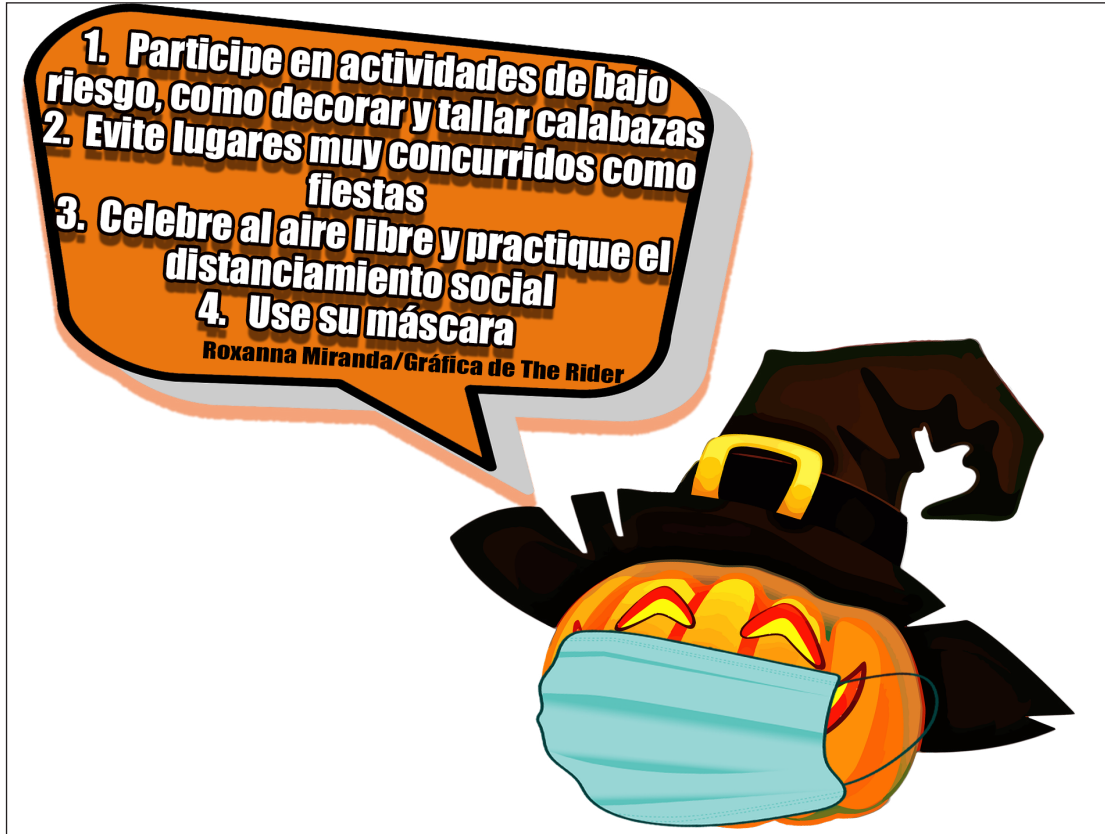
Aunque ella no puede ver a sus amigos de larga distancia, García comoquiera celebrará Halloween con su familia cercana.

Ella y su familia probablemente comerán pastel, una variedad de dulces y se vestirán en sus casas, “para poder divertirnos juntos”, García dijo.

Se asegurarán de mantenerse seguros usando protección facial, teniendo desinfectante de manos listo para usar y otras precauciones regulares, ella añadió.

García dijo que siempre espera celebrar Halloween, pero ahora es más importante que nunca el poder celebrarlo, no solo por la pandemia, sino también por los problemas de salud mental que pueden incrementar por quedarse constantemente en casa.

“Por todo lo que está pasan-



Roxanna Miranda/ GRÁFICA DE THE RIDER

do, ahora es más importante el poder divertirnos, o al menos fingir por un día que todo está bien”, ella dijo.

José Campo Maldonado, un profesor y director de vigilancia de infecciones de la Facultad de Medicina de UTRGV, aconseja a los estudiantes que celebrarán Halloween con más personas a salir y evitar lugares muy concurridos, como las fiestas.

“Tienen que estar conscientes de que si están en un entorno cerrado, especialmente en un espacio donde haya mucha gente, [tendrán] mayor riesgo de la transmisión del virus a comparación de [al

hacer] algo al aire libre”, Campo Maldonado dijo.

