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ATTENTION, SENIORS

University drops Brownsville graduation; officials cite cost, weather

Pete Mendoza
THE RIDER

UTRGV is combining both Brownsville and Edinburg commencements for Fall 2024 and Spring 2025, which will take place in the Bert Ogden Arena due to alumni and incoming freshman feedback and cost effectiveness, university officials say.

UTRGV President Guy Bailey said the decision was primarily based on surveys from incoming freshmen and graduates from Fall 2023 and Spring 2024.

"I don't know that any one person came up with an idea," Bailey said. "It was not somebody who said, 'Yeah, let's do this,' but it was just really feedback from students."

Thanks, UT Edinburg, Page 4

In the Fall 2023 survey, 173 out of 609 Brownsville students responded and 66% of them would have preferred to hold commencements in the Bert Ogden Arena, according to an email sent to The Rider.

In the Spring 2024 survey, 172 out of 741 Brownsville students responded and 76% of them would have preferred to hold commencements in the Bert Ogden Arena.

In the Brownsville Vaquero Roundup Fall 2024 survey, 1,249 out of 1,289 incoming freshmen students responded and 86% preferred to hold commencements in the Bert

See **CHANGES**, Page 6



THE RIDER PHOTO ILLUSTRATION

Pro-Palestinian protesters rally at UTRGV

Fatima Gamez Lopez
SPANISH EDITOR

About 50 UTRGV students and community members rallied Oct. 7 on the Chapel Lawn on the Edinburg campus, advocating for Palestine solidarity and shouting "Israel, USA, how many kids did you kill today?" while holding "Stop the genocide" signs.

The event, hosted by RGV Young Democratic Socialists of America, marked the one-year anniversary of the ongoing Israel-Hamas war.

On Oct. 7, 2023, the Islamic See **PROTEST**, Page 3



Raquel Cazares/THE RIDER

Protesters chant Oct. 7 on the Bronc Trail during the Palestine Lebanon Solidarity Rally on the Edinburg campus. About 50 people took part in the rally.

UTRGV student Facebook group enforces rules

Cadence Vaughan
THE RIDER

UTRGV Students is the official Facebook group for currently enrolled students. The page was created on April 18, 2017, by University Marketing and Communications as an effort to create a central hub that would foster communication and engagement among students.

The community is the most actively See **FACEBOOK**, Page 10

COUNTDOWN TO EARLY VOTING

Visit sos.state.tx.us for more information

07

Days until early voting begins
Oct. 21

THE RIDER

The Rider is the official, award-winning student newspaper of the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. The newspaper is widely distributed on and off campus in Brownsville and Edinburg, Texas. Views presented are those of the writers and do not reflect those of the newspaper or university.

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ANNOUNCEMENTS

Today
SGA Tabling
The **Student Government Association** will host a **tabling** from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. in the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus. **Free food** will be available.

Esports Tournament
The **Student Union** will host an **“FC24 Tournament”** from noon to 1 p.m. in the Game Rooms on both campuses. Register through V Link or at the Game Rooms for a chance to win VBucks. Students must present their ID to play.

Tuesday
Pre-Dental Meeting
The **Pre-Dental Society and American Student Dental Association** will host a general meeting **covering dental school preparation, volunteer opportunities and Dental Admission Test practice** from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. in Interdisciplinary Academic Building Room 2.220 on the Brownsville campus. The meeting will include **free grab-and-go snacks** for members.

Power in Pink
University Recreation, Student Health Services and the Student Food Pantry will host events for **breast cancer awareness to educate students on the risk factors, symptoms and self-examinations** from noon to 1:30 p.m. at the Clinical Education Building Main Lobby on the

Harlingen campus, at the same time Wednesday on the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Thursday in the University Recreation Center Main Gym on the Edinburg campus.

ACJA Meetings
The **American Criminal Justice Association Sigma Kappa Chi** will host a **meeting** to provide updates on the organization **for members and those interested in joining** from 2 to 3 p.m. in Liberal Arts Building North Room 107 on the Edinburg campus.

Teaching Certification
The **College of Education and P-16 Integration** will host a **review session for teacher candidates** to prepare for the **“Early Childhood Pk-3 TExES” certification exam** from 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.502 on the Brownsville campus. For more information, email beki.romeismarkham@utrgv.edu.

Carnival of Madness II
The **Student Union, Center for Student Involvement and the Campus Activities Board** will host **“Carnival of Madness”** where students can enjoy **carnival games, a haunted house and rides** from 7 to 11 p.m. on the Student Union lawn on

the Brownsville campus.

Wednesday
Free Lunch
The **Catholic Student Association** invites all UTRGV students, faculty and staff for **free lunch, daily gospel reading and fellowship** 12:30 to 1:30 p.m. until the end of the semester at the Newman Catholic Student Center, located at 1616 W. Kuhn St. in Edinburg.

Rhythm Night

The **Student Union** and the **Rhythm Room Instructors** will host **free bachata classes** from 6 to 8 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus.

Thursday
Freshman Leadership Workshop
The **Center for Student Involvement and Freshman Leadership Academy** will host an **interactive workshop** from noon to 1 p.m. in Main Building Room 2.502 on the Brownsville campus and at the same time Friday in the Student Academic Center on the Edinburg campus. **Free food** will be available.

Get Involved Fair
The **Center for Student Involvement** will **offer students a chance to explore organizations** within the **College of**

Education and P-16 Integration from 10 a.m. to noon in the Music, Science and Learning Center lobby in the Brownsville campus. **Free snacks** will be available.

Friday
New Member Convocation
The **Center for Student Involvement and Fraternity and Sorority Life** will host a **“New Member Convocation,”** which will include **leadership development sessions, presentations on Greek life policies and opportunities for potential new members,** from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. For more information or accommodations, email greeks@utrgv.edu.

FSL Spooktacular
The **Center for Student Involvement and Fraternity and Sorority Life** will host an **evening of festive Halloween fun** from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the University Ballroom on the Edinburg campus. Attendees can dress in **costume** and **themed treats** will be available.

Haunted House
The **American Society of Civil Engineers** will host a **halloween festival** that will include a **haunted house and snack tables** from 4 to 11 p.m. in Academic Services Building Room 1.202 on the Edinburg campus.

--Compiled by Vanessa Aguilar



POLICE REPORTS

The following are among the incidents reported to University Police between Oct. 1 and 6.

Oct. 1
3:52 p.m.: A University Police officer met with a student who believed that on April 17, an unknown person might have placed an unknown substance inside her water container that made her sick while it was left unattended in the Engineering Building on the Edinburg campus. The student reported she was medically evaluated by a doctor that same day and was found to be OK.

7:42 p.m.: A University Police officer met with a custodial supervisor who stated one of his employees believed that a knife, which was found in Performing Arts Complex B on the Edinburg campus Sept. 26, was meant for her. The case is under investigation. The case is related to a Sept. 26 report included in the Oct. 7 issue of The Rider.

Oct. 2
11:06 a.m.: An employee reported a student created a UTRGV parking permit and placed it on her vehicle. The Parking and Transportation Services department does not

wish to file criminal charges.
12:25 p.m.: A student reported being sexually assaulted off campus and filing a report with the Edinburg Police Department. Contact was made with the police department, which confirmed it is investigating the case.

