

DATELINE

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UHD begins month-long celebration of Hispanic heritage

BY DIANA AMBROSIO

The Marilyn Davies College of Business hosted an event celebrating Hispanic Heritage Month at UHD on Sept. 29. The event had Latin music and food, prizes, and other items to entice the student population. Also in attendance was Little Casita, the restaurant that catered the food, from pastelitos (Salvadoran beef empanadas), pork and cheese pupusas, and bean and cheese pupusas.

Grammy award-winning singer Leslie Lugo was presents delighting the audience with iconic songs from popular Hispanic artists such as Selena Quintanilla. Dean Gengler and people from the Central American Chamber of Commerce were present as

well and gave speeches at the beginning of the event.

Hector Ambrosio, father of UHD student, enjoyed the event.

“The music was great,” he said. “It was good to see foods available from a different country. In the future hopefully at events like these, they will be able to provide different foods from various Latinx countries.”

There was also a Consulate Display lent to the Marilyn Davies College of Business from Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner’s office. The display contained flags of all the neighboring countries categorized as a part of Latin America.

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L-R: Camara de Comercio Centralamericana President Percy Pelaez; Consul General de Guatemala Rep. Jose Carillas Trennert; Consul General de El Salvador Rep. Adrian Chicas; Vice Consul General de El Salvador Rep. Amelia Guevara Aguilar, Marilyn Davies College of Business Dean Charles Gengler, City Council member Karla Cisneros, and Camara de Comercio Centralamericana President Maria Vilma Duran, receive a certificate of appreciation for their Hispanic heritage. Credit: Diana Ambrosio.

Gatorchella welcomes freshmen, reunites Gators on campus

BY GEAN GARCIA

UHD hosted its first Gatorchella, an event designed to welcome freshmen to campus. UHD student organizations along with UHD President Loren J. Blanchard informed of opportunities to get new students involved.

In addition to Blanchard’s warm welcome, navy veteran Kozhi S. Makai, Ph.D., spoke to freshmen about rising above life struggles even when things do not go according to plan.

“Don’t feel as if you have to be constrained in your growth process,” Makai said.

UHD controlled instrumentations student, Hadidja Talamumba, said she enjoyed

listening to Makai.

“He was an amazing man with wise words that made me think more of what I should do next,” Talamumba said.

Gatorchella was a fun event that she went to because she wanted to relax and distress for a while.

Many Gators, clad in green t-shirts, stuffed the auditorium to hear the orators before heading outside for some fun activities. On their way out, many students received free boxed lunches, and they had a chance to snap a selfie with UHD’s dance team, the Gatoettes.

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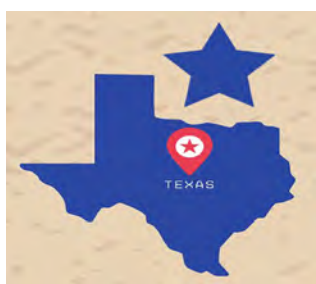
The Gatoettes strike poses outside the Wilhelmina Cullen Roberston Auditorium on Sept. 25. From left to right: Andrea, Jackie, Mattelyn, Iris, Kimberly (captain), Denise (co-captain), Emma, and Stephanie. Credit: Gean Garcia

Credit: Giselle Oviedo



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FIND US ONLINE!

Study Abroad bike tour cycles through historical Houston

BY EDWARD SAENZ

UHD's Study Abroad program hosted a bicycle tour across Houston on Aug. 26. In partnership with Bike Barn, the students were guided through a series of historical and famous landmarks across the city.

The tour kicked off from the Bike Barn rental shop with our guides, Elizabeth, and Pete, who only go by their first names. Our ride kicked off with a tough up and down ride through the beautiful trails along Buffalo Bayou which took us to our first destination, the George H.W. Bush memorial.

The monument is built overlooking Buffalo Bayou and has a splendid view of the Houston skyline. Built in 2004, the monument has an 8-foot-tall statue of George Bush as well as four panels creating a crescent wall around the statue that depicts four key moments in the late president's life.

While gazing upon the Houston skyline, our tour guide, Pete, pointed out the JP Morgan Chase Tower, the tallest building in Texas and the world's tallest five-sided building,

"[It] is a very odd award to have, but we'll take it."

At the heart of downtown towards Houston's Central Park and the 9/11 memorial and "Houston is Inspired" mural are both located. The 9/11 memorial is a bit inconspicuous. The monument is made up of three stone slabs, 44 stones, and over 2,000 pebbles. The massive stone slabs reference the Twin Towers and Pentagon. The 44 stones represent the 44 lives on Flight 93 which crashed in Somerset County, Philadelphia. The over 2,000 pebbles represent all the lives lost on that day.

Pulling into the parking lot, we stopped at what our tour guide described as the "most Instagram-able" place in Houston. The popular "Houston is Inspired" mural was created by Mario Figueroa Jr.

Down Main Street, bikers complained about Houston's terrible drivers. While attempting to cross the street, a METRO bus cut us off, causing us to wait for the green light. While waiting our second tour guide, Elizabeth, had an interesting tidbit about the Islamic Da'wah Building. Built in 1928,

it served as the Houston National Bank until 1994 when Hakeem Olajuwon acquired the property. The Islamic Da'wah Center opened to the public in November 2002 as the first mosque in downtown Houston and the first center dedicated for Da'wah in Houston.

After our small detour on Main Street, we made our way to the next destination, Allen's Landing. Once here we talked about what kinds of boats would dock and learned about Houston's dishonest methods of getting people to move here.

Houstonians would go to the east coast and brag about the beautiful mountains, spring water, and lush forests of Houston. Basically, they would lie through their teeth. This embellishing of the truth would cause people to uproot their entire lives in the massive concrete cities of the east coast and move to Houston. Once off the boat and faced with the actual landscape of Houston, the only option was to stay here.

After a quick trip to Minute Maid Park and a joke about sign stealing, cyclists moved across the street to a

massive parking lot that was once Quality Hill, Houston's first upscale neighborhood. Continuing from the lesson at Allen's Landing, Houston built Quality Hill to combat the lies that were being sold. This beautiful neighborhood for Houston's richest citizens had a high altitude to prevent flooding, yet was still close enough to be seen from the docks when arriving. First impressions are important.