“Tania García dijo que siempre espera celebrar Halloween, pero ahora es más importante que nunca el poder celebrarlo, no solo por la pandemia, sino también por los problemas de salud mental ...”

Aunque el COVID-19 sea predominante, eso no significa

que la comunidad no celebre Halloween. Sin embargo, los miembros de la comunidad deberían participar en actividades de bajo riesgo en vez de alto riesgo, él dijo.

“No creo que el hecho de que el COVID-19 aún esté activo signifique que todos los tipos de celebraciones o actividades en respecto a este tema, al tema de Halloween, necesariamente vayan a terminar”, Campo Maldonado dijo. “Hay unas actividades seguras que pueden realizarse en casa”.

Actividades seguras y de bajo riesgo incluyen tallar calabazas con sus familias o ver decoraciones con familia y ve-

cinos, él dijo.

“Ese tipo de actividades pueden beneficiar [y] no son tan riesgosas como ir a pedir dulces a la casa de alguien más, donde no se sabe si ... se mantiene el distanciamiento entre las personas”, Campo Maldonado dijo, refiriéndose a truco o trato, lo que los condados locales han prohibido.

El recomienda que los estudiantes visiten el sitio web del Centro para el Control y la Prevención de Enfermedades para aprender más sobre las actividades de Halloween de bajo riesgo. Las recomendaciones de CDC incluyen:

--un concurso de disfraces de Halloween virtual

--noche de películas de Halloween en su hogar

--búsqueda del tesoro en su casa con un estilo de caza y búsqueda de truco o trato

Si los estudiantes celebran con sus vecinos u otras personas que no son parte de su hogar, deberían continuar siguiendo las precauciones de seguridad básicas, como usar protección facial, lavarse las manos, mantener distancia segura y limitar el tamaño del grupo, Campo Maldonado dijo.

“Hay restricciones, a veces por condados, de cuánta gente puede juntarse para cierta actividad”, él dijo. “Les aconsejaría a las personas asegurarse de que sepan esa información de su condado, pero los números razonables, por ejemplo, [son] 10 personas porque así es más fácil de controlar la distancia [entre ellos]”.

Mucha gente puede pensar que si salen negativo a la

Vea HALLOWEEN, Página 8

Honrando a los muertos virtualmente

Paulina Longoria
THE RIDER

Los estudiantes de UTRGV pueden celebrar el Día de los Muertos esta semana con juegos de lotería y trivia y actividades manuales.

Del mediodía a las 12:45 p.m. hoy hasta el jueves, la Biblioteca de UTRGV llevará a cabo su 33ª celebración anual del Día de los Muertos con su Serie de Luncho Libre.

Shannon Pensa, la encargada de las Colecciones Especiales y Archivos de la Biblioteca de UTRGV, dijo que Luncho Libre es una serie que la biblioteca “empezó el mes de octubre como una manera de que los estudiantes participen en reuniones de comida virtuales para hablar de cualquier tema planeado de antemano”.

Los eventos son los siguientes:

--hoy: Día de Muertos: Ofrendas, una presentación corta acerca de la importancia de las ofrendas y las tradiciones

de los estudiantes en sus casas, como el crear altares

--martes: Hacer Flores de Papel, las cuales son las flores mexicanas o aztecas de cempasúchil usadas en los altares

--miércoles: Trivia del Día de los Muertos con temas relacionados a la celebración

--jueves: Lotería del Día de los Muertos

Pensa dijo que habrá dos organizadores por sesión y premios como un botín de la Biblioteca de UTRGV. Cada ganador de la lotería recibirá un premio.

Los estudiantes recibirán un correo de confirmación sobre cómo entrar a cada sesión y una carta de lotería para usar durante el juego, la cual puede ser impresa en sus casas o usada en Microsoft Paint. Hay un límite de 30 participantes para registrarse a este evento por la cantidad de cartas que se en-

viarán.

