

CAMPUS NEWS

10th annual 'Walk2Vote' leads crowd to 1st on-campus voting site

BY SHAHERYAR KHAN & INDIRA ZALDIVAR

The tenth annual Walk2Vote rallied students on the South Deck on Oct. 26 to lead them on a walk to the first on-campus polling site.

Student Affairs hosted the historic, student-led event.

UHD student David Ramirez led the march, and pumped the Gators to vote along volunteers from Men of L.E.G.A.C.I and Omicron Gamma Chapter of AKA Sorority and other UHD members.

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David Ramirez (center) and members of Men of L.E.G.A.C.I and Omicron Gamma Chapter of AKA Sorority rally the crowd on the South Deck on Oct. 26 before heading to the polls. Credit: Shaheryar Khan



Members of Men of L.E.G.A.C.I rally the crowd on the South Deck before heading to the on-campus polling location in on Oct. 26. Credit: Isaiah Archie



Gators from UHD basketball, volleyball, and soccer team, along the Gatorrettes and cheer squad pump up the homecoming pep rally on Oct. 12. Credit: Jesse F. Rodriguez

Homecoming brings Gators back to the bayou



L-R: UHD Bike Club's Mauricio Perales, Lex Perez, Rob G, Nathan M., Sheila Ortega-Calvillo and daughter, Bryan Alvarado, and Irvin Gracia compete in the Tail-Gating homecoming event on Oct. 15. Courtesy: Lex Perez

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L-R: UHD leaders Meritza Tamez, Loren J. Blanchard, and Lynnette Cook Francis serve homecoming barbeque lunch on Oct. 11. Credit: Cristina Ambrosio.

Los Caimanes win inaugural 'Battle of the Mariachis' during Houston Dynamo game

BY SHAHERYAR KHAN

From UHD's mariachi band Los Caimanes competed in the Battle of the Mariachis at PNC Stadium before the final game of the Houston Dynamo as they hosted LA Galaxy.

Los Caimanes beat Rice University's mariachi band Luna Llena in a victory based on crowd reaction. The

Houston community cheered loudest for the UHD Gators.

As the winners, Los Caimanes performed the national anthem prior to the kickoff and performed during halftime.

Los Caimanes played a beautiful rendition of the "Stars Spangled Banner" with a mariachi twist.

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Mariachi Los Caimanes, under the direction of Jose Vazquez, win the inaugural "Battle of the Mariachis" at PNC stadium on Oct. 9. Credit: Shaheryar Khan

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DACA information

Credit: G.O.

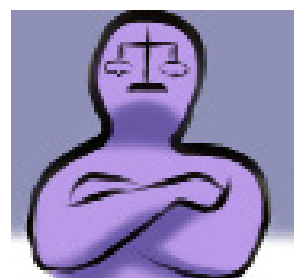
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FIND US ONLINE!

UHD alumni Marcus Sullivan impacts community through radio



Marcus Sullivan prepares for #MarcusInTheMorning show on NGEN radio station. Credit: Isiah Archie

BY ISIAH ARCHIE

Marcus Sullivan is a 2002 graduate from UHD's bachelor's degree in communications. While pursuing his degree, Sullivan was a writer for The Dateline.

Sullivan is one of the seven charter members to the Omicron Xi chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity, Inc at UHD. Since then, he has been focusing on achieving and making a positive impact.

After graduation, Sullivan worked for companies such as FOX26 news, 93.7 The Beat Houston, TMZ, and now the host of syndicated Blessed Beatz.

While working at

Fox26, Sullivan spent most of his time covering high school sports where he promoted young athletes to get scholarships.

When working at 93.7 The Beat Houston, Marcus gave underground artists a chance to come get interviewed.

These artists did not have a huge following or even any following at all. Sullivan gave them and listeners hope of what can be if you continue to work hard.

"To be the voice that this generation needs and introduce positive hip-hop to the ears of mainstream listeners," Sullivan said about what drives his creative journey.

During the start of

the pandemic in 2020, Sullivan's daily prayer in between positive music on the radio went viral reaching over 100,000 listeners. He touched many people, from doctors to professional basketball players in Japan, helping them get through the rough times.

Sullivan continues to make this positive impact in the community today by promoting gospel rap to the youth.

He plays music without profanity, or degrading language towards women, and with that he hopes to send a positive message.

His style could spark the start of change for the community and world we live in.

Marketing Professor Michael Pettiette shares comforting advice from well-seasoned professional background

BY SHAHERYAR KHAN

After making a name for himself in the marketing world, Michael Pettiette approaches five years as a fulltime UHD professor, opening doors for students in the world of marketing.

Pettiette is a marketing professor at the Marilyn Davies College of Business teaching digital marketing, sales, international business development, business communications, and negotiations.

With over 20 years of experience under his belt working for big names like CBS Radio, iHeartRadio, and the Houston Chronicle, Pettiette is a great asset to UHD students.

With a humble upbringing, Pettiette emphasizes that he did not take the traditional route to his education. Raised by a single mom in a small town in Texas,

he remained ambitious to make a name for himself and to one day live a life where he did not have to worry about paying the bills on time or worrying if he would have electricity when he got home.

"I just really wanted to make money," Pettiette said.

Pettiette grew up playing music and thought he would write jingles for advertisers but decided to take a different route and found out that his calling was in advertising sales.

While pursuing his bachelor's degree from the University of Houston, Pettiette worked for The Daily Cougar where he sold ad space on the newspaper. That experience would open the doors to work at other news outlets, most notably the Houston Chronicle.

While working at CBS Radio, now Au-

dacity Inc., Pettiette was part of the team that brought the famous 95.7 The Spot to the air.

Following a fruitful marketing career, Pettiette ventured off to pursue a teaching career.

"After a few years of being financially stable, money became less important to me," Pettiette said. "It felt important to me to do the things others have done to help me where I am."

Pettiette has taught across the country but mentions that he relates the most with UHD students.

