

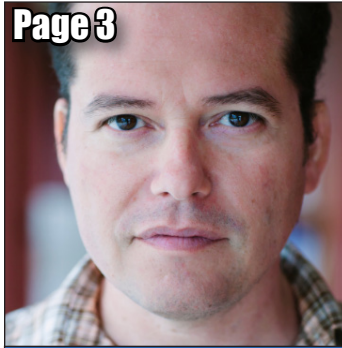


Luis Martinez Santillano/ THE RIDER PHOTOS

Students walk on the Brownsville campus last Wednesday.

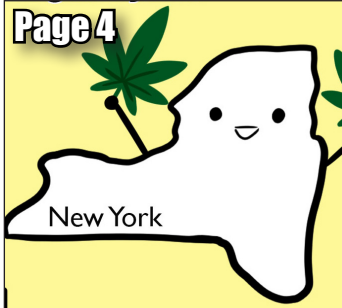
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Team Vision United wins SGA election

Mentally preparing to reintegrate

Sol Garcia
THE RIDER

UTRGV English senior Gina Vasquez said she is feeling optimistic about the idea of more in-person instruction next fall.

"I feel pretty positive about it, with everybody getting vaccinated and us moving forward," Vasquez said. "I think it'd be a good, slow start."

However, she worries about what returning to campus looks like.

The senior asked, "What would it feel like? What would it look like? Would it not feel like we used to, like the traditional stuff, like how you used

to be able to just hop into your professor's office hours?"

For many people, that and other worries, such as getting sick with COVID-19, can affect wanting to return to in-person instruction, said Carmen Villegas, a clinical therapist at the UTRGV Counseling Center.

"Within the last year, there may have been a little increase of that fear of maybe getting sick or getting family members sick and that does contribute to maybe not wanting to go in person," Villegas said.

Those fears and anxieties may also impact an individual's learning process, she said. "You're not fully focused and

concentrated on your work because your mind is distracted with that stressor, the COVID stressor," Villegas said.

The therapist said one of the first steps to mentally preparing for reintegration is recognizing and accepting that it will not be as it was pre-COVID.

"We have to embrace flexibility," Villegas said. "We have to be able to embrace change because as we progress these next few years, things will be different, and we have to be able to be adaptable."

Acknowledging any negative feelings is also crucial, Villegas said. "One of the important things

is to recognize that with uncertainty comes anxieties and nervousness," she said. "Recognize that that's how you feel and [do] not try to repress those feelings."

If it is a health concern, people should continue to use any safety precautions that they feel safe with, Villegas said.

"[Take] proactive approaches to be able to feel safe, [such as] practicing those protocols that maybe were in place, like still wearing a mask or carrying around Germ-X or whatever it is that helps that person feel like they're safe," she said.

Villegas said mindful strate-

See FALL, Page 5

How COVID's existential threat fostered an environmental reset

Alejandra Yañez
THE RIDER

While the COVID-19 pandemic has aided in short-term environmental restoration, the long-term effects are dependent on humanity's future trends, according to a UTRGV professor.

After a year of co-existing with the novel coronavirus, environmentalists discovered early on that the effects of less human travel due to the quarantine have benefited the environment in small but significant ways.

By reducing human activity, ecosystems were able to flourish and heal themselves from the damages that humans placed on their environments.

Christopher Gabler, an assistant professor at UTRGV's

School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences with a joint appointment in the Department of Biology, said one of the most important impacts that COVID-19 had on the environment was reducing human activity.

"We stopped going to work as much," Gabler said. "We stopped driving around as much. We stopped moving and traveling and that was only one of the ways it affected human behavior, but that actually has bigger implications for the environment. The reason for that is because we have so many humans, over 7 billion people, and how we behave has a lot to do with [the environment]."

He said that by simply taking Zoom calls rather than traveling to job sites, humans were able to reduce greenhouse gas



Roxanna Miranda/ THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

According to Christopher Gabler, an assistant professor at UTRGV's School of Earth, Environmental and Marine Sciences, the COVID-19 pandemic has reduced air pollution due to less travel during quarantine. Thus, the Earth's ecosystems have begun to slowly repair themselves.

emissions and decrease the regular carbon dioxide rate. This increased the air quality in many major cities.

"In places [such as] India and China and other parts of Southeast Asia and everywhere in the world, the air was better,"

Gabler said. "People were having fewer incidents of asthma

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THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. 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.



Copy editor Arisbeth Rodriguez

ANNOUNCEMENTS



Today People Series: Frida Kahlo

Learn about the life, art and legacy of Mexican painter Frida Kahlo from noon to 1:30 p.m. via Zoom.

The People Series is hosted by the Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center. RSVP is available on V Link.

Women's Recovery

Join a nine-week support group for women to come together, receive support and empower one another at noon via Zoom. The sessions are hosted by the Collegiate Recovery Program. Email recovery@utrgv.edu for Zoom link.

Tuesday Open Recovery

A support group for those seeking recovery from substance use, addictive behaviors and/or process addiction meets at 3 p.m. Tuesday and noon Friday. The sessions are hosted by the Collegiate Recovery Program. Email recovery@utrgv.edu for Zoom link.

Sustainable Table Webinars

The Campus Food Security Team will present a Sustainable Table Webinar series twice a week in April focused on plant-based and delicious food. Tuesday's webinar, "Salads|Beyond Lettuce,"

will take place from 5:30 to 6:15 p.m. and will show viewers how to create entrees. "A Taste of Italy," scheduled from 12:30 to 1:15 p.m. Friday, will show viewers how to prepare pasta and make sauce from scratch. Participants who attend all sessions will be entered in a drawing for a basket of healthy goodies. To register, visit its [Eventbrite page](#).

Meet the Deans

Virtually meet with deans from all the colleges at UTRGV from 3 to 4 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday via Zoom. The event is hosted by the Student Government Association. RSVP is available on V Link.

'Fruits Basket' Watch Party

Join the Student Union to watch the first two episodes of the "Fruits Basket" final season from 5 to 6 p.m. Attendees will be entered in a "Fruits Basket"-themed giveaway. RSVP is available on V Link.

Wednesday Smart Recovery

Join the Collegiate Recovery Program for a self-management and recovery training, a non-spiritual-based peer support at 11 a.m. via Zoom. Email recovery@utrgv.edu for Zoom link.

National Gardening Day

In celebration of National Gardening Day, the Student Union will offer

tips on how to garden from 1 to 2 p.m. The video will be posted on its social media: Facebook: UTRGV Student Union, Twitter and Instagram: @UTRGVUnion.