“Ya que es un evento virtual, de verdad esperamos poder convivir con los estudiantes”, Pensa dijo. “Sé que no a todos les gusta usar las opciones



Foto de Cortesía

La Organización de Estudiantes Internacionales de UTRGV presenta una danza típica durante el Baile del Día de los Muertos pasado en el Gran Salón de PlainsCapital Bank en el campus de Brownsville. Este año habrá eventos virtuales para que los estudiantes participen, como el Día de los Muertos Cara a Cara, DIY Día de los Muertos y la serie Luncho Libre: Día de los Muertos.

de cámara ni de micrófono en Zoom, pero esperamos que los estudiantes prendan sus cámaras o al menos sus micrófonos para que podamos interactuar”.

De 5:30 a 6:45 p.m. el jueves, el programa Experiencia de Primer Año y el Centro de Inclusión y Diversidad y el Centro de Recursos DREAM llevarán a cabo el concurso de 40 minu-

tos del Día de los Muertos Cara a Cara por Zoom donde los estudiantes podrán hacer su propio maquillaje de las calaveras de azúcar.

El VLink del evento indica que los participantes deben entrar no más tardar a las 5:30 p.m. porque la cuenta regresiva de 40 minutos empieza sin demora a las 5:40 p.m.

Natasha González es una es-

tudiante de literatura de tercer año y gurú de Experiencia de Primer Año en UTRGV. Un gurú ayuda a los estudiantes de primer y segundo año a acostumbrarse a la vida universitaria.

Ella dijo que FYE (por sus siglas en inglés) está colaborando con el centro porque les

Vea DÍA, Página 5

UTRGV athletes and staff embrace fears

Ivan Palacios

THE RIDER

Everyone has something they are afraid of. Whether it is spiders, or snakes or the dark, we all have fears. For student athletes and those involved with UTRGV Athletics, their fears are a little different than most.

Andres Cortez, a redshirt freshman on the UTRGV Men's Golf Team, has been playing golf since he was 3 years old. While not many things scare Cortez on the golf course, he has had his fair share of frightening experiences.

"My last high school tournament actually was at state," Cortez said. "We took the long drive up there. We were there a day before so we could play a practice round, but when I showed up to the practice round I didn't have my putter. I was like, 'No way. How do I not have my putter?' My parents were courageous enough to make the drive all the way back and get it before the day started."

Although forgetting his putter was one of Cortez's scariest moments on the golf course, what he fears the most is showing up to a match and not being prepared mentally to play.

"Mainly, it's, just, not being mentally prepared going into the match," Cortez said. "I mean, you have X amount of weeks to prepare for a tournament. The main thing is just being mentally prepared, but whenever you show up that morning and you don't feel prepared it's just like, 'What am I doing here?' Other than that, there's always competition. There's always a certain golf course. Like maybe it's ranked one of the hardest in the state. Just little things like

that."

Valeria Montero, a redshirt freshman on the UTRGV Women's Tennis Team, had a similar frightening experience.

"We were going to UTSA to play against a couple of San Antonio schools, and 15 minutes before my match, we had just finished getting lunch and were on the court warming up," Montero said. "I pulled out my tennis bag and the slot for my tennis shoes was empty. I told my coach, 'Wes, I messed up. I don't got shoes.' So we had to haul so fast to the nearest store and grab any shoe that would work."

Like Cortez, her biggest fear does not come from physical objects, but rather from her own mentality.

"I feel like I have multiple ones [fears], but my biggest fear would definitely be losing focus and just getting upset and tanking a match," Montero said. "I don't want to waste a match like that."

Even those behind the scenes like Assistant Athletic Director for Marketing Sara Hernandez, have fears when it comes to game day. Her fear is playing the wrong national anthem or the anthem not playing before a game.

"The funniest one, because I have a recurring nightmare, like a literal nightmare at night, is playing the national anthem," Hernandez said. "That's a very special moment because everybody is quiet and everybody knows what to expect. Sometimes, some other times in the game, if we can't play a specific song or a video, there is something else we can do to kind of mask it, so that people are still entertained. With the national anthem, you can't do anything else but play the national

anthem. I have actually had nightmares about the national anthem not playing or me playing the wrong national anthem."

She also recalls some of her biggest fears during a meet from when she was a hurdler at legacy institution University of Texas-Pan American.

"I ran the hurdles so there is always a chance you were going to fall," Hernandez said. "That was really scary. It happens, but it's also really embarrassing if it does. So I think literally falling was one of the fears. But this is probably a recurring one, that people probably don't share as much, and that's really having to go to the restroom when you're about to run. That's really scary because you're about to exert force. It's kind of scary and I'm sure other sports experience the same thing, like you're on the court and you really have to go to the restroom. There is nothing you can do about it. You just have to stick it out."