He has taught at well-renown institutions such as San Diego State University and University of California Irvine, but states that he struggled to identify with students with "tons of privilege."

"Every institution has their pros and cons, but I will say that UHD

has a very diverse population," Pettiette said. "It is by far my favorite place I have taught."

Apart from being a lecturer at UHD, Pettiette is one of the faculty advisers for the university's chapter on the American Marketing Association, who have

recently won Student Organization of the year and a Most Creative/Special Program Award.

A member of AMA himself as a college student, Pettiette wanted to pass the torch to the future generation of aspiring marketing students.

"My goal for AMA is to bring awesome speakers who are actively recruiting to hire students. When I was I student, that's what I cared about and that's what I want to implement as the faculty adviser."



Michael Pettiette is an esteemed marketing professor and faculty adviser for the American Marketing Association. Credit: Isiah Archie

Credit: Giselle Oviedo



Waiting area of the clinic for students in One Main Building, room S445. Credit: Carlis A. Henry

Quality health care on campus

BY CARLIS A. HENRY

The UHD's Student Health Services clinic provides students and faculty with quality, accessible healthcare on campus. Out-patient services are provided through in-person and tele-health options.

Located on the fourth floor of the One Main Building, the clinic consists of four medical staff members, a nurse practitioner, a medical assistant, a licensed vocational nurse, and a clinic coordinator.

The medical staff is equipped to address a wide array of patient concerns that do not require emergency or trauma-based issues.

Student Health Services is an ambulatory facility and is not equipped for emergency care.

Patients can schedule same-day or next-day appointments.

The nurse will triage walk-ins to determine the severity of the patient's symptoms to serve their needs better.

Nurse practitioners do not diagnose an illness or injury nor prescribe medications.

The clinic does not accept personal insurance but does accept student health care. Accessing the student health services website allows one to apply for healthcare insurance.

If the patient cannot afford the insurance, the clinic will refer them to a federally qualified healthcare center that will provide them with a payment plan that will fit

their budgets.

For patients who cannot pay for treatment on the same day, the charges will apply to their student accounts, and the student has the semester to pay off their bill.

International patients must have health insurance. Medical assistants are available to assist patients from all backgrounds, creating a welcoming environment for each person that visits the clinic.

The clinic also provides information for those who prescribe non-traditional medicines.

"We welcome each patient with open arms and believe that it is important that our staff is diverse because our patients are diverse," said

Krystil Ravenell, nurse practitioner.

"We want to be relatable," said Krystil Ravenell, family nurse practitioner

Other services include preventative medicine, general physicals, wellness exams, STD testing, and laboratory services, to name a few.

"We are looking for opportunities to promote our services. A collaboration with the fitness center is underway," Ravenell said.

The clinic appointment hours are Monday to Friday, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

For more information about the Student Health Care Clinic, go to www.uhd.edu/student-life/health



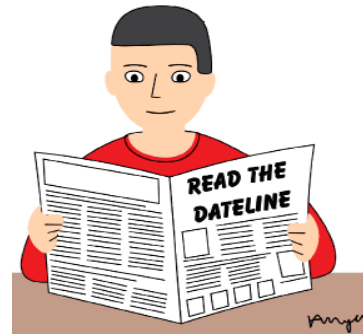
Examination rooms in the Student Health Services' clinic in room S445. Credit: Carlis A. Henry

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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, AP style, 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.



Interactive event portrays domestic abuse experiences

BY DIANA AMBROSIO

The Office of Title IX / Equal Opportunity Services held an interactive event on Oct. 13 to educate Gators on the experiences of people dealing with domestic violence.

Amanda Elkanick Oder, vice president of advocacy and outreach for the Texas Advocacy Project, guided people through the interactivity and discussed the purpose of the activities at the end of the event.

“We know that intimate partner violence happens to every gender identity regardless of how somebody identifies, but it happens disproportionately to Black women and transgender victims,” Oder said.

Oder intentionally refrained from describing the activities or process to give the participants a more realistic feel of the frustration victims of domestic violence experience.

People were put into groups of two or three and given a card with the story of a real victim.



Attendees read cards on Oct. 13 narrating the stories of people dealing with domestic violence. Credit: Diana Ambrosio

The cards were color coded to help the groups stay on track with their story.

The activity’s style was to choose your own path; therefore, groups went to the different tables that were set up.

One section asked participants to flip a coin. If it landed on heads, they needed to wait three minutes before picking up their card. This was done to simulate how some victims must wait for their call to be answered when the lines are all in use.

Another section asked participants to

put on band-aids when picking up a card from the abuse happens sections. This was a way to show how much harm a victim could go through.

Oder waited for everyone to complete their story before asking people to share their thoughts and the path that they went through. One group shared that their story ended with their person being killed which Oder took the time to explain that it is the unfortunate reality that not all victims survive or escape their ordeal.

In 2021, 204 people

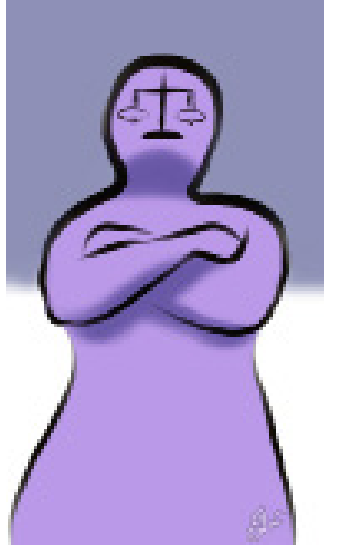


Event organizer Lauri Schneidau Ruiz and presenter Amanda Elkanick Oder on Oct. 13. Credit: Diana Ambrosio

in Texas were killed by intimate partners. Harris County has the highest number of intimate partner homicides.

“All of these sur-

vivors or their family members or friends came together to help create these stories or simulations so that community members



could come together to understand how frustrating it is, how frustrating the systems can be,” Oder said.