4:22 p.m.: A student reported her iPad was stolen Sept. 25 from a room in Liberal Arts Building North on the Edinburg campus. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 3
12:04 p.m.: A student reported that while in Liberal Arts Building South on the Edinburg campus, two men sitting on a bench were staring at her and her friend, which made them uncomfortable. The student reported the men never approached her and her friend, but one of them took a picture of them with a cellphone.

1:34 p.m.: An employee reported that an individual had added the official UTRGV Instagram page to a group

chat and in the chat, one of the members made a concerning comment. The individuals in the chat were identified and brought in for questioning. The case is under investigation.

Oct. 4
12:24 p.m.: A University Police officer approached a student who was using a personal transportation device on the Bronc Trail on the Edinburg campus. The officer informed the student of university policy, and she stated she would comply.

1:32 p.m.: University Police officers responded to a disturbance between a man and a woman in Sabal Hall on the Brownsville campus. Officers spoke with both individuals and found the female student and her non-affiliated boyfriend had argued. After further investigation, the student reported she was assaulted by contact, with no injury, and that she did not want to press charges. The non-affiliated man was given a criminal trespass warning

for all UTRGV property and escorted off campus.

7:51 p.m.: Homeland Security Investigations special agents informed University Police they were conducting surveillance on a vehicle linked to a non-affiliated man parked inside Casa Bella on the Brownsville campus. Shortly after, the agents called to report they had arrested the man at the Veterans International Bridge. A University Police officer contacted the arrestee and issued him a criminal trespass warning for all UTRGV property. UTRGV Parking and Transportation Services was notified about the vehicle parked at Casa Bella without a permit, as the agents did not need the vehicle.

Oct. 6
1:34 p.m.: The Edinburg Police Department requested the assistance of University Police to unlock a vehicle off campus that had a 15-month-old child inside. When University Police officers arrived, the Edinburg Fire Department had already safely removed the child from the vehicle. The child was found to be OK.

--Compiled by Rebeca Salinas



Clinical help for student veterans

Andres Estrada

THE RIDER

Richard Clayton, a clinical therapist with the UTRGV Counseling Center, spoke to the Student Government Association about his background in the military and how this experience helps him offer counseling services to veterans on campus.

The SGA conducted a meeting Oct. 4 on the Edinburg campus to cover counseling services for students and veterans, the president's report, student affairs and the introduction of new members in the association.

Clayton detailed the services the Counseling Center offers veterans.

"[Veterans] come and talk to me first as a person, a fellow veteran, so it's already broken down that barrier," he said.

Clayton said the center helps veterans transition from military life to being a civilian and a student.

He also talked about suicide awareness and the 22 a day, which refers to the rate of veteran suicides nationwide. Clayton said the number has dropped to 17 a day, but they decided to leave it as 22 because that is what it is known as.

Veterans or family using the Veterans Affairs benefits are prioritized when asking for help in the Counseling Center.

"You come into my office and identify as a veteran or family member using services, I might get to see you that day," Clayton said.

After the clinical therapist's talk, SGA Vice President of Internal Affairs Juana Jimenez Lopez and Vice



Silvana Villarreal/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Criminal justice senior Brianna Rodriguez (far right) asks Francisco Benavides, computer science junior (left), and Nathan Floyd, computer science senior, to complete a survey Oct. 1 in the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus.



History sophomore Addisyn Lowry and theatre junior Charlie Hansen stop by the Student Government Association table to grab snacks Oct. 1 in the Main Building Courtyard on the Brownsville campus.

President of External Affairs Gregorio Zuniga presented the president's report.

Jimenez Lopez said they just finished setting up meetings with Information Technology and the University Library.

The Rider asked for details about the meetings. Jimenez replied the meetings are general sessions with different departments on campus to address student concerns.

Zuniga said he is working on some applications for senator positions, among others.

Kourtne Hernandez, SGA program coordinator and adviser, said any students currently enrolled or who will be enrolled in Fall 2025 or Spring 2026 can represent UTRGV as a student representative for the University of Texas Board of Regents or representative for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board. Applications are available on V Link.

The SGA voted to appoint Kevin Ramirez, an accounting junior, as a new senator for the Robert C. Vackar College of Business & Entrepreneurship.

"I wanna go more in depth ... listening to what [students] want ... and just provide that for all our students," Ramirez said.

The SGA also appointed biology and anthropology senior Isabella Zapata, a former senator for the College of Sciences, as a new associate justice.

"I hope to be able to interpret and to be able to really contribute to SGA through the judicial system," Zapata said.

The next meeting will take place Oct. 18, according to the SGA's V Link page.

PROTEST

Continued from Page 1

Resistance Movement, known as Hamas, launched an attack on southern Israel, where more than 1,200 Israelis and foreign nationals were killed that same day, according to an Oct. 4 Congressional Research Service report.

A year after the ongoing Israel-Hamas war, over 41,000 Palestinians have been killed since then in Gaza, the report states.

The spokesperson for RGV Young Democratic Socialists of America, who identified herself only by her first name, Miriam, said she has a strong connection with the ongoing issue as a Palestinian.

"I do have that survivor's guilt to see what's happening and then continue with my day-to-day activities," Miriam told The Rider in tears. "... It feels like a responsibility to come and do this."

During the rally, the organization handed out pamphlets describing the organization's purpose and information on the Gaza death toll.

"I think it is our responsibility as human beings to do something when we see such injustice," Miriam told the crowd. "It's such a scale, especially when our government, our tax dollars are playing a role in it. I'm not asking people to try to stop every injustice in the world—that's impossible. But when it's one that you are actually contributing to, I think it should be your responsibility to try and do something."

The president of the organization, who identified himself only by his first name,



Raquel Cazares/THE RIDER

Protesters hold signs Oct. 7 on the Bronc Trail during the Palestine Lebanon Solidarity Rally on the Edinburg campus.

Jacob, told the crowd he is ashamed of his "own national identity."

"It's made me furious, furious [about] our priorities as a nation," Jacob said. "Furious that our political system [is] so rotten that we as a society are focusing more on a genocide than helping

our own people. ... I am here because I cannot stay silent as I see images of homes destroyed, entire families butchered and thousands of children murdered, and you can't stand for it, either."

He encouraged the attendees to not stay silent.

"You're here today because

you have shown that you will not be silent about this," Jacob said. "If the United States is to truly tout itself as a democracy, if we are to be a government truly of the people, why should we ever prioritize a colonial genocide over our own needs? If the U.S. wants to call itself that, it

must immediately divest from Israel. It must immediately stop this genocide, and it must immediately address the concerns of its people."

The United States has spent \$17.9 billion on military aid to Israel since the war in Gaza began, according to Brown University's Costs of War project.

Miriam said politicians continue to supply Israel with weapons.

"It's become the norm to retrieve your family members' bodies ripped apart," she said. "Either you don't get their head. Either you don't get their body. Either have a tiny bit of their hair to identify them with. But either way, you are lucky because you're getting their body back, you got them back to know that they're dead. ...

"You got them back and for that you're lucky to have their torn-apart bodies by U.S. weapons. ... Laying them in the ground in a mass grave with the rest of the bodies identified. And for that, I am lucky. For that, I am lucky."