For Senior Associate Athletic Director for Communications Jonah Goldberg, his biggest fears come when he is on the sidelines during games.

"My biggest fears are for basketball, or volleyball or sports where I'm really close to the action, that a player will come flying onto the broadcast table," Goldberg said. "They'll knock over the laptop and break it, not on purpose of course, but they'll fall onto the laptop and the equipment and everything will break. I'll get knocked off the air. I'll lose everything in my computer."

He almost saw that fear become a reality while broadcasting for the Rio Grande Valley Vipers a few years ago.

"I've had a close call once, when I was with the Vipers a few years

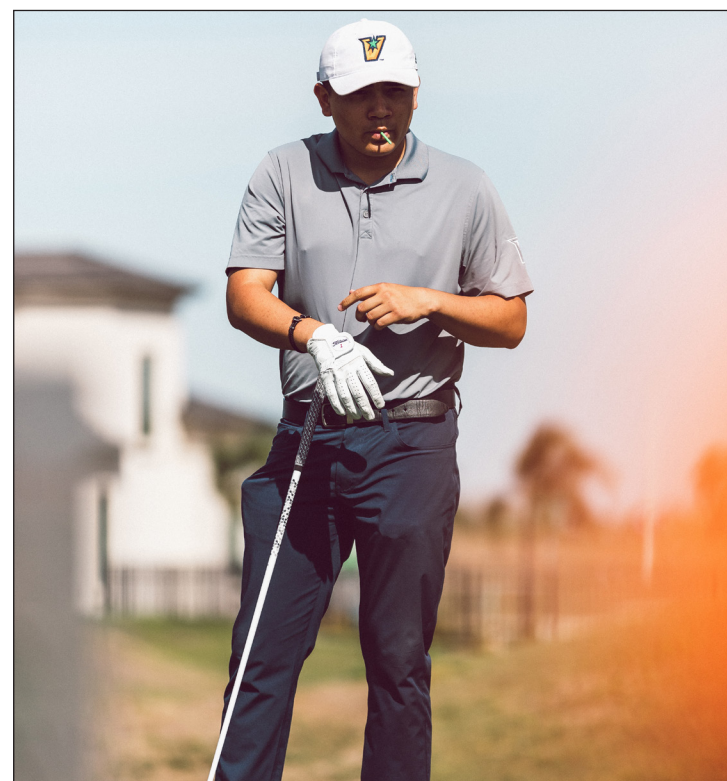


PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Andres Cortez, redshirt freshman for the UTRGV Men's Golf Team

back, with a player named Jawad Williams," Goldberg said. "He did come flying onto the table. It was a two-tiered table, so there was a top section and there was the actual table where our stuff was. He landed on the table, on like the top area, but he didn't roll over onto all of our stuff. But it was close."

While these fears are very real for both athletes and those behind the scenes, some have their own lucky charms or rituals to ensure things go well.

"I carry a certain amount of tees in one pocket, and I always carry two dimes and a quarter in the other," Cortez said. "It's just something I've always done since I was little. Oh, and another thing,

I always play with a golf tee in my mouth, just sticking out of my mouth. If I don't have any of those things going on, then something is wrong."

Montero also has her own lucky outfit and has to wear at least one blue sock each game.

Goldberg's pre-broadcast ritual consisted of him sharing a Twix bar with his co-anchor.

He views fear as a learning experience that shapes you into who you are.

"Fear can be a really good thing," Goldberg said. "It forces you to adapt the way that you work and it definitely did that for me."

Athlete of the Week: Zane Kohrs

Senior marketing major Zane Kohrs is a member of the UTRGV Men's Tennis Team. Kohrs began his collegiate athletic career in 2017-2018. He plays in both singles and doubles matches. During the 2018-2019 spring season, Kohrs went 11-7 in singles.

Q: How do you like to celebrate Halloween?

A: "I guess in college it certainly changed. [I] just kind

of like being with my friends and doing something different. And by different, I mean costumes and decorations and stuff like that. I guess, since you only get to celebrate once a year, it's important to do something different than what you normally do with your friends. So, I would say just being with friends or family."