Lauri Ruiz

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Title IX protects people from sex and gender discrimination including sexual misconduct. Any person can report discrimination or sexual misconduct to the officer by mail, electronic mail, telephone, the University's electronic reporting system, or in-person.

Credit: Diana Ambro-

UHDPD lieutenant promotes active-shooter safety training

BY JA'MEA THOMAS

Lieutenant Trinity Delafance has served and protected students and faculty with the UHD Police Department for 24 years.

His primary role on campus is to serve as a public relations professional who works behind the scenes and conducts business meetings for UHD officers. The lieutenant and UHD officers patrol the campus on foot, by patrol car, four-wheelers, and bicycles.

Delafance and the UHD officers aim to ensure the safety of students on campus. They not only want students to obtain their education but to be educated on

safety.

UHD offers the Civilian Response to Active Shooter program. As one of the trainers, Delafance presents a PowerPoint to students on how to respond to active shootings.

Among the topics discussed are lockdowns, panic buttons, telephones in the rooms, emergency call boxes around campus, and what to do if you receive an alert that a shooter is on campus.

The Civilian Response to Active Shooter program is planned to start in January 2023 and continue throughout the spring semester. Including dates and

classrooms for the training are to be announced. For students interested in the program for the remaining semester, contact Delafance by email. If there are five students or more, training is arranged.

Delafance stated that there are more students than police officers on campus.

“Students are 100% responsible for their safety as police officers are just a supplement to their safety,” Delafance said.

Students should take safety training to defend themselves because it can take officers some time to get to the students, Delafance said.

“On average, nationwide, it takes four minutes for officers to arrive on the scene after receiving a call,” he added.

Although four minutes is fast, in many cases, individuals still have to wait until officers arrive.

The most valuable experience for students in the program is to attend, according to Delafance.

Student training programs are free, and students will obtain information on how to respond in an active shooter situation.

Delafance stated that the only time people want to come to the training is when

they hear about an active shooter. When the issue dies down, nobody attends the training except for about five people.

From the roughly 15,000 students on campus, he collectively has sign-in sheets with a total of 100 students that attend the program within five different classes. Out of those five different classes, they may have 20 students.

“Every time we have one, you should show up,” Delafance said.

The most important thing is when students receive knowledge about the training because it is advertised

in the newspaper and on the television screens in the school buildings.

Delafance encourages students who have attended training before should return because things change and new information is provided each time.

“If you’re waiting for perfect conditions, you will never get anything done,” he said.

For students taking online classes, he encourages them to take a few minutes out of the day to come on campus and attend the training.

Unfortunately, shootings occur not only on school campuses, so the opportunity to attend the training may be life-saving.

WALK2VOTE

continued from front page

Before heading to the voting polls, students gathered to socialize and eat some tacos.

Gators marched from UHD's South Deck to the Welcome Center's Milam and Travis rooms to cast their votes.

UHD accepted Mayor Sylvester Turner's Early Voting Challenge alongside the University of Houston and Texas State University. UHD led the voting count with

Each day, the election clerk at each campus will tally the number of votes and report back to the Mayor's Office. When the challenge ends, the campus with the most votes will win the challenge and earn bragging rights as leading the charge in this midterm election.

Nearly 200 students participated in the civic walk.

Many in attendance were first-time voters.



L-R: Allegra Salaine, Tiffany Fountain, Sheena Peterson, and Cheyenne Winfrey with UH mascot in the Welcome Center on Oct. 26. Credit: Isiah Archie

Cristian Cosme attended the event volunteering with Men of L.E.G.A.C.I as a strong steward for civic engagement.

"Being engaged with people is the best part." As a freshman and first-time voter, Cosme looked forward to voting on campus during his first semester at UHD. He said the polling location on campus makes voting more accessible.

"You don't have to drive around; you can just come here at UHD and vote here," Cosme said.

"You get to meet a lot of people and not feel alone."

Jonas Williams, a junior studying biological and physical sciences, was a second-time attendee of Walk2Vote.

As a part-time worker and full-time student, Wil-



UHD student Cristian Cosme instructs students as a volunteer for the Walk2Vote on the South Deck on Oct. 26. Credit: Isiah Archie

liams said he appreciates the polling location on campus because he can take care of this important civic duty at school.

"Voting is really important; every vote counts," Williams said. "Having a polling location on campus makes voting easier."

Ramirez, senior at UHD, took the initiative to lead Walk 2 Vote this year in the efforts to lead by example.

"I felt like we couldn't miss this opportunity, there were more than candidates on the ballot; there were right on the line," Ramirez said.

Ramirez urges everyone to express their right to vote.

"Invite your friends, family, and neighbors to come out and vote at the UHD polling locations.

"You do not have to be a student to vote here."



UHD students Kendria Ferdinand (left) and Jonas Williamson (right) vote early at UHD's polling site during the 10th annual Walk2Vote. Credit: Cristina Ambrosio



L-R: Fabian Quiroz, Cristian Cosme, UH mascot Ed-U-Gator, Meritza Tamez, Santiago Martinez, Lissette Perez, and Eugene Bernard. Credit: Shaheryar Khan

UH immigration attorney debriefs DACA

BY DIANA AMBROSIO

The Center for Diversity and Inclusions held a Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals workshop with clinical supervising attorney R. Parker Sheffy from the University of Houston Law Center on Oct. 10.

Sheffy is an immigration attorney who contributes to media coverage pertaining to immigration-based legal and policy issues.

Sheffy gave a brief history of how DACA came to be and what it was meant to do.

On June 15, 2012,

DACA was a policy established by former President Barack Obama via Executive Order whereby the U.S. Department of Homeland Security announced it would deport certain undocumented youth.

DACA recipients became eligible for temporary work and received temporary authorization to stay in the U.S. without ensuing "unlawful presence."

"It is not practical to think that the U.S. has sufficient resources to round up all of the undocumented people," Sheffy said.

