

# THE RIDER

THE STUDENT VOICE OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS RIO GRANDE VALLEY

# Happy Valentine's Day!





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](http://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 **Terry Crews Lecture** Terry Crews, actor, artist and activist, will be the next guest speaker for the **Distinguished Speaker Series. Student Activities** will host the event from 7:30 to 9 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

**Tuesday Voter Registration** Join the **Civic Engagement Alliance** to learn how to **register to vote** and the **importance of voting** from 11 a.m. to noon via Zoom. Attendees have a chance to win one of three **VBucks prizes**. RSVP is available on VLink.

**Showbiz Quiz Gameshow** The **Campus Activities Board** will host a **virtual trivia competition** about movies, music and television from 5:30 to 6:30 p.m. via Zoom. Attendees have a chance to win up to **\$200 in cash prizes**. RSVP is available on VLink.

**'Ma Rainey's Black Bottom'** The **Cultural Council** will celebrate **Black History Month** with a screening of **"Ma Rainey's Black Bottom,"** starring **Viola Davis** and **Chadwick Boseman**, from 7 to 9 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

**Wednesday Black History Month Film** The **University Library** will host

a **brief discussion on library resources** and screen the short film, **"The Negro Leagues,"** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:15 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

**Effective Meetings Training Leadership & Mentoring** will host a training on how to **effectively plan and run meetings** from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday and from 4 to 5 p.m. Friday via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

**Virtual Involvement Fair Leadership & Mentoring** will host a **virtual involvement fair** in which students can learn about **political, sport clubs and special-interest** organizations from 5 to 7 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

**Thursday Virtual Involvement Fair Leadership & Mentoring** will host a **virtual involvement fair** in which students can learn about organizations registered at UTRGV from noon to 2 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

**Friday The People Series: John Lewis** Learn about civil rights activist and American politician **John Lewis** during this week's installment of **The People Series**, hosted by the **Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center** from 3 to 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available

on VLink. **Homecoming Virtual Party** Join **Student Activities** and **University Recreation** as they host a **second round of music and virtual tailgating** for the UTRGV Women's Basketball Team from 4 to 6 p.m. via Zoom. RSVP is available on VLink.

**Upcoming Charreada Virtual 5K Student Activities and University Recreation** will host a **virtual 5K** on Feb. 20. The virtual race can be run or walked from any location, outdoors or on the treadmill. The deadline to register is Feb. 15, and participants will be sent an **event T-shirt and medal**. RSVP is available on VLink.

**'Star Wars' Conversations The Science Fiction & Fantasy Interest Group** will meet on Feb. 17 to discuss **"Star Wars"** and **"The Mandalorian"** from 3:30 to 4:40 p.m. via Zoom. The Zoom meeting ID number is 847 7933 3100.

**'The Witch Among Us'** The UTRGV **Latino Theatre Initiative** will participate in the online **"Festival de la Bete Noire."** The group will perform **"The Witch Among Us"** by Francisco Garza Rincones and directed by Carolina Perez Jaber. The festival will run from Feb. 17 to 21. Tickets are \$5 and can be purchased [here](#).

--Compiled by Omar E. Zapata

**Have an announcement?**  
Email us at [TheRider@utrgv.edu](mailto:TheRider@utrgv.edu).

POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Jan. 26 and 31.



**Jan. 26 8:28 a.m.:** An officer and the Edinburg Fire Department were dispatched to the Community Engagement for Student Success Building on the Edinburg campus in regard to a report of smoke coming from the building. A tar machine being used by construction workers repairing the building's roof caused the smoke.

**Jan. 27 7:37 p.m.:** A student lost her personal identification cards at the University Center on Jan. 25. She needed to document the incident.

**7:39 p.m.:** An officer responded to the library after the U.S. Border Patrol informed the UTRGV Police Department that five individuals had crossed the U.S. border fence near River Levee Road in Brownsville, and were in the brush area. The individuals were taken into custody by the Border Patrol without incident. Four of the individuals were from Honduras, and one was from Mexico.

**Jan. 28 12:52 p.m.:** A student found the left rear passenger window of his vehicle shattered while it was parked unattended in the Facilities lot on the Edinburg campus. Facilities staff reported they had not trimmed grass in the area. The cause of the damage is unknown.

**Jan. 29 8:17 a.m.:** An officer conducted a traffic stop off campus on a vehicle for displaying an expired

temporary license plate. An investigation revealed the license plate was not registered to the vehicle and was confiscated. The non-affiliated driver was issued a citation for the violation.