Thursday Virtual Playlist Bingo

Join the Campus Activities Board for Bingo from 6 to 7 p.m. via Zoom. Participants get the chance to win up to \$200 in cash. RSVP is available on V Link.

Friday People Series: Selena

Learn about the legacy of the Queen of Tejano music, Selena, from 3 to 4:30 p.m. via Zoom. The event is hosted by the Center for Diversity & Inclusion and DREAM Resource Center. RSVP is available on V Link.

Upcoming Male Leadership Summit

The fourth annual South Texas Male Leadership Summit will take place from 1 to 4 p.m. April 23 via Zoom. Hosted by Texas Southmost College, the summit will focus on enhancing leadership skills, networking and developing careers. To RSVP, click [here](#).

--Compiled by Omar E. Zapata

POLICE REPORTS



The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between March 29 and April 4.

March 29

5:10 p.m.: A staff member fainted in Lot E-8 on the Edinburg campus. The arriving officer requested emergency medical services to respond to the scene.

When the staff member later regained consciousness, she declined the EMS transport. A family member arrived and transported the staff member to her residence.

9:11 p.m.: A staff member reported losing two university-issued keys on the Edinburg campus in March 2020. The staff member needed to document the incident.

March 30

7:35 a.m.: An officer and the Edinburg Fire Department responded to the Science Building on the Edinburg campus in reference to a fire alarm. The fire panel indicated a dirty air duct located in a mechanical room. The fire department cleared the building for re-entry.

March 31

1:09 a.m.: An officer observed a non-affiliated man asleep in the courtyard by the Cueto Building in Brownsville. The man was identified, issued a criminal trespass warning and escorted off the property without incident.

9:10 a.m.: A staff member at the Rio Bank building in McAllen reported

receiving a suspicious phone call from an unknown man congratulating her on a job well done. The case is under investigation.

10:26 a.m.: A staff member reported his vehicle had been burglarized while parked at his residence in Harlingen on March 17. Five university-issued keys were among the items stolen from his vehicle. The staff member filed a burglary of vehicle report with the Harlingen Police Department.

4:33 p.m.: A staff member reported a lost key that opens storage bins at the University Center on the Edinburg campus. She had last seen it about four years ago.

6:16 p.m.: Officers responded to the UT Health RGV Pediatrics Clinic in Edinburg in reference to a suspicious man who was standing outside the building with an alcoholic beverage. An investigation revealed he was intoxicated to a degree that he would be a danger to himself or others if released from the location. He was arrested on charges of public intoxication and issued a criminal trespass warning for all UTRGV property.

April 1

8:59 a.m.: A public safety officer was alerted of a metal flask left in the lobby of the Veteran Affairs building in Harlingen. The flask contained what appeared to be a clear grainy substance. A UTRGV officer arrived and took possession of the item. The substance in

the flask tested negative for contraband and was properly disposed.

3:27 p.m.: An officer responded to the Lincoln Park area adjacent to Lot B-1 on the Brownsville campus in reference to two individuals engaged in public indecency in a parked vehicle. After the officer made contact with the non-affiliated teenagers, it was revealed that no offense had occurred. The teenagers were picked up by a family member since neither possessed a driver's license.

8:48 p.m.: An officer responded to the Resaca Plaza area on the Brownsville campus in regard to a verbal disturbance between a man and woman in the parking lot. The UTRGV officer and Brownsville Police Department officers made contact with the non-affiliated individuals. The man was uncooperative with the officers, but it was determined nothing criminal had occurred. The individuals left the area without further incident.

April 4

6:35 a.m.: UTRGV Police Communications observed on the cameras an individual running north on River Levee Road in Brownsville through the open portion of the U.S. border fence. An officer approached the man, who was identified as Cuban. A U.S. Border Patrol agent arrived and took custody of the man without incident.

--Compiled by Sol Garcia

ENVIRONMENT

Continued from Page 1

and having less respiratory distress and things like that because the air quality in the major cities improved remarkably during the pandemic shutdown."

He said even wildlife became more abundant.

"People are seeing mammal species and bird species that they hadn't seen in decades because there was less human activity," Gabler said. "Animals are showing up in city parks that people haven't seen in a long time so that was also an important feature as well--that gave ecosystems that are usually kind of stressed due to high humans presence a bit of a break and it allowed them to move and reproduce and gather food and do that sort of thing more easily."

He said another positive environmen-

tal factor of COVID-19 is the reduction in transmission of other diseases, such as the flu.

Gabler said while this was the short-term impact of the pandemic on the environment, the long-term impact is less clear.

For the short-term progress to show any type of long-term promise, humans must make changes in their way of life.

The human carbon impact that affects the atmosphere depends on three major things: The emissions from cars and airplanes, the food we eat and how much energy we use to maintain our home.

Gabler said that while factors such as heating and cooling homes did affect the environment in a negative way due to more people staying home, he argued that the fact that people traveled and flew less had a bigger impact on carbon emissions.

"I'm optimistic that it's going to carry forward," he said. "Businesses see now that we don't need to travel so much. People can work from home more often. So, I'm optimistic that that trend will continue."

Gabler said the short-term progress may be erased if businesses try to revert back to their old ways and double their output in an attempt to make up for lost time during the pandemic.

"Time will tell," he said.

Consequently, some of the negative effects of the pandemic are the increase in waste, such as facial coverings and plastics from hand sanitizing and gloves.

"We are using a lot more hand sanitizer and wipes and things like that, but I think that's far less than reducing our greenhouse gas emissions," Gabler said.

See ENVIRONMENT, Page 8

National Poetry Month Capturing 'intimate snapshots of a life'

EXCERPT FROM "The Hollow"

The linoleum cracked under his flea market suitcase.
I imagine the mice then still under the floor
And I didn't cry, not because I wouldn't
But because I didn't know to.
Even such displays must be modeled.

All this I have imagined
Because I don't actually remember when he left,
Only that one day he did not sit at the table
And the hollow filled my hands
With a sorrow quiet like the anonymous tree
Leaning on the window
Frail in the winter wind, and fruitless.



JOSÉ A. RODRÍGUEZ

Sol Garcia

THE RIDER

When José Antonio Rodríguez was in his mid-20s, he started to channel his thoughts into a journal. Now, some of those thoughts have become published poems.

Most of the poems focus on the culture of the South Texas border area.

"A lot of my writing concerns the border area, the South Texas-Mexico border," the poet said.

"A lot of it is autobiographical, or begins in autobiography, and explores the complexity of the culture here."

Rodríguez, who is a creative writing associate professor at UTRGV, chooses to write about the border area for its uniqueness.