Riding up Avenida de Las Americas Street to Discovery Green and the George R. Brown Convention Center, Pete said: "Oh good, it doesn't appear there is an anime convention happening this weekend." Pete asked if anyone came to the center often. Several students awkwardly chimed in, "the anime convention."

In the early 2000s, Houston commissioned a series of overhead photos of the Houston landscape. Once in the air, the photographers noticed that all that could be seen was gray. As far as the eye could see, not a speck of green, so Houston decided it was time to give back the land.

In 2002, the city partnered with the

Brown Foundation to acquire a total of 12 acres of parking lots and old buildings that would later become Discovery Green. Alongside this, the Houston Reforestation Program was created with the goal of adding more parks to the city.

Before arriving at the bicycle lanes, the roads of Houston exposed bikers to a short, yet scary, experience. The whole ride included dodging potholes, honking cars, and construction. We survived and arrived at the final stop of the tour, Sam Houston Park.

In the 1950s many old buildings were being demolished to make room for more modern buildings. The looming threat of demolishing houses that had stood for over a century brought together several Houstonians who created the Heritage Society. A program designed to protect the few tangible connections Houston still has to its founders. The Heritage Society protects various buildings in Sam Houston Park as well as the remnants of Quality Hill.

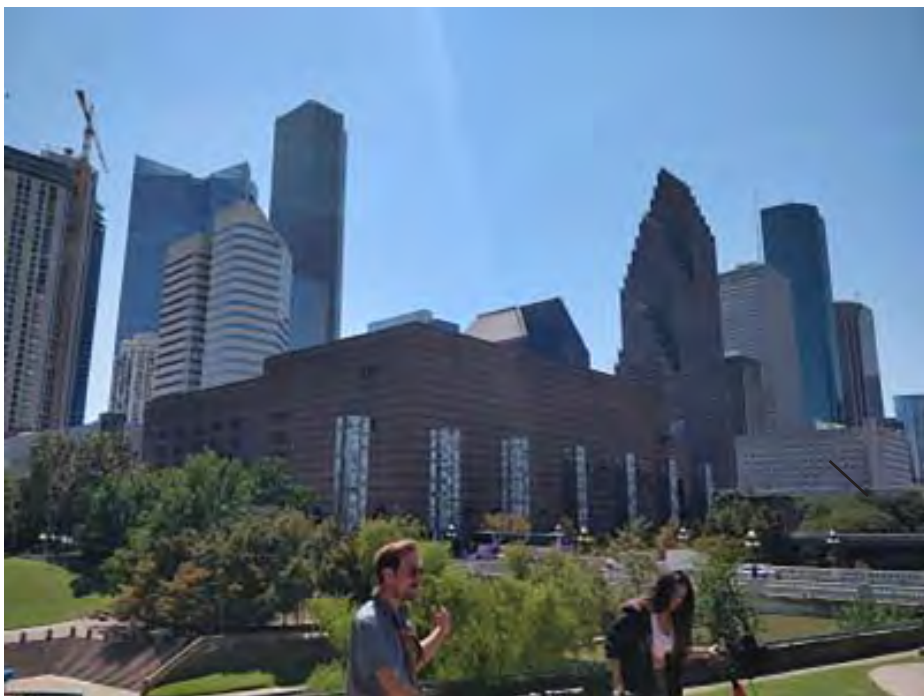
Ali Maghoo, the Associate Director of UHD's Study Abroad program felt the tour was a success.

"To have 14 students participate on a Saturday morning was amazing, Maghoo said. "The feedback from the students was that they enjoyed it and learned a lot about Houston. I am hoping more students will sign up next time."

Maghoo would like Gators to know the Study Abroad program is running and offering traveling opportunities. In Spring 2021, one UHD student traveled to South Korea. Currently three students are studying in Korea and one in England. "We even have two students from France here and three more will be coming from Finland in Spring 2022," Maghoo added.

Study Abroad will be hosting four more events in the future all with the purpose of exploring the cultures of other countries. Australian Movie Night, Let's talk Germany, and International Education Week, according to Mr. Maghoo, will have, "a variety of events including food, student presentations and guest speaker."

The next event offers a discounted ticket at a price of \$10 for the Houston Dash game on Oct. 10.



Tour guides Pete and Elizabeth share interesting facts about the downtown Houston's skyline. Credit: Edward Saenz



Cyclers arrive at Quality Hill, Houston's first upscale neighborhood. Credit: Edward Saenz.

Hispanic Heritage Month continued

FROM PAGE 1

The students who attended the event gave their opinion on the importance of Hispanic Heritage Month.

According to Gator Elizabeth Rosa, who studies biology with a concentration in cellular and molecular biosciences, it is important for people to recognize all the countries that are included during the celebration.

Rosa, a native of El Salvador, said many people associate Latino communities as being Mexico-centered, but that there are other countries as well in Central America and South America. The celebration allowed people to see the Latin American culture's pride and traditions, according to Rosa.

Hispanic Heritage Month, which runs from Sept. 15



Local restaurant Little Casita served Salvadoran beef empanadas "pastelitos" on Sept. 29. Credit: Diana Ambrosio

to Oct. 15 celebrates the accomplishments contributions of Hispanic Americans to the U.S. There are 33 countries in Latin America plus Spain in Europe, each with its own cultural traditions and foods.

Although some aspects of each culture are similar, they differ within their own entity.

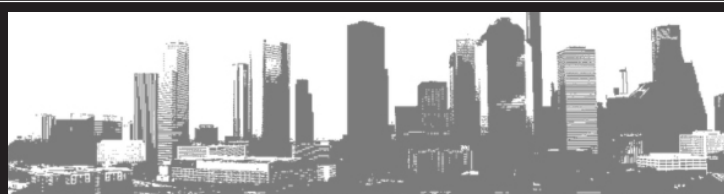
Rosa explained that on Sept. 15, her native El Salvador celebrates their Independence Day along with four more Central American countries: Honduras, Guatemala, Costa Rica, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile celebrate on Sept. 16 and Sept. 18, respectively.

"It takes into account so people can know what Hispanic Heritage Month is," Rosa said.

"It's just getting more recognition of the different ethnicities present at UHD, in Houston and just the world in general."



Grammy-award winning singer Leslie Lugo paid tribute to iconic Hispanic artists such as Selena Quintanilla performing live at the Shea Street Building's patio on Sept. 25. Credit: Diana Ambrosio.