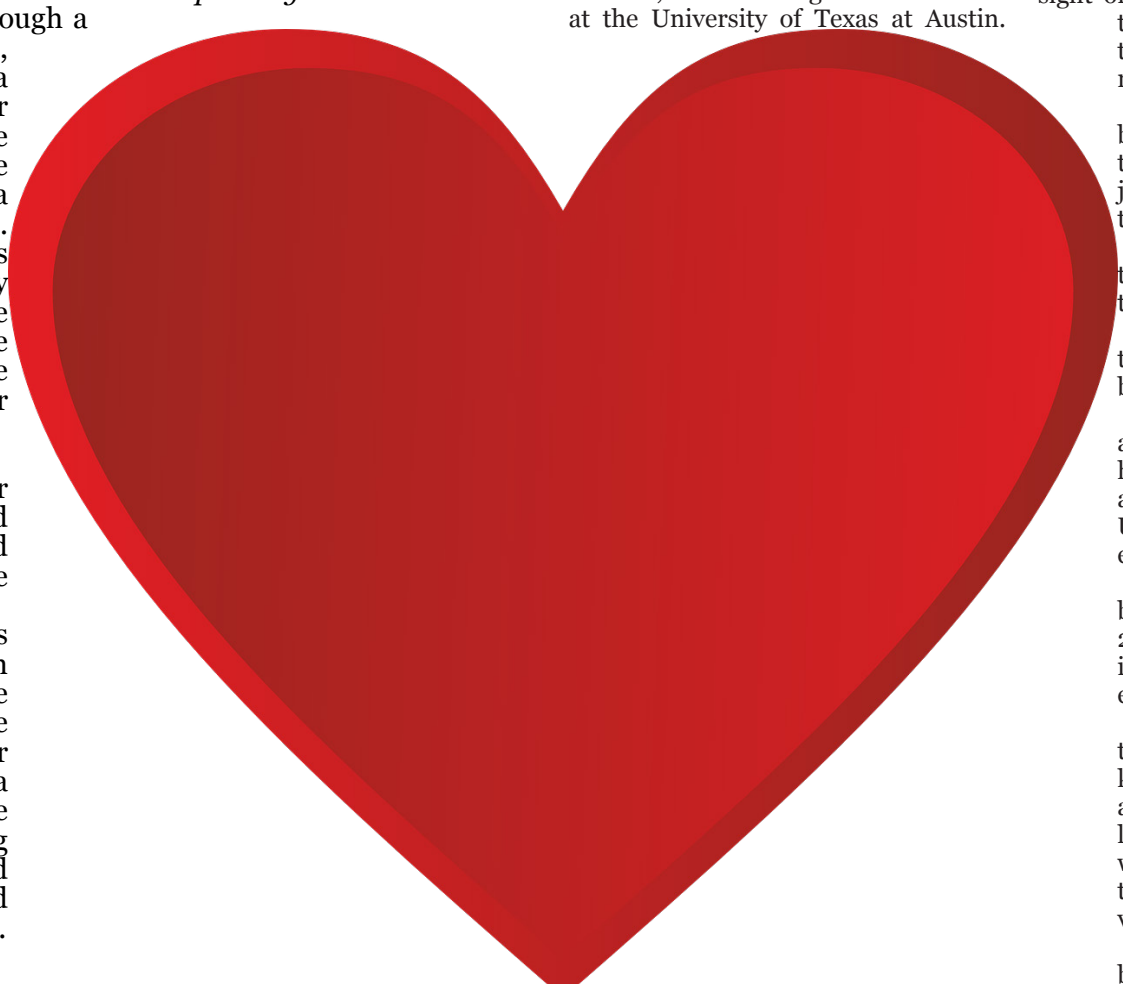
**2:40 p.m.:** A non-affiliated woman reported that she had left her cell phone in the UTRGV Health Pediatrics Specialties Clinic women's restroom on the Edinburg campus on Jan. 28. She was able to locate her cell phone through a different phone application, which showed it was at a different location. Further investigation revealed the address observed on the application came back to a staff member's residence. The staff member was interviewed and allegedly admitted to taking the phone to her residence. The phone was returned to the owner. The case is under investigation.

**Jan. 30 11:01 a.m.:** A staff member reported two unauthorized purchases on her credit card in two different states. The case is under investigation.

**5:26 p.m.:** Officers responded to a fire alarm at Troxel Hall on the Edinburg campus. A smoke detector on the second floor had been triggered by a student heating food in the microwave. The Edinburg Fire Department responded to the location and deemed the building safe for reentry.

**Jan. 31 1 a.m.:** An officer responded to the Casa Bella Apartments on the Brownsville campus in regard to minors consuming alcoholic beverages. Four students were issued citations for the violation of consumption of alcohol by minor, and the report will be referred to UTRGV Student Rights and Responsibilities for review.

--Compiled by Sol Garcia



Spread love, not the virus

Alejandra Yañez  
THE RIDER

A UTRGV clinical therapist suggests taking a "COVID-friendly" approach to Valentine's Day celebrations this year.

"I love Valentine's Day," said Maria Alejandra Mazariegos, a UTRGV clinical therapist. "I always have. Ever since being a small child, I thought it was such a neat concept—just like, a day where people openly celebrate love."

Mazariegos said the expectations for Valentine's Day can be stressful for some people due to the holiday being commercialized.