On Sept. 5, 2017, former President Donald Trump announced to terminate DACA within six months. The attempted termination of DACA by the Trump administration was found to be unlawful.

Federalism has been brought up as an issue. Texas is one of the prime actors seeking to overturn DACA because it is seen as infringing upon the right reserved by the state.

"Texas has the biggest amount of DACA applicants right behind California," Sheffy said.



In 2018, the program's legality began to be questioned by states.

In the same year, Attorney General Ken Paxton brought a suit challenging the lawfulness of DACA.

In August, the Biden administration issued a final ruling that codified DACA. In October, considering the

Biden administration's ruling the U.S. Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals agreed with lower courts that DACA falls under the right of the states.

On August 24, U.S. DHS issued a final rule, established regulations with some amendments, to fortify the DACA program. The ruling will take effect Oct. 31.

Tail-Gating event wraps up Homecoming

BY KARLA CARRILLO

The annual tail-gating event kicked off on sunny Oct. 15, wrapping up Homecoming Week.

A line of organizations gathered in the Student Life Center parking lot to distribute food and drinks and host games.

Accounting major, Charmaine, was elated to partake in all the fun activities with her son as leisure time from her homework. She loved getting to know UHD outside the classroom, a campus that she loved was “closer to home.” The low price of the tuition offered here convinced her to enroll as a transfer student, and the positivity delivered by her professors pulled her to enjoy that feeling in person.

Clubs such as the Bike Club and Cheerleading Club gave out delicious burgers and hot dogs for everyone to enjoy free of charge in hopes of winning the tailgating competition.

All these University of Houston-Downtown organizations were competing for the best appetizers, entrees, desserts, and tailgate for a \$100 gift card for each category.

The purpose of homecoming is for the UHD alumni to return to their alma mater and celebrate their alma mater as former students. However, students were more than welcome to participate in many games from alumni-based organizations such as the game of cornhole.

Social Gator Jesus Nieto boasted about his UHD alumna mother’s legacy.

January loves the university’s small size, leaving room for upcoming opportunities for them and all students.

The Alumni Organization emphasized the importance of connecting with students and former students at this event.

Alumni Jacob Lipp

and JR Sears set up a pan dulce stand and a walk to promote their organization. These faculty members and former students made sure to attract and engage with future alumni while offering sweet treats.

Lipp, executive director of Advancement and 2021 graduate of the master’s degree in nonprofit management, chose UHD as a place of work and education because the institution provided flexibility for both priorities and further employment



L-R: UHD Bike Club’s Mauricio Perales, Lex Perez, Rob G, Nathan M., Sheila Ortega-Calvillo and daughter, Bryan Alvarado, and Irvin Gracia compete in the Tail-Gating homecoming event on Oct. 15. Courtesy: Lex Perez

opportunities.

Furthermore, Spears, said that the institution cares about the community, prioritizes the involvement of all students, and “makes you not want to leave.” Spears spoke from experience as an alum of the computer science bachelor’s degree and employee in the IT Department.

These services to our community, lively musical ambiance, and greetings from all clubs created such an inviting presence on campus.



Honors students volunteer serving free Homecoming lunch on Oct. 11. Credit: Cristina Ambrosio

Homecoming Barbeque

BY CRISTINA AMBROSIO

UHD The week of Oct. 10 through 15 was packed with daily celebrations that tailored to students, faculty, staff and alumni.

On the second day, UHD hosted a barbeque on Oct. 11 for all students to enjoy.

It was an amazing site to see so many students come together to enjoy a nice BBQ, while saying hello to Loren J. Blanchard, the president of UHD. Also, the Honor’s Program volunteered at the BBQ to help pass out food.

With the event, students volunteered to help people sign up to vote.

Brandon, a freshman, said he was actually surprised, when the school hosted the event. He felt that the staff was amazing and treated him with respect and that it was an “all-around great event.” Also, he did not know who the president was, until after taking a photo with him.

“It was fun to volunteer, and I like to help out the honor program any way I can, honors student Iker said.

ALPFA Club helps students advance professionally

BY BRIJANET FIGUEROA

UHD’s Association of Latino Professionals for America is an organization at the Marilyn Davies College of Business dedicated to propelling Latino students to advance in the professional world.

UHD’s chapter of ALPFA was founded in 2016 by UHD alumni Zachary Miller Perez and Osmane Castro. Perez currently works at KPMG and is an ALPFA Houston board member.

According to ALPFA President Gabriela Perez, the club was first brought to UHD by Perez, who was club president at the time. Perez went to an ALPFA convention in 2016, which is where he was

introduced to the organization.

The main purpose of ALPFA is to help students be career ready. They teach students networking skills and contact them with professionals.

ALPFA helps in many ways prepare students for jobs, as they help with resumes, provide workshops, help students get mentorship, and provide conventions for members.

ALPFA members have the opportunity to go to a summer convention in San Antonio.

Perez mentions how these conventions help students learn more information from different workshops and learn about other



From left: ALPFA members Eduardo Gonzalez, Jenny Hernandez, Kimberly Castillo, Clarissa Chavez fundraise for convention on Oct. 18. Credit: Brijanet Figueroa

companies. During the conventions, students can gain that personal connection which can lead to job opportunities.

In other words, members can land interviews with companies that attend the convention and students can walk out with a job

or a summer internship. ALPFA is open to all students and is currently looking for students to fill in officer positions for next semester.

Students who do not get approved for an officer position can be a part of the committee who shadows board members and learn how

the systems work.

There is no GPA requirement to be a part of the club because there are opportunities for all. There is a \$25 fee that will go towards a graduation cord and catering for workshops events.

Club meetings are held every two weeks.

@uhd_alpha
Follow them on Instagram to stay connected and to receive updates for upcoming events.

ALPFA UHD
ALPFA club is also on LinkedIn, you can see how they have helped students throughout the year.

@alpfauid
Make sure to follow them on TikTok to stay in the loop.