"It's a unique place in relation to the rest of the country," he said. "It challenges a lot of the narratives about the nation."

Some of those narratives include "the idea of cohesiveness,

the idea of inclusivity, the idea of citizenship, because in this area--it's in a lot of ways, it's marginalized and it's unique in its border militarization."

Since 2004, Rodríguez has been writing narrative poetry to tell stories about living in the border area.

"Narrative poetry is very accessible," he said. "It tends to use everyday speech, not particularly heightened language. It's rich in symbolism and metaphor, and I think that's

the root of why stories are important to us as human beings."

After he writes a first draft, Rodríguez will engage in emotional distance, meaning he doesn't come back to it until he is ready. When he is ready, he will finalize the poem.

"I believe in emotional distance from what you've written that allows you to see things a little bit more clearly," he said. "I go back to a group of poems, and I fiddle with them, and then I put them away again, and then

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Poets of the Rio Grande Valley: Second in a Series



SCREENSHOT TAKEN BY ROXANNA MIRANDA FROM THE UTRGV CAMPUS FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE SUSTAINABLE TABLE WEBINAR SERIES LIVESTREAM



Agricultural and sustainability graduate student Gabriela Flores and marketing freshman Jessica Garza (inset) were the Food Preparation Team last Tuesday for the Sustainable Table Webinar Series- Snacks and Cravings. One of the snacks prepared during the livestream was a mix of jicama and cucumber topped with lime juice and chilli powder.

New webinar series provides healthy recipes

Brigitte Ortiz

THE RIDER

The Campus Food Security Initiative (CFSI) is hosting Sustainable Table webinars this month for the public and campus community.

Jayshree Bhat, assistant vice president for the Office of Professional Education & Workforce Development (PEWD), said the Initiative's mission is to address food insecurity, foster healthy eating habits and connect to locally grown, fresh-sourced produce and plant-based foods.

"In keeping with that, we wanted to roll out webinars to the community that anyone can attend, where our student employees of the food preparation team, who work under the guidance of our culinary education specialist, Ms. Eva Paschal, demonstrates how easy it is for people to incorporate plant-based food into their diet," Bhat said. "And, so, we have chosen a different topic or different theme for every session, twice a week on Tuesdays and Fridays."

On Tuesday, the "Salads|Beyond Lettuce" webinar

will take place at 5:30 p.m. and "A Taste of Italy" at 12:30 p.m. Friday.

On April 20, the "Taking the Mystery Out of Rice" webinar will take place at 5:30 p.m.; April 23, "Lentils and Beans|The Magical Fruit," at 12:30 p.m.; and the last webinar, "Super Grains, Super Food" will be at 5:30 p.m. April 27.

To RSVP, visit the Campus Food Security Initiative's Eventbrite page. Students can also access the live webinars through the UTRGV PEWD YouTube page.

She said the 45-minute sessions show people how easy it is to create simple meals, snacks or specialty meals, such as Italian and other types of ethnic food. The sessions will also show how plant-based meals can be incorporated into any type of eating lifestyle.

"It starts out with an introduction and then we show the demonstrations by our group preparation team," Bhat said, "followed by a presentation by a local partner, you know, agency entities that really support food sustainability and sustainable food systems in

the [Rio Grande Valley]. And, so, each session will be introducing a new community partner that is also invested in the same food insecurity, addressing food insecurity through healthy meals, fresh produce and things like that."

She said education is an important component in changing people's behavior and lifestyle.

"We're going after lifestyle changes, behavior changes," Bhat said. "So, it has to start with education, and you engage people, and then, you empower them with the knowledge that they need to be able to put themselves in that path. So, education is key. So, that's why we're rolling out these free webinars that people can access from anywhere."

She said in May, CFSI will develop more in-depth training that will be geared toward people who want to get into the food industry, such as chefs and food-preparation people.

"We hope to be able to establish a food sustainability coalition that collectively looks at how to improve the lifestyle

See **WEBINAR**, Page 8

Team Vision United outlines SGA agenda

Jamejdra Holverstott

THE RIDER

The Student Government Association's executive-elect officers, President-elect José Pablo Rojas and Vice Presidents-elect Yahia Al-Qudah and Anacette Cantu, plan on implementing a two-pronged approach to their agenda, focusing on internal and external affairs.

The external issues include improving student outreach efforts, introducing test preparation classes and making the campuses more friendly toward LGBT students. Some of the internal issues the executive team will focus on include reforming the structure of the SGA, introducing senate internships and filling vacancies.

"So, the first thing that we're going to do is, obviously, meet with students to construct the entirety of SGA," Rojas said. "The first order of business

that needs to be done in the first senate meeting is getting a chair of the senate. So, once that gets done, that will get the ball rolling. It usually gets done very soon after inauguration."

The external and internal issues will be divided between the elected officers after inauguration.

"We're going to use the program that's being implemented this semester, [the Collegiate Advancement Student Advisory Council program], for those purposes, and one thing that we are going to be doing is reviewing everything that has to be done at SGA, so that we can be able to have a successful year," Rojas said.

The council program was implemented in response to the many students that are not aware of SGA's presence or function on campus and its goals to have a more direct pathway of communication.

"So, how it's going to work is

it's going to be implementing an advisory council per every single college at UTRGV," Rojas said. "And it's gonna bring about all the organizations together in the form of electing their own delegates."

"So, let's say if a certain college has 10 organizations, and every single organization will be electing their own individual delegate and that delegate will be forming the [council] of their college, which will also form the SGA representation of that college, the senator and also the dean of that college or ... any representation body from the dean."

He said the program will bring these organizations together so they can network and hold SGA officials accountable.

The newly elected officers plan to divide tasks by having Brownsville Vice Presi-

See **SGA**, Page 5



Photo Courtesy José Pablo Rojas

Team Vision United members pose for a photo on the Brownsville campus. Shown are SGA Edinburg Vice President-elect Anacette Cantu (from left), SGA President-elect José Pablo Rojas and SGA Brownsville Vice President-elect Yahia Omar Al-Qudah.