Ana Carolina Diaz Beltran, an assistant professor of curriculum and instruction at UTRGV, said she attended the rally in support of students.

"I came to make sure students are respected and protected," Diaz Beltran said. "... I'm here because I recognize the effort students are making to gather and to bring these topics on campus. This is super important. ... I think the reason why this is so important is because there are students from Palestine, there are students from the Middle East and ... they need to know that there's a community that supports them."

Thanks, UT Edinburg



**Silvana Villarreal,
Natalie Lapsley
and Viviana Infante**

THE RIDER

Here we go again. Another thing Brownsville-based UTRGV students will get stripped of before graduation, a commencement near home—a decision made without asking the Fall 2024 graduating class.

It almost feels ceremonial. A farewell where UTRGV says, “And don’t you forget all the times we made you come to Edinburg and all the opportunities we never gave Brownsville.”

Whether it was academic or recreational opportunities, we were robbed time and time again.

Walking across that stage will feel like being dismissed and kicked in the butt on my way out.

Sure, they would occasionally throw Brownsville a bone to shush the crowds, like a carnival here, a soccer game there, but nothing of substance that I can remember.

I give UTRGV a big pat on the back for making sure the graduating Class of 2024 and their families do not suffer from heat-related issues—in December.

If there was any chance to fight this, I would fight to have the option.

I liked the option of having the opportunity to bring 20 people to watch me walk across the stage.

I liked the option of having the ceremony 15 minutes away rather than one hour.

I liked the option of bringing my own car to the ceremony and not

having to haul my whole family with me at 7 a.m. to a stadium; they will simply have to wait outside before being admitted inside.

If I really wanted to graduate from another city, I would have gone to the University of Texas at San Antonio.

The thing I loved about UTRGV is that I’d get to study in my hometown near my family and friends. I’d get to save money and time.

Instead, I lost 16 hours a week to bus rides—time that could’ve been spent taking care of myself or completing homework, free from motion sickness.

And when the bus schedule didn’t work with my classes, which were scheduled mere minutes apart but housed miles and miles away, I lost hundreds of dollars to gas.

Now, I’m losing my commencement ceremony to Edinburg.

Some Brownsville students may have voiced a preference for an indoor graduation—those students always had that choice.

Now, no one gets to choose.

Now, instead of walking that stage in

the tunnel.

I don’t know if it’s too late to get back the moment I’ve been dreaming of for five years, but this needs to be fixed for future Brownsville graduates.

The university has had 10 years to find a solution. It should consider building a multi-use facility to house graduation in Brownsville. It should advocate for the construction of a Cameron County arena. It should explore options, such as the Texas Southmost College Jacob Brown Auditorium or the TSC Performing Arts Center. And if no facility has the capacity, it should split the ceremonies into smaller groups.

Anyway—thanks, UTRGV, or should I say UT Edinburg, for one last kick while I’m down.

After years of watching all the problems students had to endure, such as rats in Rusteberg Hall and an increase in the Intercollegiate Athletics Fee due to the new football and spirit programs, concerns about my graduation was another issue I never thought would cross my mind.

Now, I wonder if my dad or my older sisters will have the chance to attend my commencement since my ceremony is scheduled for a Friday morning.

I didn’t think I would have to wake up at 4 a.m. to get ready and leave my house by 6 a.m. to get to Bert Ogden Arena by (hopefully, if traffic permits) 7:30 a.m. just to meet my required arrival time for graduation.

It makes me wonder how the university has boasted about serving the Hispanic/Latino population without taking into consideration the intricacies of being a Hispanic student.

A shared consensus is how difficult it is to be a Hispanic student in higher education. Money—for gas, bills and food—and time—for our studies, work, family, social life and ourselves—are two of the most important aspects of our lives. Traveling to Edinburg means we will lose one or both of these.

So, now, I stress the question that has been on my mind about UTRGV for months: Is the effort to recruit and enroll an underrepresented group just mere tokenism?

“The university has had 10 years to find a solution. It should consider building a multi-use facility to house graduation in Brownsville. It should advocate for the construction of a Cameron County arena. It should explore options, such as the Texas Southmost College Jacob Brown Auditorium or the TSC Performing Arts Center. And if no facility has the capacity, it should split the ceremonies into smaller groups.”

a beautiful, outdoor graduation with all of my loved ones present, I’ll be forced to make yet another hour-and-a-half journey to a city that isn’t even mine.

I chose UTRGV because I love Brownsville, and I wanted to celebrate this cherished milestone in my city. Now I don’t even want to walk that stage, but I will, for my mom and for my best friend.

Honestly, I would have donned my cap and gown in the rain with a smile, but if it really has to be indoors and if no venue is big enough, what ever happened to drive-by graduations?

My college experience has been getting harder and harder, but that ceremony was a light at the end of

What are your thoughts on UTRGV removing the commencement ceremony from the Brownsville campus?

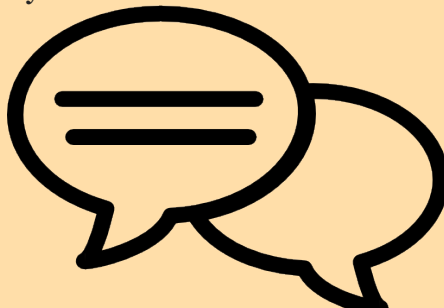
Editor’s Note: Below are some of the responses by students when The Rider asked on social media what they thought about UTRGV ending its commencement in Brownsville and moving it to the Bert Ogden Arena in Edinburg.

“Alumni here too, I am from Brownsville and got to graduate in Brownsville. I have always felt like as a campus we are always an after thought. Most of us love our campus and I would hate for future grads to not be able to walk the stage in their campus.”
Itza Saldana Sanchez

“I graduated on the Brownsville campus and it was beautiful. At the time I lived in Port Isabel and even driving to Brownsville was an hour commute - but Edinburg?! It would be awful to ask my family to drive that far. Also, I have no emotional connection to the Edinburg campus - especially since I only had two or three classes there throughout the entire completion of my degree.”
Kaitlyn Jeter

“They need to keep doing what they

have been doing. During the pandemic there were changes since and I didn’t get a full experience. The more the change the more they are taking away. I did not graduate from the Brownsville campus but their lawn tradition is beautiful. I remember seeing family graduate that way when I was a child.”
Lynette MbK Leader



“Proud alumni here, I would prefer they keep a commencement ceremony at the Brownsville campus. Since I lived in Brownsville it was covenant to have a commencement in Brownsville and not have to drive all the way out to Edinburg.”
Marie Rina Erwin

“Brownsville campus has always been

a second thought. As an educator in a college driven school and alumni I feel disappointed with acts such as this. I use to brag about how beautiful my campus is but now I no longer want to encourage my students to apply/attend UTRGV.”
Elihu Patino

“As someone who is from the Brownsville campus, I would prefer it if they didn’t remove our commencement ceremony. A lot of us want to graduate from our community/campus and many have family who can’t make it to Edinburg to watch us graduate if the ceremony gets moved over there”
Julietta Torres

“Put this comment: Hell no. UTRGV is ran by a bunch of incompetent people who show they clearly do not care about the Brownsville campus.”
Juan Alvarez

“Even if we don’t agree with the decision it is better. Having it outside here in Brownsville had students worried especially with the weather, and the possibility for cancellations.”
Reina RG



What do you think about commencement being held only in Edinburg this fall?