THE DATELINE

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The Dateline is the official student newspaper of the University of Houston-Downtown. Since its first issue in 1982, The Dateline is proud to be "Student Run since Volume One." We strive to meet the needs of a growing university as well as the growing metropolitan city that surrounds us.

Submission Policy

The Dateline staff consists of students from UHD who complete all tasks required to produce the newspaper, which serves all UHD campuses. The opinions and commentaries expressed within reflect the views of the contributing writers. No opinions expressed in The Dateline reflect the viewpoints of UHD, its administration, or students.

The Dateline reserves the right to edit or modify submissions for the sake of clarity, content, grammar, or space limitations. All submissions become property of The Dateline and may not be returned.

All paid writers must be currently enrolled students at UHD. All paid writers must also complete vendor registration with the University of Houston System prior to contributing.

Press releases, story ideas, news tips and suggestions are always welcomed. We encourage all students to contribute. Any student interested in joining The Dateline staff may request more detailed information sending an email to the editor Indira Zaldivar at editordatelinedowntown@gmail.com.

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UHD Student Counseling Services available free for Gators



UHD Professional Counselors Timothy Coulter, LPC (left), Dr. Hope Pamplin, LPC-S (middle), and Tamera Davis, LPC (right), at the Street Corn Event at A300.
Credit: Shaheryar Khan

BY SHAHERYAR KHAN

Fresh street corn was served to students by the counselors of UHD's new Student Counseling Service, in partnership with the women of Kappa Delta Chi.

Gators on campus on Sept. 28, were able to enjoy a free cup of hot corn, meet the new counselors on the second floor, and learn about the free services offered to them. The event's purpose was to spread awareness and let the Gators know that a new service is avail-

able to help students.

The counselors explained to students what counseling means, as it is often put under the same category as advising. They also want to normalize counseling to students, for mental health is often ignored.

Everyone knows that college is far from a smooth ride, and it takes a mental toll on students.

Mental health is often stigmatized, and as a result, people ignore their symptoms. According to a study conducted by the

Department of Health Care Policy at Harvard Medical School, 60% of people with mental illnesses did not seek treatment in 2019.

The new Student Counseling Service aims to spread awareness that a service on campus focuses on mental health. The following is a statement from the service, taken from UHD's website.

"Counseling Services is designed to help you maximize your mental health and effectiveness at home, school or work. Through

our services, you will receive confidential, personal support for a wide range of issues, from everyday concerns to serious problems."

Meet the new counselors who are here to support you on your college journey! The following information is provided by them personally.

Hope Pamplin, Ph.D., LPC-S, is currently the interim director of Counseling and Disability Services. She holds a Ph.D. in leadership and is a licensed professional

counselor supervisor. She has worked in higher education, K-12 as a teacher, counselor, administrator, private sector, and non-profit.

Pamplin brings passion and leadership to counseling and is excited to assist students in unlocking their greatness. She has authored two counseling curriculum workbooks and works in private practice to provide therapy to individuals. Pamplin's love of teaching and counseling is the driving force behind making certain that UHD students have the resources and skills to change their trajectory and change the world.

Tamera A. Davis, LPC, is a Houston native that is happy to serve the Gator community. In 2005, Davis earned a bachelor's degree in psychology from Clark Atlanta University and afterward obtained a master's degree in clinical psychology from Texas Southern University.

Davis has ten years of experience in the community, education, and mental health industry. Her diverse professional experience includes working with adults and children diagnosed with intellectual and developmental disabilities, tobacco cessation counseling and research, acute be-

havioral health hospital, and college counseling.

"Every person has the power inside to heal and experience a positive transformation. My role is to help each student unlock their power potential," Davis said. "To challenge those unwanted patterns and uncover new perspectives. With these insights, students will be able to live a more meaningful and fulfilling life."

Timothy Coulter, LPC, holds a bachelor's degree in business administration and finance from UHD and a master's degree in counseling from the University of Houston. Before becoming a therapist, Coulter spent many years as a banker providing financial solutions to people from all levels of society.

He has experience working with teenagers, young adults, couples, groups, cancer patients, and individuals in many areas, including anxiety, depression, sexual identity, leading a purpose-driven life, career development, substance abuse, anger management, smoking cessation, grief, motivation, and mindfulness.

Email: counseling@uhd.edu or call them on 713-221-8121.

Gatorchella continued

FROM PAGE 1

Outside, activities included a selfie scavenger hunt, listening to live music, dancing on the South Deck, and getting to know the various student organizations around campus.

SAGA, the Sexuality and Gender Alliance at UHD, tabled at Gatorchella.

SAGA members Ivonne Rodriguez and Alex Tomita shared that Gatorchella marked their first time being back on campus, and that they were happy for the opportunity to meet fellow Gators.



SAGA, the Sexuality and Gender Alliance, poses for a photo at the South Deck. From left to right: Brynn Ackley, Ivonne Rodriguez, Darby Kelley, and Alex Tomita
Credit: Gean Garcia

UPCOMING 2022 TEXAS GOV. ELECTIONS



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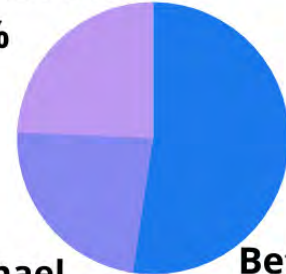
Democratic Candidates



Beto O'Rourke Michael Cooper Deirdre Dickson- Gilbert

- **Beto O'Rourke**, former U.S Rep., is one of the popular candidates for the Democratic party and anticipated competitor of Greg Abbott. Yet, he has not officially declared he will run for Governor.
- **Michael Cooper**, community leader, pastor, has a strong desire to make some changes in the Texas education system.
- **Deirdre Dickson-Gilbert** wants to advocate for the healthcare system in Texas.

Deirdre Dickson-Gilbert
23.3%



Michael Cooper
24.3%

Beto O'Rourke
52.3%

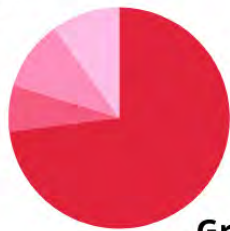
Democratic Poll

Republican Candidates



Greg Abbott Donald Huffins Chad Prather Allen West

Chad Prather
10.3%



Donald Huffins
6.7%

Greg Abbott
73%

Republican Poll

- **Patrick Wynne** advocates for being a representative of "the people."
- **Delilah Barrios** wants to direct people's attention to the effects of capitalism on the environment.
- **Dan Behrman** wants to tackle the issue of taxes.
- **Andrew Jewell's** purpose is to bring back general voters and the campaign trail.