Q: What is your favorite type of candy and why?

A: "Just in general, it would be Kit Kat and then, I guess, the Halloween special one [is], I would say, candy corn just because they are the classics."

Q: Who's your favorite Halloween monster?

A: "I actually don't really watch Halloween movies. So, I'll just say Frankenstein because he's different."

Q: Do you like to go to haunted houses? Why or why not?

A: "No, I hate haunted houses. I hate scary movies and I hate roller coasters. I guess I just don't like being scared."

Q: What has been your favorite Halloween costume and why?

A: "I did one my freshman year, me and a few of my teammates Mere the Ninja Turtles. So, we were each a different one. That was my favorite because, I guess, sometimes if you have the best costume all the attention is on you. So, I don't really necessarily like that. But, since it was kind of on all of us, it was kind of more fun. Like, we kind of walked in as a group and that made it a little bit more enjoyable."

Q: How are you planning to celebrate Halloween this year?



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

Zane Kohrs practices at the Orville Cox Tennis Center on the Edinburg campus Feb. 20. Kohrs and his friends dressed up as the Ninja Turtles his freshman year of high school, but his plans for this Halloween are still undecided.

A: "I'll probably just do something with my girlfriend. I guess, since I don't think we're allowed to go out, maybe we'll watch a scary movie for once, or I'm not sure."

Q: Do you find your sport to be rewarding? Why or why not?

A: "I would say yes because you know when you put in hard work all the time, you can directly see the impact of it. ... For instance, if you play basketball and you

work on your three-pointer every single day, but in your game, you never get to do it, maybe because you don't get put in or the ball doesn't go to you, it's not really as rewarding. But, in tennis, when you work on your shots every day, you go to your match and you get to use them. So, it's even more rewarding when you see that hard work pays off."

—Compiled by Karina Rodriguez



PHOTO COURTESY UTRGV ATHLETICS

UTRGV tennis players Zahn Kohrs (left) and George Hutchings practice at the Orville Cox Tennis Center on the Edinburg campus Feb. 26. Kohrs prefers to spend Halloween with friends and family.

DÍA

Continúa de Página 5

gusta la misión que tienen de hacer sentir a todos incluidos y el mantener unida a la comunidad universitaria.

"Les pediremos a nuestros participantes que prendan sus cámaras para que podamos interactuar con

ellos y tan sólo será una competencia agradable y divertida de maquillaje", González dijo. "Estamos basándonos en el Día de los Muertos, así que queremos que todos creen su propia versión de la calavera de azúcar".

Ella dijo que habrá música relacionada con la celebración al fondo durante el evento como la banda sonora de la

película de "Coco" y otras canciones mexicanas.

González también dijo que proporcionará información acerca de la celebración, y los estudiantes tendrán la oportunidad de compartir sus propias experiencias.

"Siento que muchas personas aquí en el Valle [del Río Grande] ... proba-

blemente no lo celebren tanto como es celebrado en México", ella dijo. "Sólo queremos hablar con las personas, o sea, escuchar sus experiencias y saber lo que conocen acerca del Día de los Muertos".

Los concursantes que queden en los primeros tres lugares recibirán un

Ve DÍA, Página 8

Haunted tales: Read if you dare

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

In the spirit of Halloween, students have shared their scariest on- and off-campus experiences with paranormal activity.

Priscylla Guzman, a mass communication junior, said the scariest experience she had on campus was in Fall 2019 in the Albert L. Jeffers Theatre in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus.

"It wasn't raining or anything, and the lights kept going off," Guzman said. "I think they went off, like, three or four times in, like, just random periods of time, not, like, consistent. It was just, like, it would go off and then, like, 20 minutes later, they would go off again. And, I don't know, it was really weird because like I said, it wasn't raining and I was starting to freak out and I could hear creaks on the catwalk of the studio."

She said later that same day there was a flickering light that kept making a ticking sound and at the same time there was also a creaking noise on the catwalk as if someone was walking on it.

"So far, that's like the scariest thing that I've experienced there," Guzman said. "But the light thing definitely freaked me out because the lights are controlled. ... There's, like, this box and you have to click an actual button for the studio lights to go on and no one was near that box. We were all practicing for our



Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

show, and they would just keep going off and it was really weird."

She has also heard of other spooky experiences in the Jeffers Theatre from her peers.