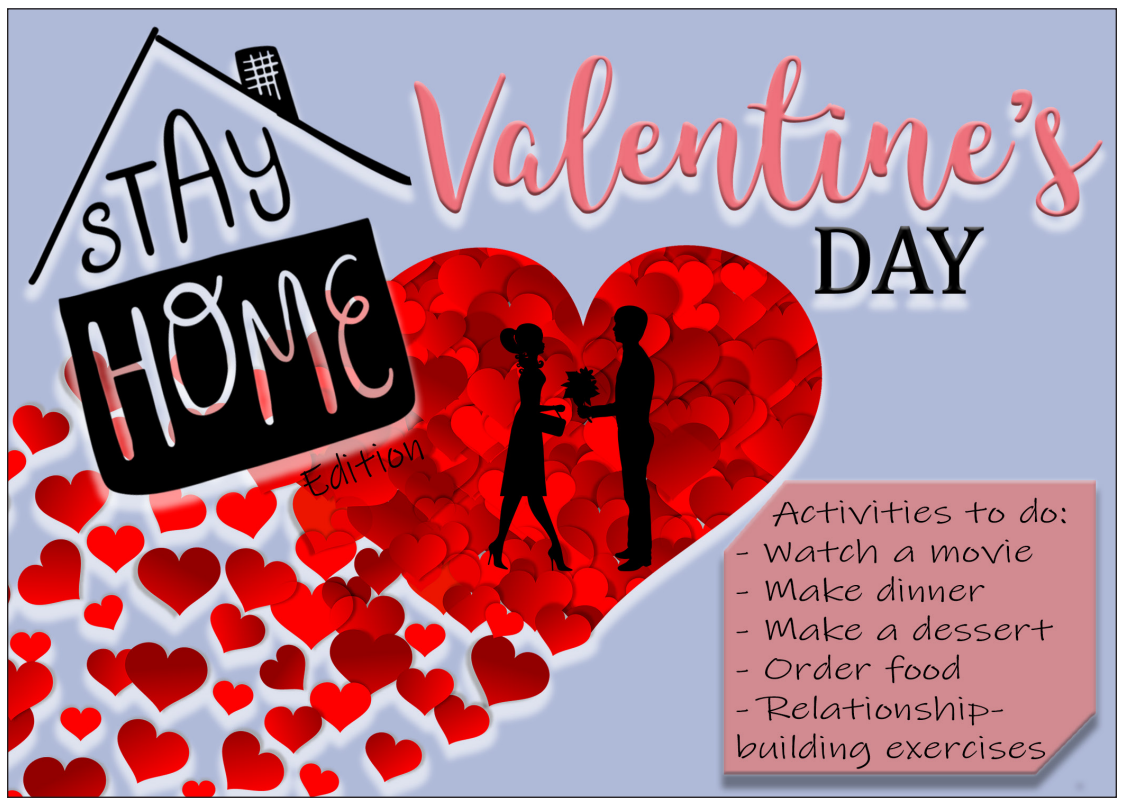
"I do think it's gotten really commercial and sometimes there's a lot of pressure, especially for people who may not know how to express themselves," she said. "It can feel kind of awkward."

Asked how this Valentine's Day will differ from the rest due to the pandemic, Mazariegos replied that she hopes people don't crowd at restaurants like they usually do.

"It'll definitely be different in that, for sure," she said. "We're not gonna see the big commercial-like lines out of restaurants that kind of stuff."

The clinical therapist said due to the pandemic, there are more single people this year than people in a relationship.

"The dating scene from 2020 has been a little bit hard



- Activities to do:
- Watch a movie
  - Make dinner
  - Make a dessert
  - Order food
  - Relationship-building exercises

Roxanna Miranda/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

**[Maria Alejandra Mazariegos] suggests cooking a meal with your partner, picking up food curbside or watching a movie at home.**

From first dates to last

Sol Garcia  
THE RIDER

With Valentine's Day around the corner, it's sweet to reminisce over memorable dates.

Before Kimberly Selber was a communication associate professor and graduate program coordinator at UTRGV, she was a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin.

During that time, Selber went on a first date with another graduate student to Half Price Books, a bookstore that was right next to her home.

"It was literally 15 steps away from my back door, and so, that was his suggestion, 'Hey, let's go to Half Price Books,'" she said.

At the bookstore, each gained an insight on the other's book tastes. They talked about books, but soon, they were talking about much more.

"Not only did we talk about the books, but then we continued talking until late into the night just about everything and anything," she said.

After browsing bookshelves, the couple went to a coffee shop to continue talking.