TRAVEL PLANS

On April 6, The Rider conducted a poll on social media asking students, "Do you believe people will be able to travel safely by the summer? Do you have any plans to travel in the summer?" The results are shown below.

facebook

YES/YES 17

NO/NO 9

NO/YES 6



twitter

5 YES/NO

2 YES/YES



Instagram

NO/NO 14

YES/YES 9

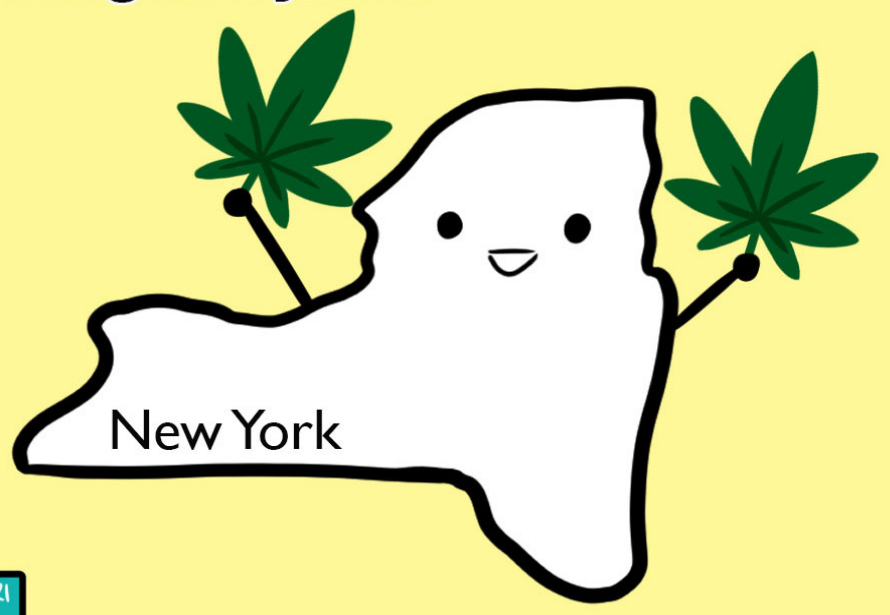
NO/YES 5

YES/NO 5

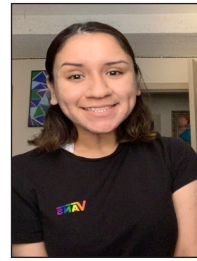


FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA TO PARTICIPATE @UTRGVRIDER

New York Legalizing Marijuana



Time is precious



Danielle Perez
THE RIDER

When I was younger, I used to always say I couldn't wait to grow up, that I couldn't wait to do my own things and live my own life. Little did I know life was going to be this way and now I say I wish I could go back and live those moments again.

About a year ago, my grandmother was diagnosed with dementia and all I have to say is, it sucks.

I grew up only having my mom and grandmother by my side, and Grandma was my best friend. Weekends, holidays and even random days, I would spend with her. We would go downtown and to pawn shops so she could buy me DS games, the raspa stand where she would buy a mango raspa, even though it gave her a really bad cough since she was sensitive to the cold. Those were the days, and I wish I

could go back to see her laugh, smile or even talk again.

It's been about two to three months now and my grandma believes I am her caregiver. It breaks my heart every time, but I know her heart knows when she looks into my eyes.

She is still my best friend, and no one will take that away from us. Every day, I walk into her room hoping she might just remember me, even if it's just for a second. It wouldn't matter because time is precious. Very precious.

One day you're taking the city bus with your grandmother to Walmart and the next you're showing her photos trying to help her remember all the wonderful memories you both spent together.

I am grateful and blessed to be here for her. It may be tough, physically and mentally, but I am here with her every second of the way. She helped me become such an independent, amazing woman, so now it's time to repay her.

A word of advice to readers: Take in every moment of every

day with your loved ones because in a snap of fingers, it could all just disappear. My grandmother has no memory of anything. It's crazy how a sickness could affect you in all areas. But I have my memories of her, and I will cherish them forever, keeping her personality alive.

Being a 20-year-old, going to college, working, mother of three pets, and being a caregiver to my grandmother, I know she would be proud. Recently, I told her I finally learned how to drive and that I bought my first car. She didn't react the way she would have initially, but I know she would have been proud if I told her this a year ago.

I thought I'd take this time to share some part of my personal life so I could remind everyone to take care of their grandparents. They are angels, and they will show us the way. They have lived life longer than we have and, trust me when I say this, let them know how much they mean to you before it's too late because time is precious.

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.

Preparándose mentalmente para reintegrarse

Sol Garcia
THE RIDER

Gina Vásquez, una estudiante de literatura de último año, dijo que se siente optimista acerca de la idea de tener más clases presenciales para el semestre de otoño.

“Me siento muy positiva sobre eso, ya que todos se están vacunando y estamos saliendo adelante,” Vásquez dijo. “Creo que será un buen y corto comienzo”.

Comoquiera, ella se preocupa de cómo será el regresar al campus.

“¿Cómo se sentirá?”, la estudiante de último año preguntó. “¿Cómo se verá el campus? ¿No se sentirá como antes, o sea las cosas tradicionales, como cuando podíamos simplemente entrar a las oficinas de nuestros profesores?”

Para muchas personas, eso y otras preocupaciones, como contagiarse del COVID-19, pueden afectar el querer regresar a las clases presenciales, dijo Carmen Villegas, una terapeuta clínica del Centro de Asesoramiento de UTRGV.

“En este último año, ha habido cierto incremento del miedo de que haya una posibilidad de contagiarse o contagiarse a familiares y eso contribuye al tal vez no querer regresar a [clases] presenciales”, Villegas dijo.

Esos miedos y ansiedades pueden también impactar el proceso de aprendizaje de una persona, ella dijo.

“No estás totalmente concentrado en tus deberes porque tu mente se distrae con ese factor estresante, el factor estresante del COVID”, Villegas dijo.

La terapeuta dijo que uno de los primeros pasos para prepararse men-

talmente para reintegrarse es reconocer y aceptar que no será como era antes del COVID.

“Tenemos que estar abiertos a la flexibilidad”, Villegas dijo. “Tenemos que aceptar el cambio porque mientras progresamos durante estos años siguientes, las cosas serán diferentes, y tenemos que ser capaces de adaptarnos”.

Reconocer algunos sentimientos negativos también es crucial, Villegas dijo.

“Una de las cosas más importantes es reconocer que con la incertidumbre llegan la ansiedad y el nerviosismo”, ella dijo. “Reconozcan que así es como se sienten y no traten de reprimir esos sentimientos”.

Si se trata de un problema de salud, las personas deberían de continuar usando cualquier medida de seguridad con las que se sientan seguras, Villegas dijo.

“[Tomen] enfoques proactivos para poder sentirse seguros, [como] practicar esos protocolos que tal vez estaban en marcha, como seguir usando cubrebocas o llevando consigo Germ-X o lo que sea que ayude a esa persona a sentirse segura”, ella dijo.