Hispanic Heritage Month comes to a close with Noche Latina

BY AMY NGUYEN

On Oct. 13, Student Activities and the Multicultural Greek Council of UHD presented “Noche Latina” to wrap up Hispanic Heritage Month at the South Deck.

The successful four-hour celebration amassed over 400 attendees including 110 alumni in that evening.

Fraternities Omega Delta Phi, Sigma Lambda Beta, Kappa Delta Chi, Sigma Lambda Gamma, Gamma Alpha Omega, and Sigma Kappa Omega showcased their letters and provided plethora of Mexican candies at one of their tables.

Free food and

drinks were served including various flavors of boneless chicken wings and aguas frescas such as horchata, “sandía” (watermelon), and “jamaica” (hibiscus). Some aguas frescas, like the horchata, were colored after a few of the fraternities.

“I had fun! Just wish they had actual Latino food,” UHD alumna Caterin Rivera Chicas said. “Other than that, it was great, and I was happy to be on campus again after graduating.”

However, Multicultural Greek Council advisor Jose Vazquez said that stereotypes still need to be dispelled as one may just associate Hispanic culture

as just having tacos, tequilas, and the like. “Alitas”, or wings are a common staple food as families have become more westernized to accommodate into the American culture after emigration, he added.

As DJ Overflow played Latin and American music genres throughout the night, attendees danced to the “Cha Cha Slide”, “Wobble”, and even “Carnavalito”. Although, when Daddy Yankee’s “Gasolina” was abruptly stopped twice after few seconds before transitioning into other songs, the dancing crowd expressed disapproval as they were enjoying the Latin American icon.

Around 8:30 p.m., strong winds occurred for a few minutes which cut off the DJ’s set for a few seconds and blew fraternity letters down twice before it became calm, and the event continued.

Attendees got a chance to ride a wild mechanical bull with horns. Free t-shirts commemorating the event saying “Hispanic Heritage Month” were passed out too. In addition, a table for customizable, airbrushed t-shirts were \$25 and above, and 200 shirts ran out quickly within two hours.

“It went very well,” Vazquez said.



The aguas frescas were well-received by attendees at the Hispanic-culture themed event on Oct. 13. Credit: Amy Nguyen

MARIACHI

CONTINUED FROM PG 1

“To play in front of a sports crowd was so cool,” said freshman vocalist Edward Porras. “The atmosphere around was electrifying.”

The Houston Dynamo did not have the best of seasons this year finishing second to last in the Western Conference.

However, the last time Los Caimanes performed at PNC Stadium, Houston Dynamo

hosted LAFC, where the Dynamo picked up the victory.

This time, Los Caimanes were not the lucky charm for the Dynamo, as LA Galaxy won the match, despite an early goal from Dynamo forward Sebastián Ferreira.

The Dynamo may have underperformed that night, but Los Caimanes made Houston and UHD proud by picking up the victory as the inaugural winners of the Battle of the Mariachis.

“This was my first



Mariachi Los Caimanes, under the direction of Jose Vazquez, win the inaugural “Battle of the Mariachis” at PNC stadium on Oct. 9 . Credit: Shaheryar Khan

ever live soccer game and I am not even upset that Houston lost,” said

UHD student Jacqueline Clark. “Watching Los Caimanes perform

songs from my childhood and play them so beautifully made me

feel proud to be a Gator and even more proud since they won.”



Inaugural Strolling Competition Champions

Omicron Gamma Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, INC.

Houston art exhibition unveils local artists controversial work in response to Supreme Court's overturn of Roe v. Wade

BY GISELLE OVIEDO

From Sept. 29 to Oct. 2, the art exhibit "Right Response: Artist respond to SCOTUS" was unveiled in Hardy and Nance Studios.

Only a few blocks from the UHD campus, the Hardy and Nance Studios hosts many emerging artists and their creations.

To reach the art show, first, visitors had to pass a maze of hallways and art studio doors.

Both art studio doors and the hallways were not left bare, for the artists' art pieces were displayed everywhere the eye looked.

Reaching the end of the maze of hallways is where the art exhibit started.

The art exhibit contained a range of multiple sculptures, paintings, illustrations,

mixed media art, etc.

Artists of different backgrounds and sponsors partnered up with the art exhibit to raise funds and make it happen.

Allison Currie, one of the curators of the art show, sculptor, painter, teacher, and mother, mentioned how it was her idea to make this art exhibition a reality.

"I pitched a loose concept to Stäcy who I share a studio with," she voiced when asked how the art show came to be.

Stäcy Smith and Sheridan Bradshaw Tonche were the other art curators that expanded Currie's idea to happen.

In addition to curating the art show, Currie and the other curators also included their art pieces.

"Private Property: Assault Uterus" is the name Currie gave her



"I am..." painting. Courtesy: Stäcy Smith (@art-bystacyhouston on instagram)

mixed media sculpture piece, which resembles an almost life-like AR15.

The Uvalde shooting, Gov. Greg Abbott loosening gun laws, Roe v. Wade being overturned, and one of her family members responding to her in a taunting manner is what

motivated her to create her mixed media piece.

"It's one of those things that felt like it needed to be a full-scale sculpture instead of a drawing," Currie said. "Some things make great paintings. Other things make better sculptures."

"I am..." was the



"Private Property: Assault Uterus" by Allison Currie is displayed in between Anat Ronen canvas pieces. Credit: Giselle Oviedo

name of Stäcy Smith's drawing. Her drawing depicts a dark melanin person with a white cloth covering the eyes.

As for Sheridan Bradshaw Tonche, she illustrated using charcoal a bare-breasted body with a viper between the legs, which she coined as "Bush Viper."

Touring around the art pieces was short, but there was no wall or area that was not used.

Ending where the art exhibit starts, there were art prints for purchase and some free art stickers that visitors could grab on their way out and into the maze of hallways.