“I do think it’s not that convenient due to some students who have more classes in Brownsville or even people who have big families. I know in Edinburg you have certain tickets that you get, so it’s not very convenient.”

Samantha Rodriguez
biology junior



“I think they shouldn’t be doing that. I believe the kids should have the choice to go where they wanna go. Brownsville is beautiful. I don’t believe they should have only one choice, since it’s two main campuses.”

Esteban Zavala
computer science junior



“I don’t think it’s fair for the people who live in Brownsville and Matamoros to have to travel all the way over here to Edinburg. In the past, it has been held in both schools. ... I believe that if it’s going to be held in Edinburg, that the university should offer the same shuttle that they do to move students ... to the guests and students graduating.”

Andrew Nieto
marketing junior



“Pienso que el commencement debe de ser en Brownsville y también en Edinburg porque las familias de Brownsville tal vez tengan problemas para llegar a la graduación”.

Maria Rosario Martinez
estudiante de último año de negocios internacionales

—Compiled and photos by Vanessa Aguilar

Protestantes pro-Palestina se manifiestan en UTRGV

Fatima Gamez Lopez
EDITORA DE ESPAÑOL

Alrededor de 50 estudiantes y miembros de la comunidad de UTRGV se manifestaron el 7 de octubre en el Chapel Lawn del campus de Edinburg, abogando por la solidaridad con Palestina y gritando "Israel, EE.UU., ¿cuántos niños han matado hoy?" mientras sostenían carteles que decían "Alto al genocidio".

El evento, organizado por los RGV Young Democratic Socialists of America, marcó el primer aniversario de la actual guerra entre Israel y Hamás.

El 7 de octubre de 2023, el Movimiento de Resistencia Islámica, conocido como Hamás, lanzó un ataque contra el sur de Israel, donde más de 1,200 israelíes y extranjeros fueron asesinados ese mismo día, según un reporte del 4 de octubre del Servicio de Investigación del Congreso.

Un año después del comienzo de la guerra entre Israel y Hamás, más de 41,000 palestinos han sido asesinados desde entonces en Gaza, afirma el reporte.

La portavoz de RGV Young Democratic Socialists of America, que se identificó solo por su primer nombre, Miriam, dijo que como palestina ella tiene una fuerte conexión con el problema actual.

"Siento la culpa de una sobreviviente al ver lo que está pasando y luego continuar con mis actividades diarias", dijo Miriam a The Rider entre lágrimas. "[...] Siento que es una responsabilidad venir y hacer esto".

Durante la manifestación, la organización repartió panfletos que describían el propósito de la organización e información sobre el número de muertos en Gaza.

"Creo que es nuestra responsabilidad como seres humanos hacer algo cuando vemos tanta



Raquel Cazares /FOTO RIDER

Protestantes exclaman el 7 de octubre en el Bronc Trail durante la manifestación de solidaridad con Palestina y el Líbano en el campus de Edinburg. Participaron alrededor de 50 personas.

injusticia", dijo Miriam a la multitud. "Es de tal magnitud, especialmente cuando nuestro gobierno, nuestros impuestos juegan un papel en ella. No estoy pidiendo a la gente que intente detener todas las injusticias del mundo—eso es imposible. Pero cuando se trata de una a la que realmente estás contribuyendo, creo que debería ser tu responsabilidad intentar hacer algo".

El presidente de la organización, que se identificó solo por su primer nombre, Jacob, dijo a la multitud que se avergüenza de su "propia identidad nacional".

"Me ha puesto furioso, furioso [por] nuestras prioridades como nación", dijo Jacob. "Estoy furioso porque nuestro sistema político está

tan podrido que, como sociedad, nos estamos centrando más en un genocidio que en ayudar a nuestra propia gente. [...] Estoy aquí porque no puedo quedarme callado mientras veo imágenes de hogares destruidos, familias enteras masacradas y miles de niños asesinados, y ustedes tampoco pueden tolerarlo".

Jacob animó a los asistentes a no permanecer en silencio.

"Están aquí hoy porque han demostrado que no se quedarán callados ante esto", dijo. "Si Estados Unidos realmente quiere promocionarse como una democracia, si queremos ser un gobierno verdaderamente del pueblo, ¿por qué deberíamos priorizar un genocidio

colonial por encima de nuestras propias necesidades? Si Estados Unidos quiere llamarse así, debe dejar de invertir inmediatamente en Israel. Debe detener inmediatamente este genocidio y debe abordar de inmediato las preocupaciones de su pueblo".

Estados Unidos ha gastado 17,900 millones de dólares en ayuda militar a Israel desde que comenzó la guerra en Gaza, según el proyecto Costos de la Guerra de la Universidad de Brown.

Miriam dijo que los políticos siguen suministrando armas a Israel.

"Se ha convertido en la norma recuperar los cuerpos destrozados de los miembros de tu familia", dijo. "O no obtienes su cabeza, o no obtienes su cuerpo, o tienes un poquito de su cabello para identificarlos. Pero de cualquier manera, tienes suerte porque estás recuperando su cuerpo, estás recuperando su conciencia y haciéndote saber que están muertos. [...]"

"Los recuperaste y por eso tienes suerte de tener sus cuerpos destrozados por las armas estadounidenses. [...] Que los hayan enterrado en una fosa común junto con el resto de los cuerpos identificados. Y por ello tengo suerte. Por ello tengo suerte".

Ana Carolina Díaz Beltran, profesora asistente de currículum e instrucción en UTRGV, dijo que asistió a la manifestación en apoyo a los estudiantes.

"Vine para asegurarme de que los estudiantes sean respetados y protegidos", dijo Díaz Beltran. "[...] Estoy aquí porque reconozco el esfuerzo que están haciendo los estudiantes para reunirse y traer estos temas al campus. Esto es muy importante. [...] Creo que la razón por la que esto es tan importante es porque hay estudiantes de Palestina, hay estudiantes del Medio Oriente y [...] necesitan saber que hay una comunidad que los apoya".

Juntos escuchando Conjunto



Silvana Villarreal /FOTOS RIDER

Esteban Medina, estudiante de segundo año de ingeniería civil, toca el bajo quinto y canta durante "Union Unplugged" el jueves en la Unión Estudiantil del campus de Brownsville.



Sebastián Salinas (izquierda) y Manuel Almanza, miembros del Club Conjunto de UTRGV, tocan durante "Union Unplugged" el jueves en el Student Union del campus de Brownsville. Salinas es estudiante de tercer año de educación musical y Almanza es estudiante de tercer año de negocios internacionales.



Iliana Aguilar, estudiante de tercer año de ciencia de la salud integrada, toca el bajo junto al Club Conjunto de UTRGV el jueves en la Unión Estudiantil del campus de Brownsville.

CHANGES
Continued from Page 1

UTRGV senior vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs, said the reason why Fall 2024 and Spring 2025 students were not surveyed was because the university could not identify where students wanted to graduate.