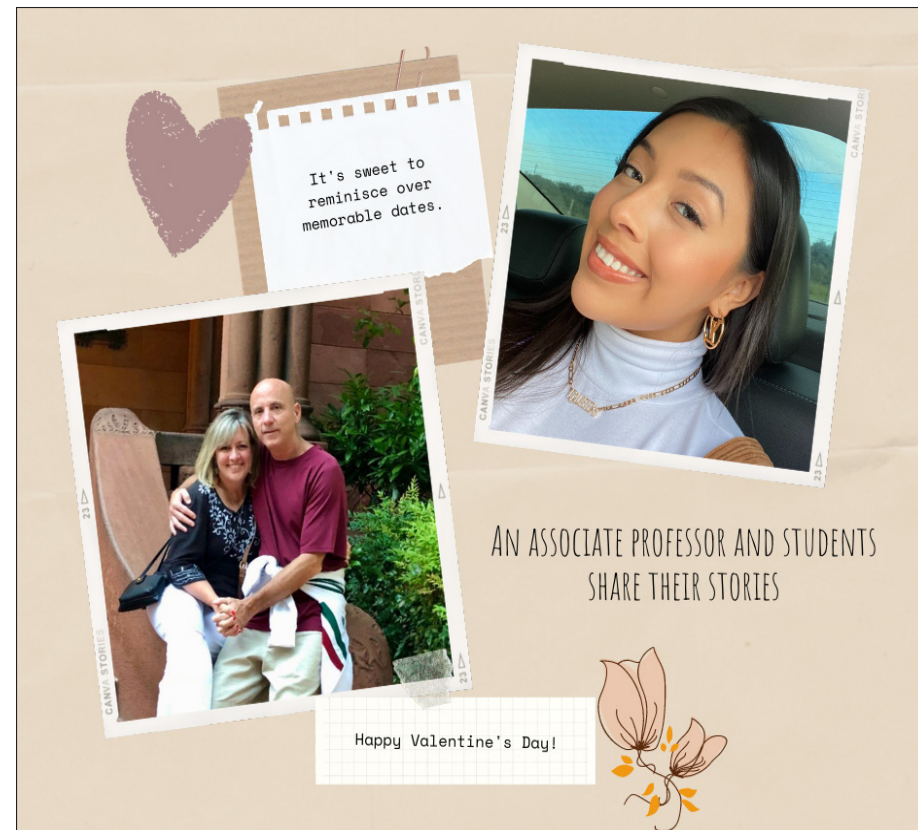
"We didn't want the conversation to end, so we knew there'd be another date," she said.

Indeed, they had another date and many more since. Selber and her now-husband, Greg Selber, a communication professor at UTRGV, continue to have dates, especially at bookstores.

"Going to the bookstore has been a staple date for us for over 20 years now," she said, laughing. "Our date night oftentimes ends up at a bookstore."

A special date that stands out to Alondra Sanchez Proa, a marketing junior, began at Philly 77, a restaurant in downtown McAllen. Sanchez Proa and her date were in the outside area with their food, but they were too nervous to finish their meals.

"I was nervous because I had butterflies in my stomach," she



Jacqueline Wallace/THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

UTRGV Communication Associate Professor Kimberly Selber and her husband, Communication Professor Greg Selber, are shown at left. At right is marketing junior Alondra Sanchez Proa.

said. "I got really shy, and I couldn't even eat."

After Sanchez Proa and her date had a milkshake with cheesecake on top, they left to stargaze. That was when Sanchez Proa's date surprised her with flowers and a necklace that inside said, "¿Quieres ser mi novia?"

"I said yes," she said. "It was just a very special memory to me."

Sanchez Proa is happy she got to ex-

perience that memory and others with her then-boyfriend. While the two are no longer together, they remain friends who can rely on each other.

"We know that we could count on one another if we're struggling with a problem in our life," she said.

However, not all memorable dates end pleasantly. Sometimes, they can get messy.

During Kevin Christman's under-

standing of the pandemic, so it'll be interesting I think," Mazariegos said. "So, how I would like to see it be different is, really, that people tune into self-love."

She said Valentine's Day is the perfect opportunity to channel self-love and be your own date, regardless of whether you are in a relationship or not.

"I really think Valentine's Day, when you're filled with self-love and you're filled with gratitude, you're able to find love in every single way," Mazariegos said. "You don't need a valentine or a valentine's date to show that or prove that to yourself."

For those who do plan to spend the special day with their significant other, Mazariegos encourages couples to take a "COVID-friendly" approach and use that time to get to know each other better at home.

"I definitely think that safety is important, and if you are in a relationship and both partners have been safe, and you guys are already hanging out with each other anyways, then I think it's important to continue to be safe and not feel pressured by stereotypes and society that you have to pretend like we're not in a pandemic and you have to do the whole production of, like, 'Let me take you out,' that



# YAQUERO VOICE



## VALENTINE'S GIFT

On Feb. 1, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "What would you prefer to receive as a gift on Valentine's Day?" The results are shown below.