Villegas dijo que estrategias de presencia mental (mindfulness), como el “estar presente, dejando ir todo lo que no podamos controlar, siendo amables y compasivos con nosotros mismos” también puede ayudar durante este tiempo de incertidumbre.

Otras estrategias de afrontamiento incluyen diálogo interno y reconfortarse a uno mismo, lo cual reconoce los pensamientos negativos y los contrarresta con afirmaciones positivas, ella dijo.

Algunas frases para reconfortarse son, “Vamos a superar esto”, “sí, es de-



Luis Martinez Santillano/ FOTO DE THE RIDER

Los estudiantes discuten acerca del trabajo y el estudio en la Biblioteca de UTRGV del campus de Brownsville el miércoles pasado.

safiante, pero no es nada que no pueda superar” y “esto es temporal”.

Otro consejo que Villegas ofrece es acercarse a un sistema de apoyo, ya sean seres queridos o recursos locales, como el Centro de Asesoramiento de UTRGV.

“Conéctense socialmente ... aún si todavía están manteniéndose a salvo, usando otras alternativas, como conectarse por video o llamadas ... puede ayudar con la transición”, ella dijo.

Finalmente, planifiquen con anticipación mientras surge información

nueva.

“Estamos teniendo más y más información, mediante va saliendo, entonces ... planifiquen con anticipación y prepárense para tal vez tener clases presenciales y en línea”, la terapeuta dijo.

Para contactar al Centro de Asesoramiento, mande un correo electrónico a counseling@utrgv.edu o visite su sitio web.

--Traducido por Paulina Longoria

FALL Continued from Page 1

gies, such as “being present, letting go [of] what we can’t control, being kind and compassionate with ourselves” can also help during this uncertain time.

Other coping strategies include self-talk and self-reassurance, which recog-

nizes any negative thoughts and counters them with positive affirmations, she said.

Some self-assurance phrases are, “We’re gonna get through this,” “yes, it’s challenging, but it’s nothing I can’t get through” and “this is temporary.”

Another tip that Villegas offers is to reach out to a support system, whether

it is loved ones or local resources, such as the UTRGV Counseling Center.

“Connect socially ... even if it is still staying safe, using other alternatives, such as connecting through video, phone calls ... can help with the transition,” she said.

Finally, plan ahead as new information arises.

“We’re getting more and more information, as it turns out, so ... plan ahead and be prepared for maybe both online and in-person classes,” the therapist said.

To contact the UTRGV Counseling Center, email counseling@utrgv.edu or visit its [webpage](#).

POET Continued from Page 3

go back to them again and, eventually, I get something like a final draft.”

In 2007, his first published poem appeared in the literary journal, “Borderlands: Texas Poetry Review.” He has continued writing poetry and prose since then, releasing his own poetry collections and a memoir titled “House Built on Ashes.”

Through his poems, readers gain glimpses of life and of himself.

“I would describe them as intimate snapshots of a life,” he said. “It’s just really beautiful to think that my work is out there, being read by people, people who don’t know me, except through these words.”

One of the lessons Rodríguez has

learned as a poet is that writing comes with vulnerability.

“All forms of writing require vulnerability because vulnerability is about being open and being curious and being OK with uncertainty and with doubt and requires exploration,” he said.

Rodríguez was born in Mexico and grew up in McAllen with many challenges, a theme he is honest about in his poems and hopes resonates with readers.

“I had a very difficult childhood, very difficult adolescence, a lot of economic hardship and other forms of hardships and struggles, and I hope that people who read my poetry see ... something of beauty in me, something of value and worth,” he said.

After completing undergraduate degrees in biology and theatre arts and a master’s in English at the University of

Texas-Pan American, Rodríguez attended Binghamton University in New York for a doctorate in English. Sometime after graduating, he found his passion for literature renewed, inspiring him to write poetry.

“I reconnected with my love of literature from my childhood,” he said. “I saw literature as this sort of beautiful work of art, and I really, really wanted to be able to create that.”

Now living in Edinburg, the 47-year-old author keeps writing in his journal to create that art but also to cope with anxiety caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

“The pandemic has pushed us overall, in general, to do less, to stay home, to do less socializing, to do less moving around, to do less traveling, to do less engaging with the world, and so, a lot of us are struggling with a sense of not be-

ing productive enough,” he said. “Writing and working on poetry helps to alleviate some of that anxiety.”

Writing, whether it’s for publishing or personal reasons, is always beneficial and accessible, Rodríguez said.

“One of the beauties of creative writing or writing as an art form is that it doesn’t require a lot of equipment,” he said. “It’s just a book, and a notebook and a pen, and you’re set to go.”

Rodríguez recommends that everyone start writing down thoughts to gain an understanding of their lives.

“It’s a great tool for exploration of the self and of the world and inevitably leads to greater clarity and greater understanding,” he said. “It does the individual good.”

To read more about Rodríguez’s work, visit his [website](#).

SGA Continued from Page 3

dent-elect Al-Qudah concentrate on internal issues and Edinburg Vice President-elect Cantu concentrate on external issues. Both vice presidents will work alongside Rojas to address the affairs.

“What [Rojas and Cantu are] gonna handle are some of the basics of the executive team,” Al-Qudah said.

He said the executive team is going to start by meeting with university administration about opening educational resources.

Al-Qudah will focus on internal

affairs in the SGA by reviewing applications and interviewing potential candidates to fill positions within the association.

“Once we have ... a base, on my side, it will be the implementation of the [Collegiate Advancement Student Advisory Council] program,” he said. “So, that includes communication with student [organizations] to bring them up to speed about the [program] and communicating with deans so that these advisory councils can officially be complete within the college.”

The newly elected officers hope to strengthen communication between students and administration and hold

officials accountable through the Collegiate Advancement Student Advisory Council program.

“Some of the things that we’ve been doing in SGA ... to increase our civic engagement at UTRGV ... is co-write a resolution,” Al-Qudah said.

The senate passed the resolution and it is being reviewed by an administrative committee on how to implement it.

“So, basically, it’s an election holiday resolution,” he said. “So, on every even-numbered year, where there is an election happening ... we are trying to implement a holiday on that specific day.”

Some students have not been able

to vote because of class or work, Al-Qudah said.

“At least we can give a holiday to our students and our faculty and staff, so they can go and vote on that specific day,” he said.

On the executive team’s list of external affairs is a plan to implement a task force that oversees issues to advance LGBT acceptance on campuses.

“The task force will be derived from ... a sexuality and gender center,” Rojas said. “It’s a diversity and inclusion task force, and it’s going to be directly aimed for LGBTQIA+ people, but we will also want to make it more inclusive

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Matt Figger appointed as UTRGV Men's Basketball head coach

Karina Rodriguez
THE RIDER

UTRGV Athletics has appointed Matt Figger as the new men's head basketball coach.