“You can’t survey the Fall ’24 students because we don’t know who would have selected the Brownsville ceremony,” Hinojosa said. “We do not know who they are until they go out for RSVP and that’s why it’s important for us to survey then the students who have experienced it. ... But as far as anybody who would be graduating this semester, we don’t know who would have graduated in Brownsville because we don’t make that choice.”

Bailey said other factors for the decision included comfort and safety.

“The outdoor ceremonies, we had examples of heat exhaustion or fainting,” he said. “There were just any number of issues there with health and safety.”

Bailey said the cost of an outdoor ceremony is more expensive than holding it in a venue.

“It’s very expensive to do it outdoors in Brownsville,” he said. “I think it’s probably \$100,000 a year or more, more than ... doing it in Bert Ogden.”

The Rider requested the commencement budget from Fiscal Year 2024 and the projection for Fiscal Year 2025. Patrick Gonzales, vice president for Marketing and Communications, provided the figures.

For FY 2024, the total cost of graduation for both campuses was \$761,186.52 and the graduation fee revenue amounted to \$348,356, leaving a deficit of \$412,830.52.

For FY 2025, the cost of holding commencement only in Edinburg is a projected \$440,943 and the fee revenue is \$348,356, leaving a deficit of \$92,587. Holding commencement only in Edinburg would be \$320,243.52 less than the cost of holding it on each campus.

Bailey said there is not a single indoor venue option close to Brownsville big enough or time appropriate.

“First of all, the only other option ... is really not a very good option in Brownsville was Jacob Brown [Auditorium],” he said. “And so it would have taken probably 10 ceremonies to get that done. ... There’s no way we could do that over a graduation week.”

Bailey said the change in commencement was the best choice, especially with a lack of an arena.

FISCAL YEAR 2024 GRADUATION FEE

| Vendor/Description | FALL 2023 | | | FY 24 |
|--|--------------------|----------------------|----------------------|--------------------|
| | Shared Costs | Bert Ogden Arena | Brownsville | |
| Tents, Chairs, and Generators: Rental World | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 105,649.88 | \$ |
| Food/Catering: Chartwells and RGV Concessions | \$ - | \$ 11,117.37 | \$ 4,890.35 | \$ |
| Signage and Carpeting: Convention and Expo Management (CEMS) | \$ - | \$ 11,851.05 | \$ 5,954.20 | \$ |
| EMS Brownsville | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,500.00 | \$ |
| Stage Flower Arrangements: Cantu Flowers | \$ - | \$ 1,760.00 | \$ 2,050.00 | \$ |
| Physical Plant Workorders/Labor | \$ - | \$ 2,065.94 | \$ 9,663.16 | \$ |
| UTRGV PD | \$ - | \$ 10,148.75 | \$ 4,258.75 | \$ |
| Edinburg PD | \$ - | \$ 7,350.00 | \$ - | \$ |
| Brownsville PD | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,260.00 | \$ |
| Parking and Transportation - Volts | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 9,775.00 | \$ |
| Accessibility Seating Platform | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 5,629.66 | \$ |
| Hand Fans | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ |
| Bert Ogden Arena | \$ - | \$ 45,000.00 | \$ - | \$ |
| BOA Vinyl Decal | \$ - | \$ 250.00 | \$ - | \$ |
| Southwest Special Risk Insurance for BOA | \$ - | \$ 6,317.00 | \$ - | \$ |
| Road Signage | \$ - | \$ 1,752.32 | \$ - | \$ |
| Supplies | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 367.74 | \$ |
| Print Services | \$ 1,218.58 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 1,304.00 |
| Captioning: Cauthen and Associates | \$ 2,975.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 2,975.00 |
| Marching Order | \$32,929.39 | \$ - | \$ - | \$37,051.00 |
| White Diploma Tubes: Jonesville Paper Tube Co. | \$11,418.80 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 4,265.00 |
| Craft Diploma Tubes: Jonesville Paper Tube Co. | \$ 6,950.54 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 7,441.00 |
| Video Captioning: Rev.com | \$ 81.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 15.00 |
| Bells for Bell Ringers | \$ 195.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 180.00 |
| Phone Lanyards | \$ 4,025.00 | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 3,450.00 |
| Audio Visual: First Born Productions | \$ - | \$ 20,997.50 | \$ 25,000.00 | \$ |
| Postage | \$11,051.90 | \$ - | \$ - | \$11,084.00 |
| Parking Permits | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ |
| Pest Control (Mosquito treatment) | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 4,500.00 | \$ |
| SOPM Gonfalon | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 7,134.00 |
| Presidential Medallion | \$ - | \$ - | \$ - | \$ 151.00 |
| Total Expenses | \$70,845.21 | \$ 118,609.93 | \$ 180,498.74 | \$75,052.00 |

| |
|-------------------------------|
| Brownsville Expenses |
| Bert Ogden Arena Expenses |
| Shared Expenses |
| Total Expenses (FY 24) |

| |
|---|
| Graduation Fee Revenue |
| External Revenue (Grad images/Flower Sales) |
| UTRGV Funding |
| Total Funding (FY 24) |

“Unless there’s some change, we can do this,” he said. “Now, if Cameron County builds an arena, we’re happy to revisit it. But in the absence of an arena there that works, this looks like our only option.”

Cameron County Judge Eddie Treviño Jr. said he appreciates outdoor ceremonies and that the commencement changes were disappointing but made sense.

“I understand moving it,” Treviño said. “I hope it doesn’t impact the quality of commencement. I hope they’ll take into account the number of people who want to see their kids graduate.”

He said having an arena would improve the quality of life for the Rio Grande Valley.

“I think our community, hopefully, is realizing, No. 1, that we need to have a facility, a multi-use arena facility like what we’ve been planning or contemplating and, two, if we all get behind it everyone can benefit from it,” Treviño said.

Juana Jimenez Lopez, external vice president for the Student Government Association, said the SGA had no say in the commencement decisions.

“Although the final decision was made by university administration, the SGA had no say in this,” Jimenez Lopez said. “So, the SGA is new to this information, but we’re actively listening to students’ concerns and we stand firm on advocating for students and hearing student

perspectives.”

Hinojosa said she, Stephen Hirst, associate vice president for Strategic Enrollment and Student Affairs, and Ismael Amaya, dean of students, spoke to the SGA over the decision.

“This was actually not the first time that this has been brought up but, obviously, this is a different—well, a couple of the individuals are the same—but a different SGA group,” Hinojosa said. “I can vouch and tell you that we did have a conversation with them.”

Jimenez Lopez said it is reasonable to move the Brownsville commencement to Bert Ogden due to previous experiences.

“I understand the need of

it being changed as weather was a main issue as we saw back in [the] 2023 Spring ceremony,” she said. “... This decision was made keeping students’ safety in mind and just addressing the uncertainty of students fearing their graduation getting canceled due to weather.”

Mass communication senior Alexia Berlanga said she was surprised by the change but agreed with the outcome.