Dare to step on the haunting 13th Floor

BY CHANDLER GRIVETTI

13th Floor opened its doors for more than six weeks to begin providing seasonal haunts to thrill seekers. Every year, people from all over the city travel to the Willowbrook area for this attraction.

The Houston haunt is one part of a massive entertainment group that includes haunts in Chicago, Denver, Jacksonville, Phoenix, San Antonio. The haunts have become so popular that people buy tickets six weeks before doors even open.

"I have to go to 13th Floor every year to see what's new," Jovina Burges, haunted house enthusiast shared. "I purchased my tickets two weeks in advance, and immediately started to get the jitters."

When visitors arrive at the haunt, they are immediately welcomed by actors in full costume and make up. The scariest of them are the ones that do not speak a single word. The grotesque nature of their outfits immediately spark fear in everyone who enters the outside area.

The outside area provides different intense photo attractions to warm visitors before they dare the haunt.

A giant zombified hand reaching through an abandoned bedroom window allows the depiction of being snatched from a nightmare, and a larger-than-life spider-like Pennywise with a dismembered victim glows to every corner of the entrance.

An undead but non-speaking female zombie who declined to provide her name, used nods from her unsightly head and gestures from her gnarled hands to indicate that the haunt provides make-up and costumes for the actors, including a prop of a severed head.

The actors for 13th Floor only need to bring their personalities. Performers from previous years are contacted when the haunt begins production to ensure that it keeps the same creepy atmosphere every year.

The actors are welcome to perform how they want within their respective scare areas. For the zombie interviewed for this story, it included grabbing this journalist with her cold dead hands from be-

hind. The haunt itself is split into many different rooms within the building to cover all types of fears. The rooms take on themes such as prison electric chairs, toxic waste dumps, witch-infested kitchens, and other scary domiciles.

After completing the haunt, doors are opened to the gift shop where 13th Floor apparel is available to everyone brave enough to reach the finish line.

The ultimate prize is the pictures available for purchase that are taken of each group before they venture into the haunt.

13th Floor is located at 7075 FM 1960 Rd W, Ste. 20, right next to Willowbrook Mall. Tickets are sold online and will be available until Oct. 31.



A clown display at the entrance to 13th Floor. Credit: Chandler Grivetti

Turbulent plotline, disturbing sexualization overshadow Ana de Armas' brilliant performance in 'Blonde'

BY MADIHA HUSSAIN

Netflix streamed its first NC-17 film on Sept. 28. "Blonde" is based off the 2000 fictional novel with the same name by Joyce Carol Oates. The film is written and directed by Andrew Dominik with Ana de Armas starring as the titillating Marilyn Monroe. The movie focuses on semi-fictional events throughout Monroe's life, whose real name was Norma Jeane Mortenson.

Armas' performance must be highlighted. This movie is absolutely heartbreaking with little breaks of reprieve throughout. Armas perfectly captured Monroe's downward spiral as her life unravels from every corner.

Armas replicated Monroe's signature breathy accent quite well. However, her Spanish accent does make an appearance throughout the movie, but it is minimally distracting.

What is distracting are the special effects that this movie has. In particular, two unnecessary scenes with an animated fetus are so unsettling that they were almost comical.

The special effects make me reminiscent of my time in elementary school when I proudly added random effects to my PowerPoint slides to make it more unique. In reality, I added nothing of substance to those slides and neither did the effects in this movie.

Even though Armas' performance was phenomenal, it does not deflect from the lackluster plotline and exploitative nature of the movie.

There is quite a bit of nudity in the film, which is not an issue in itself. However, a major motif throughout this movie is Monroe wanting to break free of her celebrity image and revert into Norma Jeane. For a movie about Marilyn Monroe not wanting to be herself anymore, the film

does not do a decent job representing that through its gawdy and oversexualized representations of her. It feels like the film is supposed to be more of a trauma porn rather than a multifaceted, unique view on Monroe's life.

Even model Emily Ratajkowski was not a fan of the movie, despite not seeing it.

"I'm not surprised to hear that it's yet another movie fetishizing female pain, even in death," Ratajkowski said on a TikTok video. "We love to fetishize female pain. Look at Amy Winehouse, look at Britney Spears, look at the way we obsess over [Princess] Diana's death, the way we obsess over dead girls and serial killers. Watch any CSI episode, and it's like this crazy fetishization of female pain and death."

Regardless of anyone's opinion about the exploitative nature of the film, it does lack a seamless plot. Nearly



Credit: Madiha Hussain

every scene is a short spurt. The audience has little time to react to even the most traumatic events in the film before another scene begins playing.

The abruptness of each scene leaves the audience dazed and confused. Also, little to no context is given throughout the movie to help the audience un-

derstand what is occurring. This movie would be easier for die-hard Monroe fans to watch, but for the general population, it would be worth it to read up on her life before watching the film to understand the plot more easily.

I do not suggest people that are sensitive towards sexual assault and domestic violence

to watch this film. It was hard to stomach the entire film in one setting. It is an emotionally draining rollercoaster that only goes downhill, so do not watch if you cannot handle the intensity of it. Due to the turbulent plotline and disturbing sexualization of Monroe, I must give this film a 2 out of 5 stars.

Director David O'Russell achieves ambitious mission with 'Amsterdam'

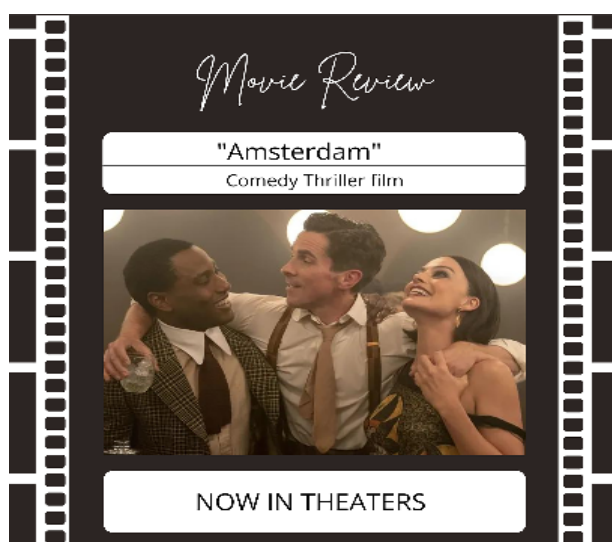
BY JAMES JUREWICZ

The film "Amsterdam" should be considered writer and director David O'Russell's masterpiece. This is the most ambitious movie he has made so far. The film is filled with stars and helmed by a director who knows how to best utilize them all.