"We have a costume shop where the costumes are made," Guzman said. "I've heard from some students and, like, the people who work there that they have stayed late to work on costumes and that they see someone walking by. But it's like no one in particular, like, not a real person because at that time there's no students anymore. It's just them working in the costume shop."

During an event hosted by the Stu-

dent Union last Wednesday, students shared their scary stories via Zoom.

Adriana Nava, a bilingual education junior and student manager at the Student Union on the Edinburg campus, said she has heard stories of a little ghost girl who roams the second floor of the Student Union on the Edinburg campus.

"I personally have never seen her; however, what was really, really strange, we used to have a co-worker, we never spoke to her about any of the paranormal things that would happen at the union," Nava said. "All of a sudden, she just said one day she saw this

little figure and it was like a little girl in, like, the back of her, in one of the bathrooms on the second floor. And, when she told us, we kind of all freaked out because we were, like, 'We've never told you anything' and there was no reason for her to know about it, but she had seen it. So, it just kind of made things a little more weird. If she saw it and we didn't tell her anything about it, that means that there's actually something there."

She said her other co-worker has also felt the presence and heard giggles of little girls throughout the union.

Aileen Williams, an exercise science sophomore, said the scariest thing she has experienced is sleep paralysis.

"I took a nap in the afternoon with my little girl; she was about 3 years old, I think," Williams said. "I laid down with her and I started feeling that I was being possessed by a demon and I'm not that religious, but I don't know. I had that dream and the demon was trying to hurt my daughter, too, and I could see that I was in the room, the same room that I was in and I was trying to protect her. And, suddenly, I just woke up to check on her and the fan was swinging back and forth, and it wasn't on."

Asked what stories she has heard on campus, Williams replied that her mother knew a janitor on the Brownsville campus who would hear horse hooves and, one time, saw five men dressed in old military uniforms. The Brownsville campus sits on the former Fort Brown, which was established in 1846.

2020 Halloween costumes

Karina Rodriguez

THE RIDER

Despite COVID-19 putting a damper on Halloween festivities this year, people are still eager to find the most popular costumes of the season.

Google's annual "Frightgeist" list shows that the top five most popular costumes for this year are witches, dinosaurs, Harley Quinn, a rabbit and a clown.

The list is produced annually and is based on the number of times that a costume is searched.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has issued a statement regarding guidelines to abide by during this year's Halloween festivities.

"A costume mask should not be used unless it is made of two or more layers of breathable fabric that covers the mouth and nose and doesn't leave gaps

around the face," the CDC statement reads. "Do not wear a costume mask over a protective cloth mask because it can be dangerous if the costume mask makes it hard to breathe."

Katrina Jennings of Disney's Inside the Magic wrote an article that provides ways that people can incorporate their masks into a costume.

In her article, Jennings shows a variety of Disney costumes from popular Disney and Pixar movies.

In these looks, people can be seen with masks to act as part of a character's face or even a pattern that coincides with a character. For example, there is a look where the mask is the snout of Stitch and the makeup surrounding him completes the rest of the face.

An employee of Party City in McAllen said the most popular costumes for males are gangsters and for women, witches and devils. She said popular boy

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that costume masks should not be used unless the mask is two or more layers of breathable fabric and covers the mouth and nose.

Hidalgo and Cameron counties have prohibited door-to-door trick-or-treating but encourage families to find creative alternative ways to celebrate the spooky season.

Aaliyah Garza/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

costumes are scary knights and ninjas, and for girls, Jojo Siwa and characters from the Disney "Descendants" movie.

Here in the Rio Grande Valley, Halloween will be drastically different from anything in past years. In Hidalgo and Cameron counties, door-to-door trick-

or-treating is prohibited, but that does not mean the fun has to end. The orders from both counties suggest alternative activities for families. Do not be afraid to get creative and find great ways to stay happy, healthy and spooky this Halloween.

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza



DAY

Continued from Page 2

tos, so we want everyone to create their own version of the sugar skull."

She said there will be music related to the celebration in the background during the event ranging from the "Coco" movie soundtrack to other Mexican songs.

Gonzalez also said information about the celebration will be provided, and students will have the chance to share their own experiences.