“I think it’s better, especially because now it’s going to be in a place that has AC,” Berlanga said. “It’s going to be a closed arena. There might not be any restrictions because, now that it’s an indoor place, weather won’t

COMMENTS
Continued from Page 4

“I think it’s an inconvenience to remove it since we have a student population there in Brownsville, the Brownsville campus is so pretty but I do see how weather can be an issue for the ceremony.”
Estrellita López

“I personally loved having the option

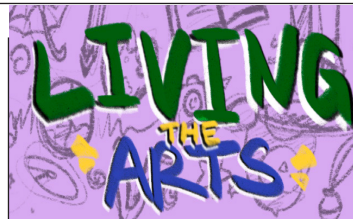
to graduate at the Brownsville campus. While the weather could have been a concern, having the arena as a backup would have been a good solution. For me, the ticket limit at the Edinburg ceremony just didn’t seem worth it. Since many of us come from large families, I appreciated that my graduation in Brownsville was open to all of my family members without restrictions it made my graduation

more special with everyone I love being able to attend.”
Audrey Solis

“I’m glad it’s moving. I want to have a good experience and not worry about the weather. It could be either too hot or raining. I also want my family to have a great experience. Not worry about cancellations or postponing. I want to graduate with my friends that

are on both campuses.”
Natalie Ruiz

“How inconsiderate and inconvenient to Brownsville students and their families. If they really don’t want to attend the ceremony outdoors, they have the option for Edinburg, but don’t completely remove their option to choose.”
Gaby Phelps



Who would play you in a movie about your story?



Camila Caudillo
education sophomore
"Sadie Sink, I feel like we are kind of the same age."



Rogelio Aguirre
computer science sophomore
"Chris Evans, because he's not only active but also present. In real life, he has a lot of charisma, just like me."



Trey Holmes
accounting sophomore
"Robert Downey Jr. ... He would understand the trials and tribulations of being me, playing a man."



Juan Salinas
kinesiology senior
"Matt LeBlanc, the dude from 'Friends,' because he is outgoing, very chill, funny."

--Compiled and photos by Silvana Villarrea

A social way to create

Eduardo Escamilla
A&E REPORTER

Bleach Lopez, a creative director from Mission, launched the Creative Social Club this summer, a new initiative aimed at fostering a supportive and inclusive community for local creatives.

The group held its first meeting at Nerve Coffee in McAllen and collaborates with grassroots businesses to host events.

In an interview with The Rider, Lopez said seeing the potential and creativity in the people around her, even in simple everyday moments, motivates her to "give people their flowers" and help them receive the recognition and support they need to thrive in a creative field.

Inspiration behind the club came when she realized she had "a big problem like a lot of the other people here in the [Rio Grande] Valley do, especially with the

creative scene."

"And, it was basically finding a safe networking ... society ... that you could truly be genuine with your intentions," she said.

Lopez, who has been freelancing as a creative director since 2022 in the Valley and later in New York City, has witnessed firsthand the challenges faced by local talent, including being "taken advantage of" and not receiving fair compensation.

"There's a lot of, you know, for lack of better words, there's a lot of predators here in all aspects," she said.

Determined to create a safe space for creatives, Lopez established the Creative Social Club with the mission of "getting people started on whatever career they might want."

She envisions the club as a "middleman" that can provide guidance and support, rather than a top-down leadership



Eduardo Escamilla/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Model and Pharr resident Jair Maldonado says the Creative Social Club has been a supportive community in his modeling journey. He hopes to contribute his own experience and expertise to help others, as well, and aims to collaborate with photographers in the club just starting their career.

structure.

"I'm not so much trying to be a leader for them, but more so trying to be the middleman," Lopez said. "Because in that aspect, all of them are going to be leaders in their own way."

The club's vision includes building business relationships and fostering a supportive community, drawing inspiration from the "it takes a village" mentality prevalent in Hispanic culture.

Model and Pharr resident Jair Maldonado said the Creative Social Club has been a transformative experience for him.

"I have met amazing people, and they have actually helped me ... improve my portfolio and my reputation as a model," Maldonado said.

He credited Lopez with boosting his self-confidence in modeling and runway walking.

Maldonado's involvement with the Creative Social Club has not only nurtured his personal growth but also has provided him with a platform to connect with like-minded individuals and further his

goal of incorporating the "male essence" into the art of modeling.

"I want to incorporate modeling into art itself, not make it seem like just money or business," he said. "I want it to be something that you can create as an artist, as a creator ... as a form of expression."

Looking to the future, Lopez plans to expand the club beyond the Valley, bringing the Creative Social Club to New York, Houston and California.

"I intend to grow it and expand it to other places, and maybe, you know, get other leaders in other states, and have them host it from there," she said.

Mentoring young and aspiring creatives is a key focus for Lopez, who aims to build confidence and provide a supportive environment for members.

"I just want them to have that confidence wherever they are, and that's what I truly want to see for them in the future," she said.

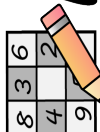
The Creative Social Club

See **CLUB**, Page 10



Bleach Lopez, a creative director from Mission, is the founder of the Creative Social Club.

SUDOKU



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| | 1 | 7 | | | 9 | | 8 | 2 |

Oct. 7 puzzle answer key:

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| 9 | 7 | 3 | 2 | 5 | 6 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| 8 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 | 7 | 3 | 9 | 6 |
| 7 | 9 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 |
| 3 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 7 |
| 6 | 5 | 8 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 9 | 3 | 4 |
| 5 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 3 | 4 | 7 | 2 | 8 |
| 2 | 8 | 1 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 3 |
| 4 | 3 | 7 | 6 | 8 | 2 | 1 | 5 | 9 |

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK:

Celianiz Cabranes



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER

Celianiz “Nani” Cabranes is a kinesiology sophomore from Bayamon, Puerto Rico, and a libero for the UTRGV Volleyball Team. Cabranes has been a force on the court, averaging 4.75 digs per set, and has taken home the Southland Conference Defensive Player of the Week honors.

Q: What is a fun fact about yourself?

A: “I like to sleep.”

Q: Who or what got you started in volleyball?

A: “Since I was little, the person that I [saw] and wanted to be like ... was my sister. She used to play since she was, like, 9. And [since then], I’ve been on the volleyball court all my life.”

Q: Who has been your biggest inspiration or role model?

A: “It’s definitely my sister. She started playing the sport [first] and then I was like, ‘OK, let me see if I like it.’ And I loved it.”

Q: What kind of music do you like to listen to?

A: “A little bit of everything.”

Q: Which shows or movies do you like to watch?

A: “Right now, I don’t know. One of my teammates wanted me to watch ‘Dexter,’ but I don’t know.”

Q: Do you have any hobbies?

A: “Yeah, going to the beach, spending time with my family and playing volleyball.”

Q: What is your biggest motivation?

A: “Definitely, my mom and my dad. Yeah, they’ve been with me since I was little. They’ve been [there] in the rough days and they [have] been helping me.”

Q: What do you like the most about UTRGV?

A: “The girls [on the team] and the people. They’re actually nice; I like them.”

Q: What are your biggest goals?

A: “I wanna be a professional volleyball player and, if not, then I want to graduate with my major and help players with their injuries.”

—Compiled by Ali Halloum

Offseason of change for men’s basketball



Angel Ballesteros/THE RIDER PHOTOS

Freshman guard Justin Mitchell (right) passes the ball to sophomore guard J.J. Howard during practice Oct. 7 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

Ali Halloum

SPORTS REPORTER

Following a less-than-stellar 2023-24 season and an offseason marked by changes, the UTRGV Men’s Basketball Team seeks to improve and play better in the 2024-25 season.