John David Washington, Christian Bale, Margot Robbie, Chris Rock, Mike Meyers, Ana Taylor-Joy, Zoe Saldana, Timothy Olyphant, Michael Shannon, Taylor Swift, Rami Makel and Robert Deniro are all in the film and each portray vital characters to the overall story.

It was impossible to discern what the storyline of "Amsterdam" was through the advertisements and the films trailer ran all summer and returning audience members saw it many times. What was made apparent about the film was that it was historically set and meteorically cast.

The historic time period is portrayed on-screen fantastically and is visually pleasing. The costumes, props and language are all reminiscent of post-World War I America, specifically New York City. The film takes place between New York and Amsterdam. The movie was filmed entirely in



Credit: James Jurewicz

Los Angeles.

"It has big, timely points to make about spiritual injury, the specter of war, longing for lost utopias, and the rise of fascism," Bilge Ebiri told Vulture.

Christian Bale delivers a phenomenal character of Burt in "Amsterdam," though he always does. Fun fact, this is the second O'Russell film where he is asked to play a char-

acter with a glass eye.

The actor is obviously mindful of the feigned disability, focusing on his eyes it was apparent Bale had the control to roll one eye and keep the other still while delivering dialogue. That is professionalism from an elite actor.

Valerie Vose (Margot Robbie) plays three different versions of herself. In the film, Valerie speaks perfect French and is thought to be French. However, the plot later reveals Valerie as an American artist and eventually an heiress.

One of the major surprise focuses of this film is art. Val-

erie makes art from the bloodied shrapnel she extracts from her injured patients.

Great to see Mike Meyers in a major acting role again, he had ample and entertaining screen time in the film. Although it is true that the same could be said about nearly every actor in the film. For all the big names, there really were no small roles

Costing \$20 million, this is O'Russell's most expensive film to date, more than his Jennifer Lawrence-led "Joy" in 2015 and twice the \$40 million budget given to "American Hustle" in 2013.

Great sound bites with poor execution, decline 'The Invitation'

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

"The Invitation" is a 2022 horror film released on Aug. 26.

The cast includes Nathalie Emmanuel as Evie, Thomas Doherty as Walter, Alana Boden as Lucy, Stephanie Corneliussen as Viktoria, Aubrey Taylor as Grace, Hugh Skinner as Oliver, and Sean Pertwee, who portrays Mr. Field. Sean Pertwee is recognizable from the television show "Gotham" from the mid to late 2010s.

When she takes an at-home DNA test, Evie discovers that she has a family of which she had no previous knowledge. Her cousin Oliver contacts her, then shortly after comes to visit her in New York, saying he was already going to be in town for business.

After some coercing and guilt by her cousin, she is flown first

class to England for the wedding of some important socialite family members. Evie becomes instantly charmed by the handsome and smooth Walter, who, apparently, to the audience, is hiding something sinister. Walter owns the land where the wedding is taking place.

What is interesting about this film is that despite the boredom-inducing pacing, it manages to entertain through style. There is also a remarkably interesting use of sound in the film.

Two scenes particularly stand out with the sound. The first is a dinner scene where everyone's every bite is painfully audible, as well as the scraping of silverware on plates, a creative use of an annoying sound.

In the second scene, Evie goes to the Spa



Credit: James Jurewicz

with the friendly and outgoing Lucy and the harshly rude Viktoria. The scene is next to an echoey pool area, the pool water adorned with fragrant flower petals. Every little snip and

clip is audible, echoing off the luxurious tiles. The sound stands out in this film.

Everyone will most likely recognize Nathalie Emmanuel from the HBO show Game of Thrones. Recently

she had an impressive performance in Zach Snyder Produced Netflix action crime film "Army of Thieves." from 2021.

This film gets a grade of a C, maybe a C-. The problem is the

pacing, writing, and editing, not the acting. The movie drags on in the beginning, and takes a while to get to the action. The script could have also used some work, as many lines are predictable and cliché.

"The Invitation" is a renter through and through, so save money for another film and wait for streaming. However, some points are awarded for having a trailer that seems obvious yet does not spoil who or what the antagonist is. It looks like a demonic human sacrifice film, but it is not.

Also, some points for adapting a classic novel, the title, and the author will remain nameless for obvious spoiler reasons. "The Invitation" is now playing in theaters. beautiful... and educational and informative."

Never-ending supplies, explosive action creates 'The Greatest Beer Run Ever'

BY JAMES JUREWICZ

John Donohue (Zach Efron) is a Merchant Marine and ex-Navy sailor who yearns to help his friends fighting in the Vietnam War. In a drunken proclamation at his neighborhood bar, "Chickie" (Donohue's nickname) declares he will go to Vietnam to personally deliver beer, specifically Pabst Blue Ribbon.

Chickie's initial reception from his friends is lukewarm at best, however there are revealing moments when his presence was appreciated. His mission becomes more about the fact that he wants to let the troops know there are people who still care for them.

Early in the film, journalists are viewed as the enemy of the troops, intentionally twisting facts or not reporting the whole story. Along with anti-war protestors these two groups are enough to call Chickie to action.

Many times throughout the film, audiences will question the decisions and actions Chickie makes. In one scene, he dodges a military tank, while in another he witnesses an American war atrocity.