Figger was the head coach at Austin Peay State University in Tennessee for the last four seasons and was the 2017-18 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year, according to a March 29 Athletics news release.

His appointment came after Head Coach Lew Hill died on Feb. 7. Hill coached at UTRGV for five seasons.

In an introductory news conference last Tuesday, Figger said he hopes to honor Hill during his first season at UTRGV.

"This is my plan: We are going to honor Coach Hill and next season [in] every game we play, and every time we lace up our shoes and take the court," Figger said during the news conference. "[We are] going to honor that man, and he will be there with us. [He will be there] in the locker room, on this court, on the bench and hopefully, when the game gets hard, [he will be] giving me some sugges-

tions to help us win a game. This season is going to be dedicated to Coach Lew Hill."

He said he believes the community can also help the team achieve success.

"Now it is time to get to work," Figger said. "I love the catchphrase 'Rally the Valley.' You know, we are going to Rally the Valley. We are going to put people in this building and give them an exciting style of play. We are going to make this fun, and they're going to be cheering for your guys."

"We are going to make this the hardest place in this conference to play at. Every team that comes here to play is going to know they've been challenged because this place is going to be full of people."

Redshirt junior guard Ricky "Doc" Nelson said he hopes Figger will continue to help their team be successful.

"I would like him to, you know, continue to help us win," Nelson said. "That's one thing that Coach Hill was big on and, you know, he really didn't care about anything else but winning. He did everything in his power to try to help us win, along with the other guys and the coaching staff."

The junior guard said the

team will face challenges adapting to a new coach.

"Some of the challenges that I think we'll face will just be, you know, getting used to a new voice," Nelson said. "You hang around somebody for so long, and you get used to what they want and what they like, and it kind of becomes second nature to you. So, I think just getting used to his voice and the things he likes will take some time to get used to."

Redshirt junior forward Marek Nelson said he hopes that the team will be open to the changes happening.

"I think it's going to be different for everybody," Marek Nelson said. "I mean, everyone has different personalities and different relationships."

"So, I think it's important to [not] give up on the relationship before we even have the chance to begin. Because, what I would say ... [is] meet everybody and give it time to build. It's hard to build [and], especially after last year, it is hard to get back and refocus and gear up again. But I think being patient and allowing relationships to build will be very helpful and very effective to the team and to players individually."



Photo Courtesy UTRGV Athletics

Matt Figger is shown during an Athletics news conference held last Tuesday. Figger was introduced to the media as the new head coach of the UTRGV's Men's Basketball Team.

Track & Field Teams set program records



Photo Courtesy UTRGV Athletics

Junior Harry Barthelemy competes March 27 in the long jump at the Victor Lopez Classic hosted by Rice University in Houston.

Ruben Mohme
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Track & Field Teams have been firing on all cylinders, setting new program records in the March 19 and 20 University of Texas at San Antonio Invitational and the March 27 Victor Lopez Classic, at Rice University in Houston.

During the UTSA Invitational, five student athletes surpassed the previous decathlon program record of 4,863 points set by Christian Williams in 2017, according to goutrgv.com. Graduate student Anthony Magallon set the new program record of 6,402 points and finished third in the event.

Graduate student Aviana

Goode set a new program record in the heptathlon, beating the previous record of 4,460 points held by legacy institution University of Texas-Pan American student Brittani Hilton in 2005. Goode finished fifth with a score of 4,605 points.

In the men's triple jump, junior Harry Barthelemy won first place with a jump of 15.08 meters and now has the second-best jump in program history.

Graduate student Desirea Buerge set a program record in women's discus, beating UTPA Hall of Famer Delilah Johnson, who set the record in 1992 with a score of 53.04 meters. Buerge placed second with a throw of 53.57 meters.

The men's 4x100-meter relay

team also set a new program record. Redshirt sophomore Yashawn Hamilton, graduate student Yariel Matute, junior Mariano Hernandez and freshman Jermarrion Stewart bested the previous time of 41.12 set in 2018. They finished second with a time of 40.62.

Sophomore Tamara Woodley finished first in the women's 400-meter dash with a time of 55.30.

Moreover, the Vaqueros competed in the Victor Lopez Classic, where they won nine events, according to goutrgv.com.

In women's discus, Buerge and redshirt junior Alexandria Hurst came in first and third, with scores of 50.60 and 45.41 meters, respectively.

Men's discus competitors

posted similar results with graduate student Paul May winning the event with a score of 51.47 meters and freshman Michael Campbell placing second place with a score of 49.69 meters.

Barthelemy finished in third place in the men's triple jump and set a new program record of 15.39 meters, which bested the previous record of 15.09 meters set by UTPA's David Hunter in 1993.

May came in first again in men's shot put, beating his previous program record of 17.51 meters in 2018 and setting a new record of 17.80 meters.

In the women's shot put, Hurst came in first and set a program record of 16.04 meters, and Buerge came in third with 14.69 meters.

Goode won the women's high jump at 1.71 meters. She also came in first in the women's 100-meter hurdles with a time of 14.02 seconds.

Freshman Josefina Eriksen won first in the women's 400-meter dash with a time of 55.16 seconds.

In the men's 800-meter run, junior Max Carmona came in first with a time of 1:52.65 and graduate student Ricardo Mendoza came in third with a time of 1:53.40.

Carmona, Hernandez, Stewart and Matute won the men's 4x400-meter relay with a time of 3:18.52.

The Track & Field team competed in the University of Incarnate Word Invitational in San Antonio last Friday and Saturday. Results were not available at press time.

The Vaqueros will compete Thursday in the University of Texas at San Antonio Road Runner Invitational.

This Week in Athletics

Men's Golf

- 8 a.m. today at El Macero Classic in Davis, California

Women's Tennis

- 1 p.m. Tuesday vs. University at Texas at El Paso in El Paso

- 2 p.m. Friday vs. Seattle University at Las Cruces, New Mexico

Baseball

- 6 p.m. Tuesday vs. Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in Corpus Christi

Men's Track and Field

- 8 a.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunner Invitational in San Antonio

Women's Track and Field

- 8 a.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunner Invitational in San Antonio

- 8 a.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunner Invitational in San Antonio

- 8 a.m. Thursday, Friday and Saturday at the University of Texas at San Antonio Roadrunner Invitational in San Antonio

--Compiled by Ruben Mohme

Master Chorale music

Ensemble to premiere virtual performance

Adalia Garza
THE RIDER

The UTRGV Master Chorale, an ensemble composed of student vocalists from both the Edinburg and Brownsville campuses, will stream a virtual performance April 27 on the UTRGV Patron of the Arts YouTube channel.