Last season, the Vaqueros finished 6-25 overall, coming in last in its final WAC season (2-18) before joining the Southland Conference.

UTRGV hired Brigham Young University assistant coach Kahil Fennell as the new head coach after parting ways with Matt Figger.

Fennell said he looks forward to winning in the 2024-25 season and “competing is the name of the game.”

He acknowledged this year will carry a lot of unknowns, as the Vaqueros will enter the season in a new conference with a new coaching staff.

“I’ve never coached with our staff and never coached these players individually [before],” Fennell said. “But that’s what’s exciting. It’s such a cool opportunity for me [and the staff] to step into this environment.”

He said the team has “a long way to go” ahead of tipoff in November.

“We have to improve defensively, we gotta get a lot tougher, we gotta get more

physical,” Fennell said. “I think, as we continue to really put our best foot forward as far as energy and effort and toughness and physicality, then a lot of those other things will kind of fall into place.”

Although the team’s efforts on offense have stood out to the head coach, he would still like to see improvements.

under former BYU head coach Mark Pope, who was recently hired by the University of Kentucky to head up the eight-time NCAA champion Wildcats.

“I’ve been really, really fortunate to work for some fantastic head coaches and they’re all very, very different,” he said. “... Hopefully, I can

points, 3.4 assists and five rebounds last year in 20 games, said the main focus was to end his final season in college basketball “on a good note” with a conference championship and an NCAA tournament berth.

“The main focus is competing for a championship,” Hakim said. “That would be a collective goal that we’re working for with our habits and our practices and the way we work every day.”

Graduate guard DK Thorn transferred from Alcorn State University, where he averaged 8.3 points and 3.3 rebounds in 29 games last season.

He said the culture is what prompted him to come to UTRGV.

“I like the way that the community is for the school and wants to see the school succeed,” Thorn said. “[I look forward to] playing in front of the home crowd here and turning the basketball culture around into a winning program.”

The Kahil Fennell era will begin on the road Nov. 4 against the University of Nebraska Huskers (23-11, 12-8, third BIG 10).

As of press time, the network carrying the game and the time of tipoff were unavailable.



Redshirt sophomore forward Marshal Destremau dunks the ball during practice Oct. 7 in the UTRGV Fieldhouse on the Edinburg campus.

“I think we’re starting to execute offensively at a higher level, but even those things still need to improve and we’re not where we need to be,” Fennell said.

He said his approach this season “will be hugely shaped” by his experience at other programs.

Fennell previously worked

glean from all of them and help shape my own way and my own philosophy of teaching.”

Players have also expressed their hopes of turning the program around and succeeding at a competitive level.

Senior guard Hasan Abdul Hakim, who averaged 12.9

**THIS WEEK
IN SPORTS
WOMEN’S SOCCER**



**6:30 p.m. Thursday
vs. Nicholls State University
at the UTRGV Soccer and Track & Field Complex**

FACEBOOK

continued from Page 1

engaged UTRGV Facebook group, with over 16,000 members.

To join the group, active students must send a request through Facebook, which will be reviewed by University Marketing and Communications. Students are required to input their university email and consent to the provided community guidelines to submit a request.

The UTRGV Social Media Department created the guidelines as a collaborative effort with the former Dean of Students Rebecca Gadson.

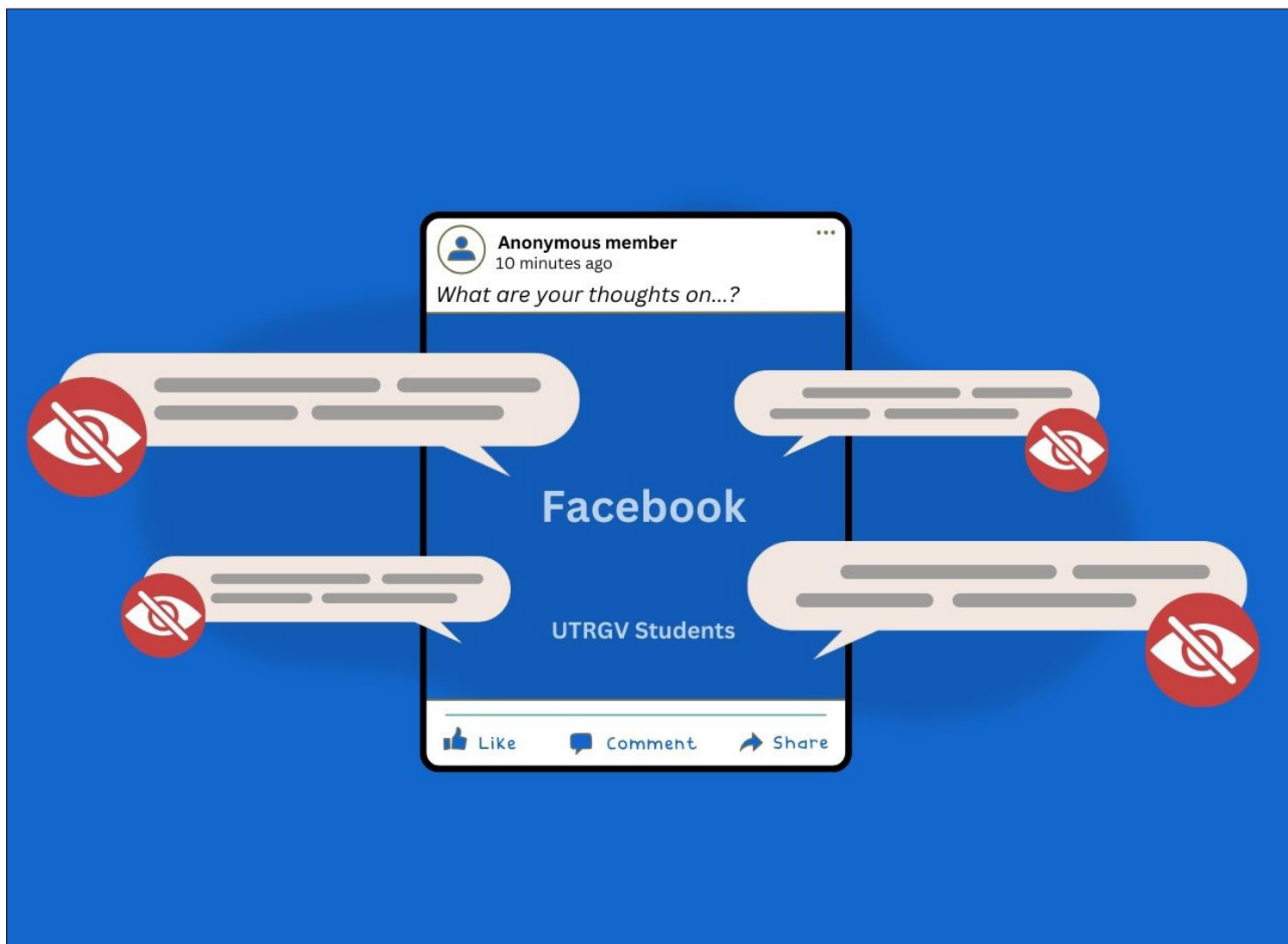
Josse Garrido, director of Digital Marketing and Analytics for University Marketing and Communications, said the guidelines were created to protect students from hate speech or bullying.