- **Gregg Abbott** has not officially claimed that he will run for re-election, but many onlookers have expressed that he will.
- **Donald Huffins** is rumored to be one of the "biggest names" to challenge Greg Abbott for the 2022 Gov. elections.
- **Chad Prather** rose to fame through YouTube and became an internet celebrity. He then grew interested in running for Governor.
- **Allen West**, former Texas GOP Chairman, has stated he didn't want to stand on the sidelines anymore, as well criticize Greg Abbott's actions as governor.

Reform Candidate



Patrick Wynne

Green Candidate



Delilah Barrios

Libertarian Candidates



Dan Behrman



Andrew Jewell

Matthew McConaughey has been involved with Texas politics, but he officially hasn't stated he will pursue Texas governor elections.

US expels Haitian migrants at Texas-Mexico border

BY SERGIO PRESA JR.

The U.S. has moved to expel almost all of the 12,000 Haitian migrants that crossed the border from Ciudad Acuna, Mexico and set up a camp near a bridge in Del Rio, Texas. This expulsion could end up being one of America's largest deportation events in decades.

Haitian migrants crossed the river to get to the U.S. side, but they were stopped by Border Patrol agents along with Texas law enforcement officials. Mexico also said they would be deporting Haitians back to Haiti.

Haitians immigrating to the U.S. is not a new thing. They have been coming to the U.S. from South America for several years.

Many Haitians left Haiti after the 2010 earthquake. More Haitians began to head for the U.S. after jobs from the 2016 Summer Olympics in Rio de Janeiro disappeared.



Horse-bound Border Patrol Officers herd Haitian migrants after crossing the Rio Grande River. Courtesy: AP News

Some of the Del Rio migrants are afraid to return to Haiti due to the recent earthquake and the assassination of Haitian president Jovenel Moise.

One Haitian migrant, Fabricio Jean,

said that in Haiti "there is no security, the country is in a political crisis."

"We are working around the clock to expeditiously move migrants out of the heat, elements, and

from underneath this bridge to our processing facilities in order to quickly process and remove individuals from the United States consistent with our laws and our policies," Chief of Border Patrol Raul

L. Ortiz said. An order related to the pandemic adopted in March 2020 by former President Donald Trump allows migrants to be deported immediately with no opportunity to seek asylum.

President Joe Biden has kept this order in place but has exempted unaccompanied children from it.

Haitians that do not get expelled are subject to U.S. immigration laws, including seeking asylum and humanitarian protection.

Families are often quickly released into the U.S. because the government cannot hold children.

Some migrants are planning to leave Haiti again once they get back.

Valeria Ternission said she wants to travel back to Chile with her husband and their 4-year-old son. Ternission worked as a bakery's cashier in Chile. Ternission said "I am truly worried, especially for the child, I can't do anything here."

Jury finds R&B singer R Kelly guilty of sex exploitation, trafficking

BY AANSA USMANI

Disgraced R&B singer Robert "R" Kelly, 54, was convicted on child sexual exploitation and sex trafficking counts after seven weeks of trial and two days of jury deliberation on Sept. 27. These charges come amid confirmed reports of Kelly's abusive and inappropriate treatment towards women and children, including his then-relationship with Aaliyah, 15.

Up until now, Kelly had been jailed in New York since 2019, without the option for bail. Cases in other states are still currently pending, but its charges may amount with his future sentencing.

Prosecutors allege that the singer's former group of managers and aides were co-conspirators in meeting and quieting the victims, according to ABC News. So far, two have been charged in connection with Kelly in a Chicago court.

In addition to the current charges, Kelly also faces additional time for violating the Mann Act, an anti-sex trafficking law that criminalizes taking individuals across state lines for "immoral purposes."

During the trial, several witnesses testified to the abuse experienced while residing with Kelly. Some had their lawyer read out their clients' graphic

and disturbing encounters.

Gloria Allred, a lawyer representing some of his victims, stated that after all the abusive perpetrators she's dealt with (ex: Jeffrey Epstein and Harvey Weinstein), Mr. Kelly is "the worst."

Knowing their underage status, Kelly "subjected them to perverse and sadistic whims," especially if they had violated "Rob's rules," according to the victim's depositions. His rules would punish these individuals by either violently slapping them or threatening to leak their explicit, sexual content.

The latter punishment was often used for retaliation if any of

these victims publicly stated their mistreatment. These statements align with the prosecution view of how the singer regarded his pleasure over his victims' psychological and emotional impact.

The court testimonies also correlate with his former victims' report of psychological and sexual abuse experienced while in his custody in the 2019 Netflix docuseries, "Surviving R Kelly."

The series details Kelly's career's rise, as he amassed high listenership and sold-out shows and concert venues. The singer met young women at "meet and greets," giving out his personal contact details with the promise

of helping them attain success within the music or entertainment industry.

Despite his promise, this led to these women's systemic grooming and sexual abuse, with many still suffering from the traumatic experiences.

The defense labelled the individuals as "stalkers and groupies," hoping to paint a false image that would benefit Kelly. Additionally, Deveraux Cannick, Kelly's lawyer, questioned why these women did not leave this relationship, telling one woman that she "had a choice" and "participated" at her own will.

After the jury announced its verdict, Cannick expressed

disappointment over the court's ruling stating, "I think I'm even more disappointed the government brought the case in the first place, given all the inconsistencies." He hopes to appeal the verdict prior to the May 2022 sentencing hearing.

Acting U.S. Attorney Jacquelyn Kasulis stated that "justice had been served" for many of Kelly's victims.

Although it took over 20 years, this ruling can help these individuals begin healing and growing from the psychological and sexual trauma.

Abortion ban leads women to life-threatening alternatives

BY AANSA USMANI

In late August, Gov. Greg Abbott signed the controversial “Heartbeat Bill” into law, prohibiting abortions past six weeks on the baseless argument of detecting “fetal heartbeat,” which further perpetuates the pro-life myth of life beginning at conception.

If anything, this law aims to promote a pro-Evangelical stance on a health issue, eliminating the separation of church and state and allowing governmental control over women’s bodies. If these officials think that this law will prevent further abortions, they are dead wrong.