Unlike the traditional in-person performances of past semesters, the master chorale has presented its work via recordings to adapt to restrictions amid the pandemic.

Sean Taylor, associate professor of music and director of choral studies, described what it was like when in-person events were transformed into virtual events.

“Basically, last March, all of the choral musicians in the world became recording artists,” Taylor said. “So, the performances that we had planned to be live performances at UTRGV--and universities, community and professional choruses across the country and the world--all turned to online music-making.”

The master chorale held a virtual performance in Spring 2020 and two in Fall 2020. This spring, the master chorale will follow through in like manner with behind-the-scenes technical work to create an “AV experience” for the viewers, Taylor said.

“[Students] will record themselves in their house singing along and upload that, so that the track that I get is just their voice,” he said. “And then, I layer that together so everyone’s singing at the same tempo at the same time. Then, all that matches up and we sort of create an audio-visual experience for the people watching, with singers on screen with some artwork or pictures.”

“In October, we had [Associate Professor Daniel Hunter-Holly] take some



Photo Courtesy Sean Taylor

UTRGV Chamber Singers and Alium Spiritum perform a virtual concert in September.

photographs around Brownsville--of the campus and things--so those were our transitional pieces. We got to really explore some artmaking beyond sound, so we got to create a real AV experience for our audience.”

professional ensemble), plus string, woodwind and keyboard faculty.

“Every individual has recorded all of their parts in their own home or in their own space,” he said about the creative process

ward her mentor and her desire to continue in music even through the pandemic.

“Dr. Taylor has been really great about it,” Moreno said. “He comes in with a super great attitude. Even if not a lot

The audience will get to see that we are still very much active and making music at UTRGV

-Sean Taylor

Associate professor of music and director of choral studies

The upcoming 45-minute performance will include a selection of choruses, solos, and chorales from Bach’s St. John Passion under the direction of Taylor and Music Lecturer Molly Getsinger. The master chorale will be accompanied by featured artists from Alium Spiritum (a Brownsville-based

to produce such a large project. “I’m working close to 1,000 different files, syncing everything up between all of the movements and then it will come together.”

Nadya Moreno, a music education senior and member of the UTRGV Master Chorale, expressed her gratitude to

of people have their cameras on [in Zoom classes], he’s still there, and he puts in the effort every rehearsal to make it exciting and fun for us. So, I really appreciate that because I love music and I don’t want it to stop just because of a pandemic.”

Similarly, for students like

Preetika Bauskar, a chemistry freshman and member of the UTRGV Master Chorale, the program is an outlet outside of the world of science in which she can express her love for music and desire to grow.

“I really love to sing,” Bauskar said. “I want to keep doing it and I do want to keep growing in it. I wouldn’t have chosen to be in choir a second semester during the pandemic if I didn’t think it was helpful and fun and good. ... For me, it is really good to have something that’s not science, that will still require my focus and attention.”

Taylor intends for the performance to inspire students with their own work and show the community that UTRGV is still creating and innovating in music amid a pandemic.

“One hope and goal is that the students that have been isolated so much this year will get to see a product that involves all of them together and, hopefully, will inspire and help them look forward to a more normal music-making experience in the fall,” he said. “The audience will get to see that we are still very much active and making music at UTRGV--or audience and prospective students for next year as well--that they see that we are doing innovative and interesting projects here and adapting to the times, adapting to situations that keep our students and faculty safe, while still being able to create art.”

The free virtual performance will premiere on UTRGV Patron of the Arts’ YouTube channel at 7 p.m. April 27. Taylor will also host a pre-concert discussion at 6:40 p.m. on Zoom that is also open to the public and will give the audience an opportunity to interact with the musical guests. The links can be found on the Patron of the Arts website, <https://www.utrgv.edu/patron/>.

The Doodler

By Elizabeth Mendoza

Beginning of the Semester



Almost to the end of the semester



ENVIRONMENTAL
Continued from Page 2

Angie Rochas, an environmental sciences and art freshman, has researched this topic and found that the effects of the pandemic on the environment are relatively short term.

Rochas said global air pollution decreased by 6.4 % due to the pandemic.

“It’s important that we learn from this and we see the changes that we want to implement in our lives in the future,” she said. “If we go back to the way things were pre-COVID, the air pollution is going to increase a lot, and it won’t elicit the results that we’re looking for.”

Rochas said she was impressed by the way that the Earth healed itself in so little time.

“It was just a moment where we could see how easily the Earth could heal itself and become healthy again if we just took the necessary measures,” she said. “But just as easily as it can restore, it can deteriorate, you know.

“Especially if after all this COVID, we decide that we want to travel. It’s so

easy to get caught up in our own struggles and our own short-term problems that we don’t see the long-term impact that it could have if we return to the way [things were] before.”

Rochas also concurred that while the environment did show that it could recuperate, the pandemic also had some negative effects on the Earth.

“Right now, we’re using a lot of plastic for deliveries, for masks, for precautions,” she said. “When you get something delivered from a fast-food restaurant, they’re going to give you plastic utensils and containers made out of plastic. Not just that, but people at home are shopping a lot more online so that delivery and all that packaging, the transportation and everything is re-leasing toxins into the environment as well, so there was definitely an increase in those activities.”

Gabler said the way of life in America is not sustainable for the long term.

He said even if humans were to finally reduce their carbon emissions to zero, the results of climate change would still emerge because of all the damage already done, which takes time to reverse.

“By 2050, we’re going to be seeing a lot more impacts and interruptions of our way of life to severe droughts, severe storms, more disease outbreaks, greater climate stress, greater sea-level rise,” Gabler said.

He said going forward, things are going to get tougher because of the increase in population, demand for food and other factors during climate change.

“Things are, I’m afraid to say, are going to get worse before they get better,” Gabler said. “Hopefully, more people kind of wake up to this dire situation we’re in, and we make some real fundamental changes to improve the situation. ‘Cause like I said right now, the improvement we’re seeing is really just a slowdown of making it worse.”

Despite people’s efforts, he says a lot of the change lies in the hands of elected officials.

However, what people can do is work on making behavioral changes in their lives to reduce their ecological footprint.

“So, an ecological footprint is not just how much you fly, or drive, or how much you air condition your house and how much meat you eat,” Gabler said. “It’s also how much plastic you produce.

It’s also your living situation, like do you live in high-density housing or do you live in a suburb with a yard and a single standing dwelling? Where do you get your food from?”