He said because dual enrollment students are part of the Facebook group, restrictions on foul language and explicit images were put in place to protect students under age 18.

Garrido said posts deemed inappropriate will be removed from the page. However, students who feel their posts were removed unfairly can submit an appeal to socialmedia@utrgv.edu.

After the appeal is submitted, the department will communicate the issue with the student to find a resolution.

"There's only been a very few instances where students have complained about that," Garrido said. "Generally speaking, it actually goes very well. Our students are very reasonable."



Abigail Ollave/THE RIDER GRAPHIC

Aaron Worthington, a criminal justice senior and digital community assistant for University Marketing and Communications, monitors the UTRGV Students Facebook Page to ensure guidelines are followed.

Worthington said when he comes across a post that does not follow the guidelines, he reaches out to the student asking them to voluntarily take down their post. If their

post is not removed, he turns off the post comments. The ultimate decision to remove a post is made by Garrido.

"I understand everybody has their right to freedom of expression, but at the same time, you have to follow the rules like everybody else," he said. "We tolerate zero bullying in the group; we tolerate zero sexual harassment."

Worthington said he encourages students and

faculty to post information on the Facebook group.

"We are a community and we want to make sure that everybody is kept updated with what's going on here," he said.

Caleb Gomez, an electrical engineering junior and member of the UTRGV Students Facebook group, said a post promoting a garage sale at his house was removed from the page.

Gomez was confused about his post being removed but believes having community guidelines in the group is important.

"You don't want to just [have] random people posting whatever that doesn't align with, like, education," he said.

Gomez said he will continue to participate in the group while keeping the community guidelines in mind.

CLUB

continued from Page 8

held an "intro to modeling" class Sunday at Mobar in Edinburg. It will host a "show and tell" at 6 p.m. Friday at Baby Arcade and Tarts and Hearts, located at 519 S. Main St., Unit 70, in McAllen. Attendees are encouraged to bring pieces of their own creative work or projects to showcase and receive feedback.

Lopez said all the events and workshops are free and welcomes new members.

"A lot of the people who are coming to my events are either people who are going to school, you know, more focused on that, or don't have time for a job," she said.

Lopez said her main mission is to provide as much free education as possible.

"No one should have to pay for something as small as, you know, this person walking into a Fashion Week room," she said, referring to open calls and auditions.

Lopez plans to charge membership fees in the future, but only for those who decide to become "teachers" and contribute to the club. Her goal is to keep the basic education and opportunities free and accessible for as many creatives as possible.

To learn more about the Creative Social Club and upcoming events, follow its Instagram handle @crtvsocclub.

read

THE RIDER NEWS

on the go

utrgvrider.com

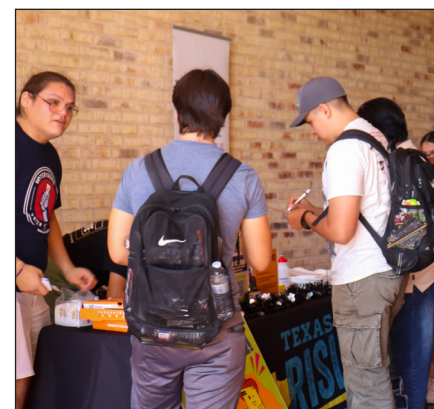
HAVE A STORY IDEA?

EMAIL US AT

[THERIDER@UTRGV.EDU.](mailto:therider@utrgv.edu)

All aboard, Vaqueros

Last call to the polls



Students gather at a voter registration tabling event hosted by VoteRiders Texas and Texas Rising Oct. 7 outside the University Library on the Brownsville campus.

Venisha Colon / THE RIDER PHOTOS
Public affairs graduate student Estrella Torres, the Texas Rising regional program coordinator (from left), helps nursing freshman David Tamez check his voter registration status Oct. 7 outside the University Library on the Brownsville campus. Also shown are management senior Gabriel Morales, visual communication design senior Christalinda Beltran and integrated health science sophomore Dulceaylin Ramirez.



Public affairs graduate student Estrella Torres, the Texas Rising regional program coordinator, gathers voter registration applications Oct. 7 outside the University Library on the Brownsville campus.



Public affairs graduate student Estrella Torres, the Texas Rising regional program coordinator, assists freshman Marelin Barrales in completing a voter registration application Oct. 7 outside the University Library on the Brownsville campus.



Spanish translation and interpreting sophomore Paulina Olvera and biology sophomore Diego Arvizu sign a pledge to vote Oct. 7, during a Texas Rising voter registration tabling event outside the University Library on the Brownsville campus.



Public affairs graduate student Estrella Torres (left), the Texas Rising regional program coordinator, helps Mathematics and Science Academy student Jorge Emilio Cardenas register to vote Oct. 7, the last day to register to vote in Texas, outside the University Library on the Brownsville campus. Also shown are biology freshman Valeria Rodriguez, accounting freshman Katie Gonzalez, biology student Victoria Molina and early care and early childhood education studies freshman Priscila Villarreal.



International business junior Antonio Estrada and marketing junior Erica Coronado host a voter registration tabling event for Vaqueros Vote Oct. 7, the last day to register to vote in Texas for the Nov. 5 presidential election, in the Student Union veranda on the Brownsville campus.

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THE RIDER NEWS

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UTRGV
College of Fine Arts



VISIT
Brownsville

CREARTE

Latino Arts & Humanities Conference

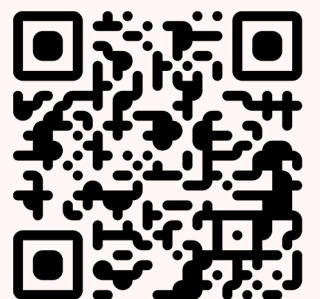
JOIN US WHILE WE EXPLORE HOW
LATINO ART INFLUENCES TODAY'S
SOCIETY THROUGH FILMS, MUSIC,
LITERATURE, AND DANCE.

**18
OCT**
2024
9 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Location:

UTRGV (BMSLC) Rooms 3.125
& 3.126
1 W. UNIVERSITY BLVD.,
BROWNSVILLE, TX 78520

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE!



FREE ADMISSION



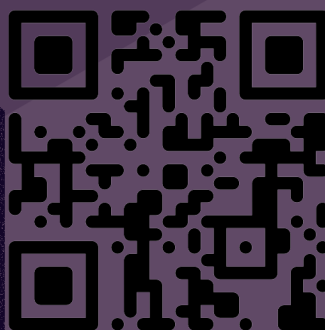
LATINO FILMS NIGHT

AT UTRGV (BMSLC) ROOM 1.217

1 W. University Blvd., Brownsville, TX 78520

8 - 10 p.m.

6 - 8 p.m.
Short Film
Screenings



Get your tickets!



Rated R: Viewers under 17 years old require a parent or adult guardian to watch the movie due to strong language, violence, sexual content, or other mature themes.

Free Admission

OCT. 18

For more information, visit <https://www.crearteexpo.com/>

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