Through *Roe v. Wade*, the Supreme Court allowed women to attain “safe abortions” performed by a doctor in a sterile, clean environment that would not cause harm to their health.

The landmark ruling of 1974 halted the epidemic of women dying from botched

abortions. These unsafe abortions that commonly used wire hangers or other devices to eliminate the growing cluster of cells from their bodies.

Having a child makes things more difficult for women who do not want to carry it to full-term due to trauma stemming from rape or concerns about a financial instability that won’t yield to properly care for a child.

But these factors are typically ignored by a “pro-lifer.” All that matters is that the fetus reaches full-term and is born. After its inception, they do not care what happens to the infant. All that matters is that the mother did not get it aborted.

Even those with a moderate pro-life stance can agree on some “acceptable situations for abortion,” whether it be having a child out of a traumatic instance (ex: rape) or merely being unable to carry the child to term because

of its incapability of life. The Texas law that Evangelicals are celebrating eliminates the acceptable situational aspects, showing that their views will be recognized as a statewide law.

What is concerning, however, is that this law will lead to more unsafe abortions.

More women will either attempt or undergo a botched procedure potentially leading to severe hospitable effects or even deaths to not have to carry it to term.

I have been saying this for over three years, if *Roe v. Wade* or similar precedents were to be overruled, there would be a shortage of wire hangers.

There will always be a way to obtain an abortion, regardless of its legality and procedure. Women will exit Texas (or even the U.S.) to obtain an abortion. Women will even subject themselves to sketchy surroundings if it came down to it.



Demonstrators protest new Texas abortion law on Oct. 2 in front of Houston City Hall. Credit: Aansa Usmani



Demonstrators protest new Texas abortion law on Oct. 2 in downtown Houston. Credit: Carolina Valdez

FIFA must toughen up disciplinary actions against anti-gay chants

BY SAM KROH

Fans of the Mexican National soccer team will watch the first two World Cup qualifying games from home this year. Because of their anti-gay slur chants, “puto” which roughly translates to a derogatory term for homosexual men. As a result, during soccer matches Aztec Stadium will stand silent as punishment is enacted.

FIFA began to crack down on discriminatory chants during games. These chants started in the early 2000s. Mexico has come under fire multiple times from FIFA for these chants.

In fact, the Mexico federation has been fined up to nine times leading up to the 2018 World Cup. They have been disciplined multiple times between 2015 and 2021. Three levels of punishments are to be implemented for teams’ fans who shout these discriminatory statements during soccer matches.

The first stage stops the game and gives a warning to the fans. The second stage is a match suspension and players are moved to the locker room. The third stage abandons the match.

This is a light response to something that could have an impact on society. The stigma of society has made it a difficult choice to come out as homosexual.

If thousands upon thousands of people are chanting a gay slur in a comical way during a televised sports event, it becomes even harder. Those individuals feel boxed in and singled out. FIFA needs to crack down harder on these fans. A two-game suspension of fans is a light punishment for something that can cause psychological pain to whoever is watching at the time.

During the pandemic, sports stadiums allowed little to no fans to be in attendance. So, a two-game suspension of fans seems natural now-a-days. This is hardly a punishment for a fan base who has been performing this chant since the early 2000s.

The Mexican National team has been fined before for the same chants, but none have worked. The nine times they were fined in 2018 was during qualifying matches that led up to the 2018 World Cup, one of the biggest sports stages in the world.

Even then, the chants were swept under the rug and were chalked up to a “fun” chant performed by adoring fans.

“What for some seemed to be fun, I have news for you. It is not,” Yon de Luisa Plazas, the president of the Mexican Federation, said at a recent press conference. “Because of it, we are

kept out of our stadium and away from our national team. Please stop. Stop now.”

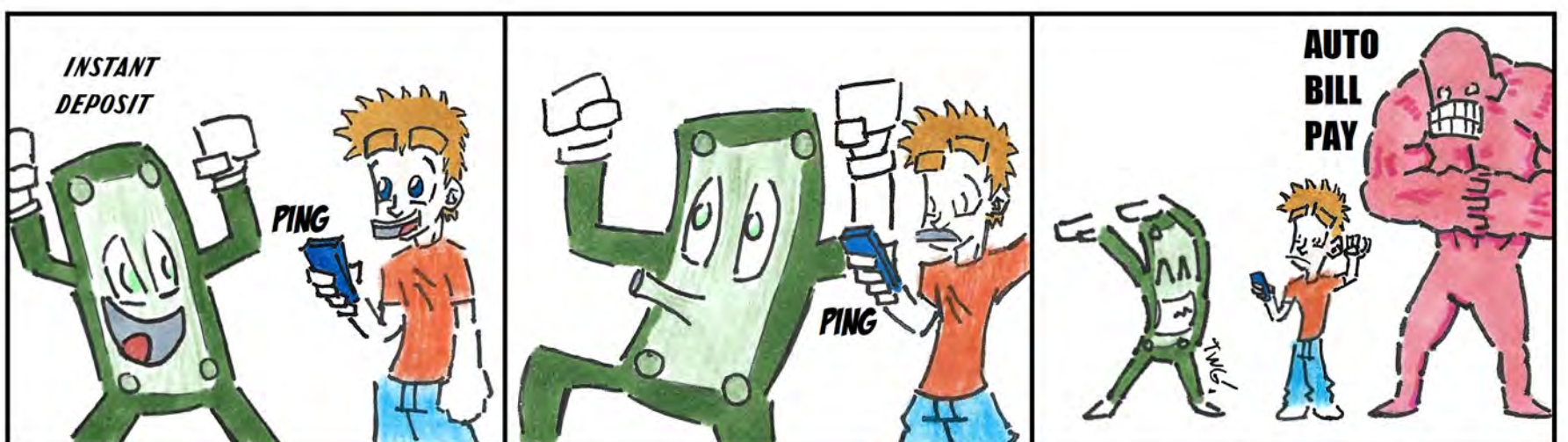
The plazas cry for change comes too late. FIFA has fined the Mexican Federation

\$73,000 for their most recent outburst of gay slur chants. It is unsure if this fine will work, but with the 2022 FIFA World Cup approaching, drastic changes need to be made.