The second thing that people can do, apart from changing their own behavior, is help the community change by getting the word out that what they do affects the environment, Gabler said.

He said COVID-19 was a result of climate change and that the community must show urgency in trying to correct these environmental issues.

“COVID is a symptom of climate change,” Gabler said. “We were seeing more diseases spreading and outbreaks because as our climate changes, parts of the world where certain animals that are vectors of disease can live and change.

“So animals are moving to different places and taking new diseases with them, and the diseases themselves can live in that environment because they have their own ecological niches. So, a disturbed climate system helps disease spread and move around, and it is affecting us.”

WEBINAR
Continued from Page 3

and eating habits and how to incorporate plant-based food into people’s diet in the Valley,” Bhat said. “Because, as you know, the Valley also has a high prevalence of chronic conditions that people experience and, a lot of times, lifestyle change becomes a necessity after they’re diagnosed. We would like for people to start thinking about it long before it becomes a health condition for them.”

Marketing freshman Jessica Garza is a student employee on the food preparation team.

Garza said she joined to learn to use kitchenware and make healthy snacks.

“This is my first time ever doing something like this,” she said. “I was

very nervous the first time. We went in, they told us the next day we were going to be on camera, and I was a little nervous, but I managed to do it. Everyone there was really helpful. The team was really great.”

Garza hopes people will try their recipes so they can build a healthier life.

Jose Cazares, a civil engineering senior, is also an employee in the food preparation team.

Cazares said he wanted to be involved in these webinars because he wants to help promote a healthier lifestyle for the community.

“Well, at first, in the interview when they were telling me what the CSFI stands for and the fact that they want to promote a healthier lifestyle here for the community in the Valley, it [was] really

interesting,” he said. “Me, mostly because my brother is in the medical field and he was telling me about how the Valley, it was known for having a large amount of patients with diabetes and overweight, and I saw that I could make a change in my community helping promote some healthy lifestyles, healthy diets and I just want to be part of the team to help our community.”

He said his experience in the webinars has been wonderful.

“The team is wonderful, we all work together. We’re like a family, we all work together,” Cazares said. “I work with Ms. Eva ... She also likes to help us and show us more about the culinary art, she also tells more about the nutrition facts about the ingredients we use.”

He said his favorite webinar is the

first one, “Kitchen Tips and Tricks.”

“We’re showing people how to cook the ingredients, such as tomatoes, showing them how to just take off the seeds, even I did not know that either, I’m not going to lie,” Cazares said. “But when I saw that I was like ‘wow, something new.’ Even I, myself, I was learning. We also showed people how to create a zucchini salad, which is one of the best dishes we’ve ever done.”

He said they are not trying to push people into changing into a vegan lifestyle.

“We’re just showing them, ‘hey, a change in your diet can help you in the long run, and you don’t have to make a change and change everything, just a small change in the long run can help,’” Cazares said.

SGA
Continued from Page 5

in regards to [people of color].”
The president-elect spoke to students

before proposing the idea to form the task force.

“We were even in agreement that the way to highlight a group of people, or the way to highlight an issue, is bring-

ing the people that are affected by it the most to the frontline and highlighting them, instead of us just leading it entirely,” Rojas said.

On May 3, Rojas, Al-Qudah and Can-

tu of Team Vision United will take office as the newly elected executive officers of the Student Government Association.

If The Shoe Fits
by Angelica Longoria

Shoes show us where we have been and the places we are yet to go, thought the old gypsy, whose skin sagged with age. The gypsy formerly known as Lavinia, left her town after a certain hardheaded woman claimed her shoes “made” her fall down the steps. To Lavinia’s dismay, the retched lady did not suffer from any permanent damage. Lavinia fled as rumors started to spread about her cursed shoes, which she sold. It was not her fault that the wrong shoe on the wrong person caused detrimental effects. Now, she was on the road, waiting for her next customer. She stopped in a town called Providence, hoping to sell her beautiful shoes to the right person. The shoes were never the same. Some were bold in color, to extenuate the owner’s own attitude, and some were sensible, to acclimatize to the wearer’s own needs. The shoes were all different sizes, colors, and leathers to accommodate for the owner’s journey yet to come.

Thank goodness today was market day. Many customers looked at her display awed by the presence of her shoes. Many kind souls bought the perfect shoe for their journey yet to come. It was not until a young woman came by and started to look, was there trouble yet again. “How can I help you?” the old gypsy said. The young woman replied with, “Well, I’m just looking because I have a very important business meeting today and I thought I would look around.”

“Very well,” the old woman replied, “These sensible shoes would be helpful, especially since I imagine it will be bad weather today. The sky looks grey, probably a rainy evening.”

The young woman looked at the shoes with utter distaste and replied, “Absolutely not! I’ll try on those.” She said while pointing at the white heeled shoes, that might as well have killed Beng, the god of hell.

“Those tend to be quite slippery with the wrong soul.” the old woman replied, “You are allowed to try them on and see how they fit, but of course, I do not recommend this for a person such as you.” The old woman replied with fair warning in her voice.

The young woman smirked and said, “Well of course they’re perfect for me since you can’t put them on with hoofs for feet.” The young woman said in a conniving tone. The old woman made no move and no inclination of the remark. The young woman slipped on the heel and said, “They fit. I’ll take them.”

The old woman replied, “I will tell you twice. I do not recommend these on your sole; they do not match.”

“Puh-lease,” the young woman started, “I don’t need some old hag to tell me what is good for me.” The young woman’s ankle started bobbling from the shoe rejecting her.

But no matter, the gypsy thought, just another careless young person who has no thought for others. As the young woman threw the money at the gypsy’s feet, the old woman wondered how long she would last, especially with a shoe that “did not fit.”

As the sun went down and rain started pouring. The old gypsy closed her “shop” and proceeded to pack up. As she was just leaving town on her van, she noticed on the shoulder of the road seven meters ahead, the young woman being placed on a stretcher and being pulled into the ambulance. Something caught her eye.

There the heels were, standing brilliantly in the light given off by the lamp post on the side of the road. She laughed as she turned off the engine and walked unnoticed to pick them up. With a slight giggle, she scurried back to her van and placed the gleaming shoes that were once white, now red, in the passenger seat and sighed. The poor shoes, she thought, now they will forever be cursed because of that wretched woman’s blood all over. Shoes show us where we have been and the places we are bound to go.

Those with wicked hearts deserve no shoe so pure and white, lest they end up like that crooked lady. With a loud sigh of indifference from the massacre she just witnessed, she said aloud to the shoes,

“Well, I guess we must be on our way now.”