"I feel that a lot of people down here in the [Rio Grande] Valley... probably don't celebrate it as much as it's celebrated in Mexico," she said. "We just want to talk to people, like, hear their experiences and what they know about Día de los Muertos."

The top three makeup contestants will receive UTRGV swag from the departments as prizes.

Asked what students can expect of the event, Gonzalez replied, "I hope they can come in with the mindset that they're gonna have a good time, they're gonna practice their makeup skills and if it doesn't come out well, that's OK. ... We can just come, laugh at ourselves, have a little bit of fun and just talk about Día de los Muertos as, like, a cultural event and see how it plays a role in our life."

From 4 to 7 p.m. Nov. 2, the Campus Activities Board along with the Student Union will host the DIY Day of the Dead

event with hands-on activities such as face painting, ceramic skull painting and DIY mouse ears.

Alejandra Santos, a computer science senior and the Cultural Committee chair for the Campus Activities Board, said there will be music from the "Coco" movie soundtrack for students to listen to while working on the activities.

The first 15 students that registered were contacted to pick up the materials and other students will receive an email with the list of the materials they need for the event.

Santos also said she owns Minnie Mouse *concha* ears that she bought from Epcot at Walt Disney World, so she came up with the idea to host the DIY.

"Students will be able to expect a fun way to celebrate [the] Day of the Dead and celebrate the people that have passed before us," she said. "We wanted something tangible for the students to actually hold and something for them to actually do instead of just looking at a screen."

Santos said it is nice to have those events because Day of the Dead was celebrated on campus in past years by the Campus Activities Board with the ceramic skull painting.

Two students can win \$50 in VBucks in a raffle at the end of the event.

Students can register to all the events on VLink.

Visit us online at utrgvrider.com

HALLOWEEN
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prueba del COVID-19 antes de juntarse con otros, están a salvo del virus, creando un sentido falso de seguridad ya que podrían infectarse después de la prueba y transmitirlo a otros, Campo Maldonado dijo.

“Pueden pensar que es seguro”, él dijo. “Piensan que no necesitan máscara, que no necesitan lavarse las manos, piensan que está bien no mantener la distancia”.

Alonso González, un estudiante de

ingeniería informática de segundo año, dijo que no acostumbra a celebrar Halloween y que tampoco planea hacerlo este año. Él no cree que sus amigos tampoco lo harán por el COVID-19.

“No es una buena idea ... juntarse con personas”, él dijo.

Para aquellos que lo harán, comoquiera, González dijo que les aconseja seguir las medidas de salud y actuar de manera responsable por el impacto negativo de la pandemia.

“Esta pandemia está dañando a mucha gente y tenemos que hacer lo mejor que podamos para detenerla”, él dijo.

--Traducido por Paulina Longoria

HISTORY
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cans spending about \$6 billion a year, according to History.com.

Today, Halloween's origins are rarely remembered, but Nicholas Kiersey, an Ireland native and UTRGV political science professor, recalls the religious tones of the celebration during his childhood and the clear difference from American celebrations.

“When I was growing up in Ireland,

it was a little bit more religious,” Kiersey said. “There seemed to be more of a devotional aspect. Here you know the idea of getting candy. In Ireland, you had to sing a song on someone's doorstep before they would give you candy, like you couldn't just hold your bag out and go, 'trick-or-treat.'”

This year due to COVID-19, Hidalgo and Cameron counties have placed restrictions on trick-or-treating. For more information, read the Hidalgo County order or Cameron County order.

DÍA
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botín de los departamentos de UTRGV como premios.

Se le preguntó a González qué pueden esperar los estudiantes del evento.

“Espero que puedan asistir con la mentalidad de que se la pasarán bien, practicarán sus habilidades del maquillaje y que si no les sale, está bien”, ella respondió. “Solamente podemos asistir, reírnos de nosotros mismos, tener algo de diversión y tan sólo hablar del Día de los Muertos como un evento cultural y ver qué papel juega en nuestra vida”.

De 4 a 7 p.m. el 2 de noviembre, la

Mesa de Actividades del Campus junto con la Sociedad de Alumnos (Student Union) llevarán a cabo el evento de DIY Día de los Muertos con actividades manuales como pintarse el rostro, pintar calaveras de azúcar y hacer orejas de concha de Minnie Mouse.

DIY (Do It Yourself) es un acrónimo en inglés que significa Hágalo Usted Mismo.