Credit: Gean Garcia

A BOWLFUL OF COLLEGE



Credit: Jeremy Jones

'Star Wars,' critical race theory share similar frameworks

BY SHAWN AWAGU

"Star Wars" is probably not the first thing one thinks when discussing critical race theory. But the cinematic franchise feels particularly relevant when considering fear and its societal implications.

"Star Wars: The Clone Wars" explored political machinations hinted in the main movies. Spoiler alerts ahead.

The Republic, an ancient, decaying government, was in a state of civil war driven by the marginalization and systemic abuse of non-human aliens on the fringes of society by too-big-to-fail corporations.

Tensions growing for centuries finally spilled over in the Separatist Crisis. Which saw the Trade Federation guild formally invade a planet to secure debt payments. It only stopped with timely Republic intervention.

Unbeknownst to everyone but the audi-

ence, these tensions and divisions were deliberately stoked by the Republic's own Chancellor Palpatine.

Subsequently, war broke out devastating large swaths of the galaxy and fueling already-existing societal ills including an enormous wealth gap and militarization of peacekeeping and police forces.

The Jedi, a minority of space wizards, were singled out as the cause of the war. Predictably, the war ended with their genocide.

Immediately, the Chancellor-now-Emperor set about destroying all Jedi archives and printed materials to silence their voices permanently.

Palpatine does not exist, and there are precious few individuals as evil as he. But one does not need to be like him in order to take a page from his playbook.

Like intentionally stoking fear and division in the hearts of the citizens of Texas.

Collateral in this "culture war" is a school of thought in legal scholarship known as CRT.

Janel George, associate law professor at Georgetown University and its director of the Racial Equity in Education Law and Policy Clinic, noted in her article "A Lesson on Critical Race Theory," its evolutionary nature.

CRT "cannot be confined to a static and narrow definition," George said.

Indeed, it does not exclusively focus on the struggle of Black Americans. With notable divisions examining the relationship between various social groups such as Asians, Hispanics, and Native Americans, and U.S. law.

Shared among these frameworks challenges racism and prejudice as commonly understood.

Broadly, CRT posits that the institutions and legal structures of societies were created with the intention of upholding white supremacy and that this structural

racism has been codified into law.

This has many implications beyond the scope of this article, and CRT has turned into the latest victim of the culture wars.

Banning CRT is a hefty disservice to the citizens of this state and of this nation. Often, truth and open and honest discussion are among the casualties.

After Juneteenth was made an official federal holiday in Washington D.C., Abbott signed into law HB 3979, a law significantly affecting the way discussions of race and the legacy and repercussions of slavery can be conducted. The original text, which in large part made it into the final bill, possesses specific references and sometimes curious language.

Schools are prohibited from teaching individuals, "by virtue of his or her race or sex" are inherently racist or sexist. That no individual should be taught to

feel guilt or distress on account of their race or sex, "meritocracy or traits such as hard work ethic are racist or sexist." The list goes on.

Much of this law is redundant what already exists on the books, so what exactly poses so much of a threat to societal well-being that it was written?

The context surrounding this law paints a damning picture of a governor and his party writing what is effectively ignorant as a law.

CRT, for the better part of 2020 and 2021, was a partisan political pincushion for the Republican Party, being consistently misrepresented as a vehicle designed to make white people feel guilty and culpable for the historical and current realities of racism.

But one could reasonably come to that conclusion when examining legislation written with CRT in mind, such as HB 3979.

Surely, if the law is making these prohibi-

tions, then this law is due justice. This could not be further from the truth.

On the basis of action, this law and others like it are an attempt to censor CRT by painting it as a boogeyman, the latest wolf in sheep's clothing attempting to undermine our society.

However, as Luke Skywalker found out in "Return of the Jedi," fear is only as powerful as the ignorance that drives your imagination. Darth Vader, one of the most famous boogeymen, struck fear into the hearts of the entire galaxy.

But Luke didn't let that stop him from striving to understand his father. He became a better man and Jedi, being able to remove the evil Emperor from power and finally make peace with Vader before his death.

Regardless of how you feel about CRT, doing research for yourself and challenging your worldview is the due justice here.

Wheels in Motion: Why I write



BY MICHAEL KOWIS

I am not your average Gator. I am a differently abled Gator who studied first his undergrad in communication studies, now studying for his MBA.

I formerly wrote for The Dateline's Opinions, newspaper section, in fall 2020. Mostly to gain useful writing and research experience. I have covered quite a bit from the impact of COVID-19 on the differently-abled

population to my thoughts on the Jan. 6 insurrection attempt.

But then over the course of winter break I had an epiphany. I realized no major news outlet, nor The Dateline up to this point, had an article dedicated explicitly to those with different conditions.

There was and still is not that much on national news concerning differently abled individuals. The only news piece which had to do with differently abled people was an article on how the differently abled were coping with the virus in and around nursing and assisted living homes.

This to me was unacceptable. We need

our voices heard and listened to. Both for the bad horror stories as well as those good stories.

Not all news about us should concern a story where there is unfair treatment which happens often for some in our community. There is a lot of good in our 60 million strong community. I made it my mission to do two things since Volume 66.

1. Hold accountability over those in power especially as it concerns the UHD faculty.

2. Share the tri-

umphs as well as the tribulations seen in our community. Case in point, towards the end of spring 2021. I wrote a piece to recognize a gator with different abilities. They made the Dean's list!

These are but a selection of reasons as to why I wrote the column entitled "Wheels in motion."

The Wheels in Motion column of the opinions piece was born out of necessity to bring a guiding light to those students who use the Office of Disability Services.

It is my hope and dream that when I finally earn my MBA that I will have taught another writer how to maintain

the Wheels in Motion column which I have so meticulously built.

Opinions may very well be my home but the home for all Gators with different abilities is here, rolling on in the Wheel in Motion articles.

Though the national news and indeed many local news don't regularly report on the differently abled community, I know that I will do my darndest to do these things. Hold the UHD faculty accountable, those who affect the trajectory of our academic future.

It is my goal that we receive on par education and testing compared to our peers and have those individ-

uals and departments be held accountable if they develop subpar teaching; especially for things like testing procedures.

Secondly, I plan to highlight the accomplishments that our differently abled community makes in building the broader Gator community. Lastly reflect on the trials and tribulations both in our walls and outside them.

This more than anything else is why I write the Wheels in Motion column. Wheels in Motion, rolling out.