facebook

DIY GIFT 29

FLOWERS 12

POTTED PLANT 8

DINNER 6



twitter

DIY GIFT 3

DINNER 2



CHOCOLATE 1

FLOWERS 1

# Instagram

DIY GIFT 10

DINNER 8

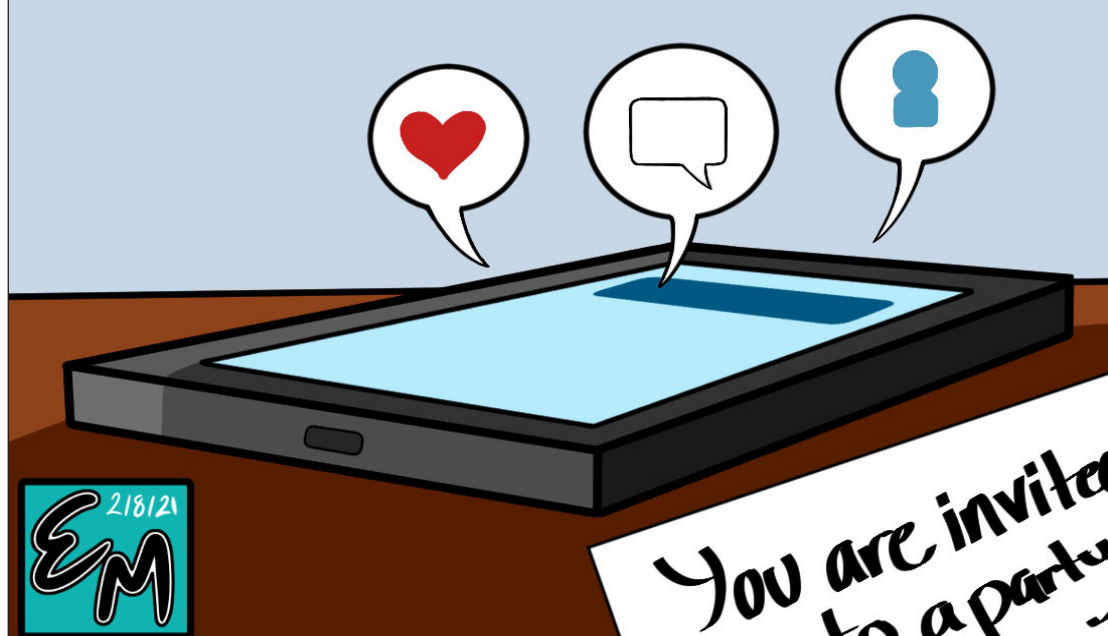
CHOCOLATE 5



FLOWERS 4

FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE @UTRGVRIDER

## Recklessness is not worth risking lives



# Lost and found



**Estefania Hernandez**  
THE RIDER

Growing up, we were all supposed to have an idea of our dream career, whether it be becoming an astronaut, a doctor or a firefighter, but all I thought about was being happy with myself.

I never really thought about my dream job. I just went with whatever felt right to me. I made myself learn many skills throughout my life to see what sparked a light in me and it never quite lit until this past year.

In January 2020, I made it a goal of mine to change my lifestyle and join the gym. At first, I was clueless as to how and where to start, so I grabbed some books to read about fitness, checked social media

and immediately started my fitness journey. Waking up at 5 a.m. each morning was a huge struggle for me but the feeling I got after a workout made it feel like I could conquer anything throughout the day. Seeing my slow but progressive results showed me that hard work, dedication and determination is everything you need to reach your goal. In the beginning, I thought of the gym as my hobby, but I have finally come to see that it is much more than that to me.

In the beginning of December, I decided to start my own website to share my tips, meals and workouts with others. I knew how difficult it was for me to start my fitness journey, so my goal was to help other women reach their goal in their fitness journey. After college, I am going to start the National Academy of Sports Medicine program to become a certified personal trainer. I eventually want to

apply to South Texas College's Physical Therapy Assistant Program to learn more about the human anatomy when it comes to regaining strength or movement after an injury.

There are so many things in my life that I want to accomplish and such limited time, but we will take it day by day. I will start my own fitness program one day. I will open up my own gym one day, and I will start my own fitness apparel one day. Time is ticking, and all I know is that I will not rest until I have done what I wish to do.

Now, what is my dream career? My dream career is to help others reach their confidence, their happiness. Fitness helped me through many difficult times and now I want to share that with others who feel the same way as I did before. I may have felt lost and hopeless before, but I have now found my peace in life.

## 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.*



# De la primera

# a la última cita

**Sol Garcia**  
THE RIDER

Con el Día de San Valentín a la vuelta de la esquina, es bonito recordar citas inolvidables.

Antes de que Kimberly Selber fuera una profesora de comunicación y coordinadora del programa de posgrado de UTRGV, era una estudiante de posgrado de UT Austin. Durante ese tiempo, Selber tuvo su primera cita con otro estudiante de posgrado en la librería *Half Price Books*, la cual estaba justo al lado de su casa.

"Estaba literalmente a quince pasos de mi puerta trasera, así que, eso fue lo que él sugirió, 'Oye, vamos a *Half Price Books*'", ella dijo.

En la librería, la pareja obtuvo mayor comprensión de cada uno aprendiendo sobre sus gustos en libros. Hablaron sobre libros, pero tan pronto estaban hablando de muchas cosas más.

"No solo platicamos de libros, sino que hablamos hasta altas horas de la noche sobre todo y en realidad de cualquier cosa", ella dijo.

Después de explorar librerías, la pareja fue a una cafetería para seguir platicando.

"No queríamos que la conversación terminara, así que supimos que tendríamos otra cita", ella dijo.

Efectivamente, tuvieron otra cita y muchas más desde ese entonces. Selber y su ahora esposo, Greg Selber, un profesor de comunicación de UTRGV, continúan teniendo citas, especialmente en librerías.

"Ir a una librería ha sido una cita esencial para nosotros ya por más de 20 años", ella dijo riendo. "Nuestras citas de noche casi siempre terminan en una librería".

Una cita especial para Alondra Sánchez Proa, una estudiante de tercer año de mercadotecnia, empezó en *Philly 77*, un restaurante en el centro de McAllen. Sánchez Proa y su cita estaban en la parte de afuera con su comida, pero estaban muy nerviosos como



UNA PROFESORA Y ESTUDIANTES COMPARTEN HISTORIAS DE SUS PRIMERAS CITAS

¡Feliz Día de San Valentín!

