Hispanic Heritage Month kicks off

By Jessica Bowker
Staff Writer

Latino culture will become more visible to all Rider students soon, as the university and the Latin American Student Organization (LASO) celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month. The celebration kicked off with an opening ceremony on Tuesday, Nov. 4, at 6 p.m. in the Bart Luedeke Center's (BLC) Cavalla Room.

Events continue throughout the month of November. “Hispanic Heritage Month celebrates all the ethnicities of Latino culture,” said Jason Carmona, LASO president. “It’s the music and culture of South America, the Caribbean, Spain, Puerto Rico, Cuba—all 21 Latino cultures.”

The opening ceremony included inflatable balloons, dancing, cotton candy, popcorn and a joyful atmosphere, according to Carmona. It was also planned and designed for the enjoyment of the entire campus community, as are the other events during the month.

“We have members of LASO doing poetry [and] doing dance contests,” said Carmona. “It’s for the whole campus to have a carnival.”

Hispanic Heritage Month may be celebrated with fun activities, but it also provides education in a subject that is seldom addressed in classrooms. According to Rahmael Magny, public relations representative for LASO, “It’s to promote Hispanic Heritage and give the campus a sense of diversity,” said Magny. “It gives the community a sense of culture.”

See ‘Heritage’ on Page 3

‘VANDALs’ FROM PAGE 1

“The vandals that occur are not in one isolated location on campus,” said Weaver. “Unfortunately it’s not a very small, contained area, it’s in a parking lot of a large area and this results in us having to cover a much broader area.”

Most of the vandals appear to be random acts despite a few exceptions that sent up some red flags which usually indicate a premeditated attack such as slashed tires, which occurred in two cases, according to Hanusi.

“We have broken side mirrors on every driver’s or passenger’s side,” said Hanusi. “These are the easiest thing to do and it doesn’t take long to break the mirrors so people can do it while they’re passing by.”

As for suspects, Security is pursuing multiple theories.

“The speculation is that the [vandalism] is being done by our own students coming back from night, intoxicated,” said Weaver. “There’s also speculation that local teen-age kids are coming on campus looking to cause problems. It’s possible that it is invited guests of students committing these acts.”

Once the perpetrators of these destructive acts are identified, Rider will take swift, direct action once they have a target, said Weaver.

“No matter who it is, the end result is the same. It’s costing our students and our university a lot,” said Weaver. “The university is looking at this extremely seriously and if it turns out that it is a student or students of Rider, it will look to take immediate action. If it is not a member of the Rider community, the university is very prepared to go and sign complaints against the persons responsible for this.”

One might wonder how a person can be linked with numerous acts of violence even if they are caught committing one such act. Weaver said there is, in fact, a good chance that a person could be connected to past vandalism and that the LPD will aid greatly in the completion of this task.

“The ability to work with the local township police and their interest and active par- ticipation in this gives us that many more resources to find out exactly who is behind the extent of their involvement,” said Weaver.

Despite security’s efforts, students who have had their vehicles vandalized feel as if they’ve dropped the ball.

Sophomore Elizabeth Entsminger, who had a rope on her car set ariba by an uniden- tified suspect or suspects, is not happy with the way Security is handling the situation.

“I was mad because all security did was put out the fire,” said Entsminger. “They didn’t do anything else like try to fix it or catch who did it. And it wasn’t like my car was in the resident lot or open lot. It was in Kroner lot. Security is supposed to drive by there all the time.”

“I just don’t understand how if we are supposed to be really ‘tight’ on security how this could have happened.”

added Entsminger.

Entsminger is not the only victim who is less than satisfied with what has been done to resolve this situation.

“Somebody cut slashes into the convertible top of my son’s car,” said our temporary licence plate on Halloween night,” said senior Danielle Morris,Phi Sigma Sigma presi- dent. “I found out about it on Family Day when my parents went to see my new car.”

Morris said that the LPD did everything they could but Security wasn’t very helpful.

“LPD fingerprinted my car but they couldn’t find any- thing. I had to wait an hour for the cops to show up. It kind of killed my Family Day,” said Morris. “All Security did was write down what happened. All they do is write things.”

“The thing that made me the most angry,” added Morris, “was when I asked security why they weren’t around more since it was Halloween night and they said ‘We can’t be everywhere at once.’”

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Security responded to our emergency by an unknown suspect and was left dangling by its wires on the side of the car. The victim was notified; there are no suspects. The inves- tigation is continuing.

Yeah, That’s a Great Idea

Security officers, while on foot patrol, observed two female resident stu- dents smoking something suspicious in the gazebo by Centennial Lake on Nov. 1 at 5:30 a.m. The victim was identified as a female resident student. The passenger-side mirror on her vehicle had been removed by an unknown suspect and was left dangling by its wires on the side of the car. The victim was notified; there are no suspects. The inves- tigation is continuing.

That Car Is Smokin’

Security officers became aware of a fire in the Kroner lot on Saturday, Nov. 1 at 2:26 a.m. Suspect(s) unknown had set fire to a rope that was tying down the trunk of a parked car.

The fire was extinguished by Security who notified the owner of the vehicle, a female resident stu- dent. Lawrenceville Police Department (LPD) services were offered and declined. There was some damage to the bumper and trunk of the car, but an exact dollar amount is not known. The arson investigation is con- tinuing and Security asks that anyone with informa- tion call Safety and Security at 5029.

Ripping Off Mirrors Make Huck Feel Like Real Man

Security officers responded to a vandalized vehicle in the Administration lot on Nov. 1, at 5:30 a.m. The victim was identified as a female resident student. The passenger-side mirror on her vehicle had been removed by an unknown suspect and was left dangling by its wires on the side of the car. The victim was notified; there are no suspects. The inves- tigation is continuing.

SECURITY BRIEFS

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