Reviews

‘Cry Macho’ will have you considering second chances

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

“Cry Macho” is 2021 cowboy Western Drama. The film was directed by and stars Clint Eastwood as Mike Milo. Released on Sept. 17, “Cry Macho” was one of the Warner Bros. concurrent theater and HBO Max releases.

The film’s setting is in Texas and Mexico during 1979. The story was originally released in 1975 in the form of a novel written by N. Richard Nash. Eastwood does an adequate job directing, Nash himself wrote the screenplay.

The movie was filmed in New Mexico. “Cry Macho” is entertaining, albeit slightly problematic with the casting of Eastwood. The film’s premise

centers around elderly horse trainer Mike Milo.

Milo is sent to retrieve Rafael Polk (Eduardo Minett), the rambunctious son of his boss Howard Polk (Dwight Yoakam) in 1979 Mexico. The teen goes by the name Rafo in the film.

As with any road movie there are constant impediments and challenges. Rafo’s wealthy mother Leta (Fernanda Urrejola), is neglectful and abusive. The 13-year-old does his best to avoid home.

Leta is an alcoholic and struggles with substance abuse, she also allows her numerous boyfriends to bully her son. Rafo spends his time on the streets of Mexico City. Gambling, stealing, and cockfight-

ing occupy his days.

His prized rooster “Macho” is the namesake of the film and expertly plays off Minett. Eastwood and Minett’s characters easily find each other and begin the long journey toward Texas.

Eastwood gives an adequate performance as Milo. The true standout is Minett who acts as the Spanish to English translator for Eastwood’s character. Minett relays Rafo’s pain and potential as Rafo is a domestic abuse survivor and Milo offers relief.

The other actors in the film also provide adequate performances for a Western such as this. Dwight Yoakam is always a pleasure to watch even though he is only briefly in “Cry

Macho.”

In the film Leta attempts to proposition Milo which he intelligently rebuffs. The 52-year age gap between them makes the situation unbelievable and uncomfortable. It is disclosed that two other men were sent for Rafo, yet they were unsuccessful in their efforts.

The way Milo and Rafo avoid trouble in the film is ridiculous. When trouble comes his way, Milo just shuffles around the corner and everything is fine. Realistically, there would be obvious and difficult hurdles.

The most ridiculous scene of the entire film takes place during a horse training montage. Eastwood’s 91-year-old Mike Milo is still able to physically bust wild

Broncos. The audience sees the character doing his best to calm and tame a wild horse, with Milo riding the bucking beast effortlessly.

Eastwood’s stuntman looks nothing like him. This laughable scene alone makes “Cry Macho” worth watching. Despite the film’s shortcomings, “Cry Macho” was formulaic yet enjoyable.

The plot proceeds along as expected but the journey is a sweet one. While they avoid detection from their pursuers, “Rafo” and “Milo” both stumble upon a welcoming small town.

Marta (Natalia Traven) the town’s resident cantina owner, brings them food and offers a place to stay. The new surrogate

family is exactly what Milo was missing. The vocal rooster, Macho is a scene stealer, the adorable avian creature can act. Macho accompanies Milo and Rafo the entire journey and even contributes at critical plot points.

“Cry Macho” is a film about choice and second chances. In the film, both Milo and Rafo come to terms with change.

The biggest problem with the film “Cry Macho” is at the age of 91, Eastwood is well over retirement age to portray a wild horse trainer. Why is Eastwood’s character the best person for the retrieval/rescue of Rafo?

Will this be Clint Eastwood’s last film? Hopefully, there will be more to come.

‘Malignant’ leaves critics scratching their heads

BY CAROLINA VALDEZ

James Wan’s new horror film, “Malignant,” divided critics but could become a cult classic in the future. The unique mix of gore, mystery, and action created a strange yet entertaining experience. “Malignant” had critics confused about what the film aimed to portray.

Among professional movie critics, the consensus is that this film was silly through the campy dialogue, acting, and costume choices. Exaggerated screams and dramatic close-ups with cheesy lines made it feel like a parody. Whether the film’s wackiness was intentional or not is where the divided

opinions arise.

Hanna Flint, a well-rated, top critic by Rotten Tomatoes, reviewed the movie in Empire magazine and highlighted every movie reference to earlier classic horror films such as “The Shining” and “Beetlejuice.”

“There’s a hodge-podge of ideas going on that don’t always seamlessly fit, but Wan’s homage to ‘80s horror and Wallis’s fretful performance, has a bloody lot of guts,” Flint said.

The film’s marketing was another unanimous critique among critics. Chris Stuckmann, expanded on this issue in his review of the film on his YouTube channel. The trailer did

a bad job of relaying to audiences what to expect from this movie.

The misleading movie trailer left audiences disappointed or confused.

“Warner Brothers either didn’t want to give away anything or had no idea how to market this movie and had no clue what audience they should go for,” Stuckmann expressed in his review.

I saw the movie without previewing it or having any prior knowledge of the director and his past projects.

Going into the movie without expectations allowed me the open-minded approach to take in the movie for what it was, and

appreciate everything it gave, even during the tacky scenes. Many critics analyzed the movie in three parts.

Martin Thomas, co-host of the Double Toasted channel on YouTube, lays out the movie as a paranormal action-mystery second part, and an action-packed third.

“I think hybrids are cool, but they have to mesh,” Thomas said. “Whichever third you like [in Malignant], you’re probably going to hate one or two of the other parts.”

Thomas stated in his review. What makes this movie a potential cult classic is the response from mainstream audiences and the film’s

uniqueness. Unlike professional critics, the average person does not consider the homage references or the work that goes into wonderful cinematography, like the aerial shot scene of the gorgeous set location. The action scene that critics focused on as being so terrible to the point of comedic, audiences enjoyed.

The response to the movie among Twitter users was mostly positive. The plot twist was well concealed, and the action scenes were excitable and added a coolness to this slow-moving and confusing horror film.

Even the plot holes and wackiness are forgivable because the

film is experimental and has an open-ended element to it.

“I can tell you when I started watching the film, I had no idea this [action scene] would be in it,” Stuckmann stated. “This is the type of experience I want to have more when I watch movies. I want to not always know what is going to happen.”

“Malignant” was released in theaters and on HBO Max on Sept. 10.