Alejandra Santos, una estudiante de ciencias de la informática de último año y la silla del Comité Cultural de la Mesa de Actividades del Campus, dijo que habrá música de la banda sonora de la película de “Coco” para que los estudiantes escuchen mientras trabajan en las actividades.

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registraron fueron contactados para que recojan los materiales y los demás estudiantes recibirán un correo electrónico con la lista de los materiales que necesitan para el evento.

Santos también dijo que ella tiene sus propias orejas de concha de Minnie Mouse que compró en el parque de Epcot de Walt Disney World, así que ella fue la que hizo que surgiera la idea de hacer un DIY.

“Los estudiantes pueden esperar una manera divertida para celebrar [el] Día de los Muertos y a las personas que se han ido antes que nosotros”, ella dijo. “Queríamos algo tangible que los estudiantes pudieran agarrar y algo para que ellos pudieran hacer en vez de sólo ver una pantalla”.

Santos dijo que es bueno el poder tener esos eventos porque el Día de los Muertos ha sido celebrado en el campus en años pasados por la Mesa de Actividades del Campus con el concurso de pintar calaveras de azúcar.

Dos estudiantes pueden ganar \$50 VBucks en una rifa al final del evento.

Los estudiantes pueden registrarse a todos los eventos por VLink.

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REPULSION BOY

Story Written By: Mike Panuelos

There once was a boy who had a weird power. He had the power to repel anything that came his way as far as he desired. This power was not given but developed through the hardships he faced in life. His powers started to develop during his early years. After many encounters with his elementary school bullies, he chose to finally defend himself.

One day after school, the bullies rushed after him and pushed him to the ground. Repulsion Boy said as he got up and wiped the dirt off his pants, “I will no longer tolerate this.” and the bullies said, “Oh yeah, what are you going to do about it?” Suddenly, the ground started to shake, and the wind started to blow hard. Repulsion Boy screamed, “Get away!” and the bullies were thrown across the floor by some invisible force.

After this incident, although the bullies stopped bothering him, nobody wanted to get close to Repulsion Boy. He walked through the halls confidently and gave smiles here and there, but nobody would return them. Whenever he tried getting close to someone as if by some invisible force, they were repelled to get away from him. He was kind, honest, loyal, and fun to be around, but no one dared to get close and find out themselves.

Because of this, Repulsion Boy learned how to be there for himself. As if by some invisible force, he no longer let people get close even though hardly anyone ever tried to. He got used to the distance and learned how to be content with it. Although he has accepted the fact that an invisible force continues to keep people away, he wished that someone would just try to surpass it.

This continued all the way to his junior year of high school. By then, he had learned how to control and suppress his power. From time to time, when his thoughts and emotions finally caught up to him, he lost control over his power and pushed away what was in front of him.

This all changed when he noticed the girl with the pink balloon. He had never seen her before, so he approached her hoping she had never seen him either. He said, “Hi” and got no answer. He continued, “My name is Ryan, what's yours?” and got no answer again. He left confused but intrigued. Every day after school, he would search for the girl and try talking to her, but she kept giving him no answers.

After a month of trying, Ryan went up to her for the last time and said, “Look, I know you may not want to get to know me, and I understand. So, I wish you the best. I want you to know that if by some invisible force you reconsider, find me, and I won't push you away.” As he left, the girl with the pink balloon turned and said, “Don't leave.” Little did Ryan know, the girl with the pink balloon was just like him. Something occurred in her past and just like Ryan, an invisible force would surround her to repel others from getting close.

Surprisingly, the girl with the pink balloon began chasing after Ryan. Ryan turned around, saw her, and stood still with fear and excitement. The girl with the pink balloon said, “My name is Lilly. It's nice to meet you.” Her smile penetrated and took down Ryan's invisible force that stopped him and others from getting close. Lilly and Ryan walked and told each other their stories. They shed tears, shared laughter, and many smiles that stretched cheek to cheek. Lilly stopped and said to Ryan, “Why do you keep staring and smiling at me?” Ryan gave her no answer. He just stood there smiling, looking at Lilly looking back at him. Step by step the gap between them got closer and so did the two. Lilly let go of her balloon because she now has someone to hold on to, and Ryan felt an invisible force within his chest pulsing and drawing him in.