Jacqueline Wallace/ILUSTRACIÓN FOTOGRÁFICA DE THE RIDER

De izquierda, Kimberly Selber y su esposo Greg Selber, unos profesores de comunicación de UTRGV. A la derecha, Alondra Sánchez Proa, una estudiante de tercer año de mercadotecnia.

## Sin embargo, no todas las citas inolvidables terminan gratamente. A veces, pueden terminar siendo un desastre.

para terminar de cenar.

"Estaba nerviosa porque sentía mariposas en el estómago", ella dijo. "Me puse muy tímida, y ni siquiera pude comer".

Después de que Sánchez Proa y su cita tomaron una malteada con pay de queso, se fueron para ver las estrellas. Ahí fue cuando la cita de Sánchez Proa la sorprendió con flores y un collar que decía, "¿Quieres ser mi novia?"

"Dije que sí", ella dijo. "Es un recuerdo que fue muy especial para mí".

Sánchez Proa está feliz de que pudo experimentar ese recuerdo y otros con su en ese entonces novio. Aunque ya no están juntos, siguen siendo amigos de fiar.

"Sabemos que podemos confiar el uno en el otro si batallamos con algún problema de nuestras vidas", ella dijo.

Sin embargo, no todas las ci-

tas inolvidables terminan gratamente. A veces, pueden terminar siendo un desastre.

Durante los años de estudiante de pregrado de Kevin Christman en la Universidad de Texas A&M, empezó a usar una aplicación de citas en la que hablaba con un hombre que estaba en un bar cerca del apartamento de Christman. Decidieron conocerse en el bar, pero para lo que Christman pensaba que sería una linda

primera cita, resultó siendo tan incómoda cuando llegó y descubrió que su cita estaba borracho.

"Está completamente borracho, y yo estaba como, 'Oh, no, yo estoy sobrio y él está borracho. ... Supongo que ahora tendré que cuidar de él'", dijo Christman, ahora un estudiante de posgrado de sociología de UTRGV.

Después de platicar, se fueron al departamento de Christman. Su cita se sentó en la cama de Christman, donde quedó inconsciente. Cuando se despertó, vomitó inmediatamente en su ropa, la alfombra y la cama de Christman.

Christman lo ayudó a limpiarse, pero su cita volvió a quedar inconsciente en la regadera.

"Pasaron probablemente como dos o tres horas cuando se despertó, y yo como, 'Amigo, acabas de vomitar por todos lados'", Christman dijo. "Y él dijo, 'Lo siento mucho'".

Terminaron la noche acurrucados, pero después del día siguiente, nunca volvieron a verse.

"[Si] tengo que cuidar de él en la primera cita ... no, gracias", Christman dijo.

Después de esa experiencia, Christman aprendió a dejar de usar las aplicaciones de citas. Sin embargo, los que sí las usan a veces deberían "ir despacio" y comunicar en un principio lo que en verdad quieren antes de quedarse de ver con alguien, él dijo.

"Deberían ser honestos con lo que quieren al principio, para que la otra persona no piense de otra manera y no terminen lastimándose los dos o que no obtengan lo que quieren", Christman dijo.

Para las personas que están solteras, disfrútenlo, él dijo.

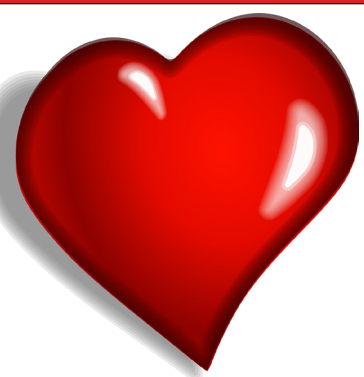
"Aún existen dichas--cuando estás soltero", el estudiante de posgrado dijo. "Simplemente puedes estar enamorado contigo mismo, y no hay nada malo en hacer cosas que disfrutes por tu cuenta. No siempre se necesita de alguien".

--Traducido por Paulina Longoria

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# Athletes of the Week: Valentine's Special



Freshman nutritional sciences major Valeria Gracia is a player for the UTRGV Women's Tennis Team. Gracia is a Rio Grande Valley native and attended McAllen High School before her admittance to UTRGV.

**Q:** What is your favorite aspect of tennis?  
**A:** "When you start playing, it's just for yourself but then, in the end, it's just as much a team [sport] and everyone works together."

**Q:** When and how did you start playing tennis?

**A:** "I started playing when I was 13 years old, which is pretty old for this game. ... But I started playing because I was super into it. Since my parents love to watch it, I just started watching it with them. Then, I just wanted to play."

**Q:** If you could sum up your experience playing tennis in one word, what would it be and why?

**A:** "I would say 'eventful' because every day when you go into, whether it is practice or a match or whatever, you just don't know what to expect. So, you just have to prepare for everything."

**Q:** What is your favorite way to spend Valentine's Day?

**A:** "My favorite way to spend Valentine's Day is with my friends because no matter what year or what happens, they're always going to be there for each other. So, that is just a really nice way to enjoy time with them."