Reviews

‘Copshop’ features rich dialogue amid intense action

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

“Take me to jail please! Lock me up!” screams Frank Grillo at disgraced con artist Teddy Murretto. While causing a disturbance on the Vegas Strip, Teddy turns to the oncoming law enforcement and strikes officer Valarie Young, (Alexis Louder). Teddy is immediately tased and arrested. Elsewhere in Nevada, a drunk driver strikes a police cruiser and is also promptly arrested. The 2021 Crime-Action film “Copshop” begins fast and loud.

The film’s poster exclaims “Someone’s Gotta Take the Hit,” in bold, “Grand Theft Auto” style letters. Its premise seems like it was taken from the universe of the popular yet violent video game.

Aside from brief flashbacks, the film’s setting takes place mostly within a Nevada Police Station housing dangerous criminals and mostly ineffective police officers. The drunk driver turns out to be a dangerous hitman Bob Viddick (Gerard Butler), who in-

entionally got himself arrested for access to jail.

After escaping his cell, and on the verge of killing Teddy, Viddick is stopped by Officer Young. Teddy begins continually expressing concern about the safety of his own family while he is locked in a jail cell.

Meanwhile, Viddick, a self-admitted hitman, keeps spouting off viable reasons why Teddy is the untrustworthy one. Teddy seems genuine, he even awkwardly apologized after hitting Officer Young in the film’s introduction.

“I didn’t mean to put my shoulder into it.”

Both men try their best to plead their case to the rookie officer. On top of Young’s plight within the jail hall, another hitman appears, the mafia’s insurance policy for Viddick and Teddy, a zany yet sinister threat to all involved.

Young gets into a perilous situation where she is accidentally wounded by her own accord. She ends up stuck in the jail lockup hallway between the

two criminals, doing her best to decipher which deviant she can trust.

Alexis Louder delivers an exceptional performance as Valarie Young. Young is passionate about justice; she is a rookie police officer and the only straight forward protagonist in the film.

Young is concerned with doing what is proper and lawful. Louder’s character carries an outdated and difficult weapon, the Ruger Blackhawk single action .44 caliber handgun with which she accidentally shoots herself.

The revolver receives more screen time and dialogue attention than most of the supporting characters.

“She chose a manual weapon that is quite heavy and takes strategy and discipline.”

“It says a lot about who Valerie Young is,” Louder said.

She mentioned in an interview with Backstage OL that Officer Young is a devoted wife and an incredibly tough and resourceful individual.

Despite her newcomer police officer status, she is the best cop we see in the film. Gerard Butler also stars as assassin Bob Viddick in a well-acted performance. Butler can do so much with the material, while being handcuffed to a prison cell door.

Butler is a highly underrated actor who has been lost to the action genre for quite some time. Viddick’s soul focus is to kill Teddy. Viddick is honest and direct.

He is only concerned with the successful completion of the job and nothing else. Grillo plays so well-off Butler and Louder that the viewer will understand the dilemma facing Officer Young.

During an interview with Screen Rant Plus, Grillo describes his time on set with the other actors as a “Utopia” and “like going to summer camp.” He hopes people “have some fun” with their efforts on the film. While creating the goofy character of Teddy, Grillo hoped to be deplored.

“Who likes a guy with a man bun, flashy suit, and snakeskin

boots?” Grillo quips.

The acting in “Copshop” is great at all levels, even the small characters are convincing in their brief screen-time.

Toby Huss portrays Anthony Lamb in the film and is simultaneously believably terrifying and cartoonish. The audience is introduced to Lamb while he is delivering an enormous collection of gaudy celebration balloons.

He proceeds to clear the police station and attempt to break into the jail hall while Young, Teddy and Viddick remain barricaded inside.

Joe Carnahan wrote, produced, and directed “Copshop.” Carnahan has been directing films since 1998 with his directorial debut “Blood, Guts, Bullets and Octane.” and “Smokin Aces” are other famous works from the director.

The action in “Copshop” is more understated than some of Callahan’s previous works.

The moments when the shooting stop are the most interesting and

effective. The dialog between the characters naturally melds with the situation of the plot, nothing is forced.

Louder, Grillo and Butler are captivating while they are stuck in one respective place for most of the film. The theater like atmosphere of this film could easily be translated to the stage. “Copshop” the title sounds like a comedy, but it is far from comedic.

The title of the film could refer to several functions of the film’s plot. The crooked cop on mafia payroll who “shops” for dope in the evidence room. It could refer to the choice Officer Young must make between Teddy and Viddick.

Or it was Teddy looking for a police officer to safely lock him up. Regardless, this film is an entertaining and well-made addition to the action-crime genre. “Copshop” was released on Sept. 17 only in theaters.



@FilbertCartoons

Credit: Anthony Labonte

NRG Stadium to host League of Legends Mid-Season Showdown



Center in Los Angeles. Second only to the 2017 World Championship Finals at the Birds Nest in Beijing, China, the 2022 LCS Mid-Season Showdown will be League of Legend’s second largest stadium event ever and will certainly be the games largest event post-pandemic.

The two-day event follows a nine week-long regular season and will feature the top three teams, with the winning team earning a cash prize of \$100,000, and an invite to the Mid-Season Invitational, a FIFA World Cup-style tournament featuring top teams from around the world.

As it stands, the Mid-Season Showdown is currently in line to be the third or fourth event across all of eSports to have a live audience since March 2020. Assuming fans are in attendance, the event will boast the second largest audience based on stadium capacity in eSports history and the largest ever in North America.

Tickets for the Mid-Season Showdown are expected to go live in early 2022.

2021 Mid-Season Showdown Trophy at LA’s Greek Theatre. No audience was present. Courtesy: LoL Esports Flickr account

BY EDWARD SAENZ

In August, Rio Games announced that the League of Legends Championship Series, LCS, Mid-Season Showdown, will take place at the Houston Texan’s NRG Stadium

from April 23 through 24, 2022.

This event will not only be the first League of Legends event for the city of Houston, but the first for the Lone Star State, as last year’s Dallas’ Mid-Season

Showdown was canceled due to the pandemic.

It will also be the first major eSports event the City of Houston has had since the Halo tournament called MLG Houston in 2005.

“We are going to

Houston, TX at the NRG Stadium, where the Houston Texans play and based on the fact it’s in a football stadium, it has the potential to be the largest eSports show in North American History,”

LCS Commissioner Chris Greeley said at a virtual press conference. Riot Games have hosted previous USA tournaments in places such as Madison Square Garden in New York and Staples



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Credit: Anthony Labonte