**Q:** If you are given extra credit to pass out Valentine's Day cards to your class, what cartoon would be on them and why?

**A:** "The first thing that pops in my head is Bugs Bunny because it's super funny and super fun to just pass around on Valentine's Day."

**Q:** Do you have any plans for this Valentine's Day? If so, what are they?

**A:** "Yes, I am going to spend it with my friends this year, again. We're just going



UTRGV Tennis player Valeria Gracia



UTRGV Baseball pitcher Chase Bridges

**“My wife and I, we're very simple people. So we spend it very simply. Usually, it's dinner, then a movie or something like that.”**  
-Chase Bridges  
UTRGV Baseball pitcher

to bake cupcakes, and we're going to bake cakes ... and decorate them together and just eat together."

Senior multidisciplinary studies major Chase Bridges is a pitcher for the UTRGV Baseball Team. Bridges' first season with

UTRGV was in 2020. He ranked sixth in the Western Athletic Conference in appearances. Bridges previously attended the University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma in 2017-2018 and Northern Oklahoma College-Tonkawa in 2019.

**DATES**

Continued from Page 3

kind of thing, and instead get creative and find a COVID-friendly approach," she said.

The clinical therapist suggests cooking a meal with your partner, picking up food curbside or watching a movie at home.

"But really, I think it'd be cool to use this opportunity to cook together," Mazariegos said. "Find a cool recipe, get your ingredients, make it a whole-day activity where you can cook your meal, cook a dessert and get to know each other as you are cooking."

For couples who have been together

**“If you can love yourself and someone else, why not do both?”**

-Maria Alejandra Mazariegos  
UTRGV clinical therapist

for a long time, she suggests a technique known as "love mapping," to help stay in tune with your partner.

"The idea is that, as you get to know someone, you stop asking as many questions as you did when you first started dating them," Mazariegos said. "You kind of stop that curiosity and stop asking those questions because you assume that you already know everything that you need to know about your partner. However, that's not true. So, love mapping is really being a tourist in your partner's world and asking questions to update that database you have of them."

Asked what she suggests for people celebrating alone, she replied love mapping with yourself and asking yourself questions to prioritize what is most im-

portant to you.

"Same thing applies," Mazariegos said. "Ask yourself, what do you need: Maybe it's sleep, maybe it's therapy, maybe it's exercise."

The clinical therapist suggests treating yourself by getting your favorite food, watching a movie or doing something you enjoy.

"If you can love yourself and someone else, why not do both," Mazariegos said.

Asked what constitutes as safe and unsafe this year in terms of celebrating, she replied, "It's important to see what the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] says and continue to be healthy because, hey, guess what? There will still be Valentine's Day next year."

After that experience, Christman learned to stop using dating apps. However, those who do use them should sometimes "take it slow" and communicate first what they want before meeting up with someone, he said.

"You should communicate what you want right away, so the other person doesn't think otherwise and you both don't get hurt or both don't get what you want," Christman said.

For the people who are single, enjoy it, he advises.

"Being single--there's still some joys in it," the graduate student said. "You can just be in love with yourself, and there's nothing wrong to do things that you enjoy by yourself. You don't always need someone."

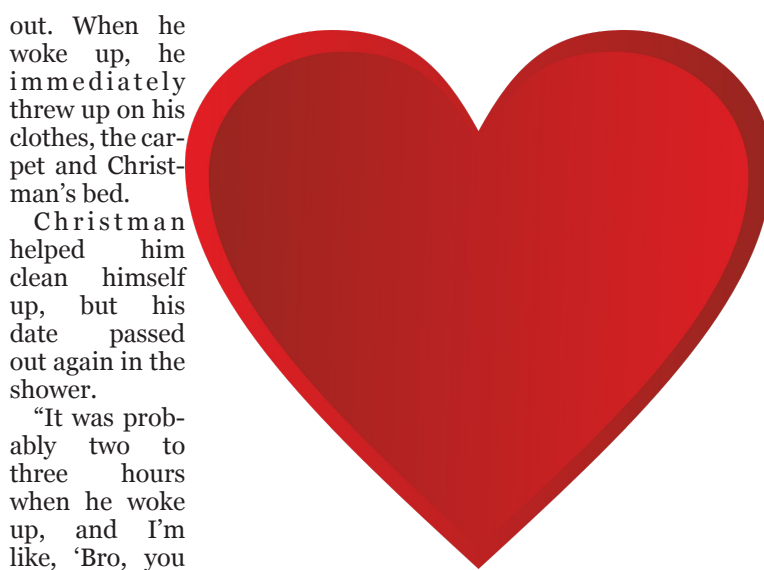
**STORIES**

Continued from Page 3

graduate years at Texas A&M University, he joined a dating app in which he talked with a man who was at a bar near Christman's apartment. They decided to meet at the bar, but what Christman thought was going to be a nice first date, turned awkward when he arrived and discovered his date was drunk.

"He's completely drunk, and I'm like, 'Oh, no, I'm sober and he is drunk. ... I guess I'm going to have to take care of him now,'" said Christman, a sociology graduate student at UTRGV.

After they chatted, they went to Christman's apartment. Christman's date sat on the bed, where he passed



just threw up everywhere," Christman said. "He's like, 'I am so sorry.'" They ended the night cuddling, but after the next day, they never saw each other again.

"[If] I have to take care of him on the first date ... nah, I'm good," Christman said.

# From me to you DIY VALENTINE'S DAY PROJECTS TO GIFT

**Brigitte Ortiz**

THE RIDER

Valentine's Day is a day to celebrate love, friendship and affection. To show appreciation to our loved ones, we buy them gifts or sometimes make them ourselves.

The Rider interviewed two UTRGV students with small businesses about ideas for do-it-yourself gifts.

Carolina Rios, an interdisciplinary studies senior, runs a home-based business in Mission that sells treats and sweets online called Triple R Sweets. She bakes cakes, cupcakes, cheesecake, *mostachón* (meringue cake), *chocoflan*, brownies and *empanadas*.

Rios' desserts can also be ordered in miniature sizes.

"Those are like the sweet stuff, I also have for, like, the savory or spicy," Rios said. "I have those candies that are *enchilados* and I have the apples that are covered with *tamarindo* and they have *chamoy* and gummies."

She said she posts on her Instagram and Facebook what she made and if she hasn't made it customers can send her a picture and she can try to recreate it or do something similar.

For easy-to-bake treats, she suggests cupcakes or brownies.

"Just because the brownie, you can make it, like, in a rectangular container, like a cake, and then if you have, like, a heart-shaped cookie cutter you can cut it and that would look cute," Rios said.

For a simple cupcake recipe, she suggests buying the prepared box mix and following the recipe on the back of the package.

"You can substitute the water for milk and if you don't want to use the oil, you can also substitute it with [melted] butter," Rios said. "So, it would be the flour, the eggs, the butter or the oil and the milk."

She makes the frosting by combining butter, powdered sugar and vanilla.

"For the buttercream, you can use two sticks of butter, softened and unsalted," Rios said. "I use unsalted, and then you can use 1½ teaspoons of vanilla extract. And then you can do around four cups of powdered sugar."

"First, you have to beat the butter and make sure that it gets, like, fluffy and then you ... can do the vanilla and



PHOTO COURTESY MONTSERRAT ORTIZ

Interdisciplinary studies senior Montserrat Ortiz, who owns Busy Bee: Crafts by Montse on Facebook and Instagram, recommends a memory explosion box as a Valentine's gift.

then the sugar at the end and add it one cup at a time. And, if you want to, you can add milk, like one or two table-spoons, but I personally don't use it just because it gets too soft. But, if you like it more creamy, you can. You can add milk or you can even do heavy whipping cream."

She said chocolate-covered strawberries, macarons or pretzels can be added as toppings.

When baking cupcakes, she suggests placing a few grains of rice under the cupcake liners so the oil or butter won't stain the cupcake liner.

"You can also buy the [decorating] tip and the disposable bag, or you can get a silicone bag," Rios said. "They're not that expensive. Those are, like, in Hobby Lobby, Michaels and [decorating] tips are like a \$1 to \$2. ... The most basic one is the [Wilton decorating tip] 1M."

She said to make a rose, start piping in the middle and go outward in a circle. "That would look nice on a cupcake and if you mess up, that's OK," Rios said. "You can just add sprinkles, or you can put your favorite chocolate on top."

Montserrat Ortiz, an interdisciplinary studies senior, owns Busy Bee: Crafts by Montse on Facebook and Instagram. Ortiz makes shirts, cups, keychains, dog tags and more. She suggested a DIY project called a memory explosion box.

"What happens is you put pictures inside of the box and when you open it, all of the pictures come out and you can put a little gift inside," Ortiz said.

For the materials, the small white memory explosion box is available at Michaels for \$3.50. Also needed are a printer, sticker or regular printer paper, glue for the pictures and stickers or markers.

"So first, you have to go on your computer and find 12 pictures that you really like and put them on a Word document, size them to 4-by-4 [inches, or 10.1 cm x 10.1 cm] so that they can fit inside the squares," Ortiz said. "After that, you print them, you cut them out and you can start pasting them the way you like around the squares in the box."

Students can put stickers around the box, write a message on top of the box or place a gift inside.

"What I did was that I added a little bit of, like, foil paper, like the ones you put in gift bags," she said. "And then, put a few candies, so something simple. And then, I put heart stickers around it and I wrote on top, 'Hi, open for a surprise.'"

She said the total cost for the project, if you have a printer, is under \$10 and it would take 30 to 45 minutes to complete.

**The Doodler**

By Elizabeth Mendoza



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**VAQUERO NEWS**  
W/ JUSTIN ELIZALDE 9 - 9:30 A.M. - MONDAY



**FALLOUT SHELTER**  
W/ DJ FALLOUT 11 A.M. - NOON - THURSDAY



**THE CHUNKY FUNKY HOUR**  
W/ EL NONO MALO & BIG VIC 3 - 4 P.M. - WEDNESDAY



**OFFICE HOURS**  
W/ DJ DOC V 10 - 11 A.M. - FRIDAY

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