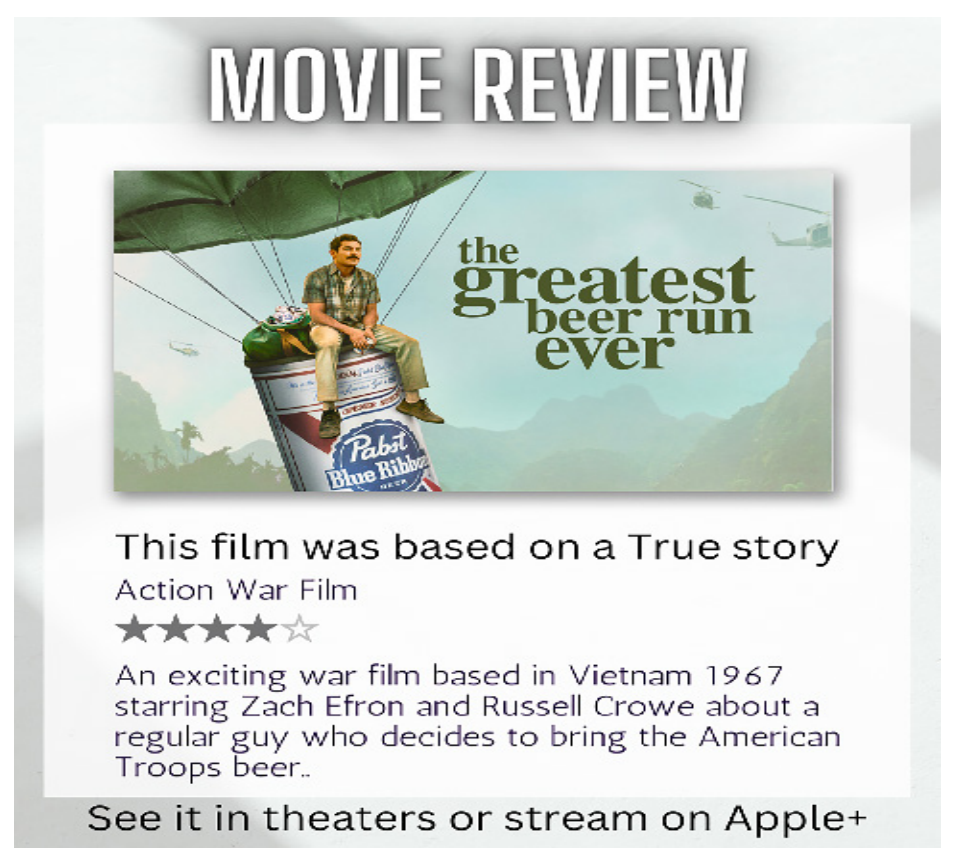
He is shown traveling to multiple locations in Vietnam, his friends are spread throughout the country. With limited funding and resources, most of the time Chickie has to luck into transportation.

How he manages to

accomplish all of this while hauling around a duffel bag full of Pabst Blue Ribbon is hard to believe. The duffel bag is never shown to be replenished or refilled.

The bottomless unending supply of beer is reminiscent of the magical present bag in the film "The Santa Clause" or "Mary Poppins" duffel bag. Both bags seemingly have the storage capacity of a warehouse, and apparently Chickie's does too.

It is never revealed how many beers he decided to bring, he even makes a point in the film they could not find this beer in Vietnam. That means he brought all his own supplies, it is a bit distracting while watching the film,



Credit: James Jurewicz

although that is the only complaint.

Arthur Coates (Russell Crowe) is an American Vietnam War journalist and photographer who inadvertently becomes a mentor to Chickie, as well as his bridge to the press,

explaining their viewpoint.

The depiction of war in this film is intense. Unexpected explosions and tense situations push the story forward. Even with his Naval military background, Chickie is

clearly in over his head.

This was an enjoyable movie from start to finish, both a fascinating true story and an unbelievable journey. "The Greatest Beer Run Ever" is now in theaters and streaming through the Apple+ application.

UHD head coach leads women's volleyball team to 3 straight wins

BY JESSE FITZGERALD RODRIGUEZ JR.

From student, to player, to graduate, then assistant coach, and later promoted to head coach, Dorthy Tran is a true warrior because of her determination, dedication, and commitment to being a leader in the volleyball sport.

Tran has earned the spotlight for demonstrating her leadership skills and leading UHD's women's volleyball team toward three consecutive victories and the chance to advance and win the Houston Club Sports Conference Tournament.

The team players said the factors that kept them focused, disciplined, and pumped up to win three straight

games were the love for the game, self-enjoyment, a strong mindset, and the discipline to train often.

"Even an extra 30 minutes for my players to train too," Tran said in the meeting room after a 25-13 win against Lone Star College-North Harris on Oct. 12.

"Good communication is key to success," said Lauren Langdon, one of the two captains of the volleyball team.

As for advice for fellow volleyball lovers, commitment and technique perfection are important, according to volleyball player Sarahangel Bazan said.

"The ability to put in the time to train, sacrifice some things, but also stay motivated and be able to snap back



Clockwise from left: Hatziri Rancon, Coach Alicia Nava, Ashley Carter, Yolanda Melendez, Carissa Moran, Claudia Avalos, Dorthy Tran, Maria Gaspar, Lorena Padron, Coryn Wolfe. Courtesy: UHD NEWS

emotionally, and again, be strong mentally, amongst other things," volleyball player Mariana Gutierrez added.

"I look at my players weak points during training and when playing a live game," Tran added.

"I also rewatch our games, my recordings of my players, and this

is tremendously helpful to identify my players moves, strengths, weaknesses, as well as, how to better prepare them for our next game, hopefully, our next victory."

These young ladies are in great shape, train hard, play hard, are strong-minded, and maintain an energetic



From top left: Dorthy Tran, Citlali Garcia, Cassie Vaillancourt, Jayleen Montano, Katlyn Sims, Lauren Langdon, Edgar Ramos. From bottom left: Mariana Gutierrez, Alandra Macias, Sarahangel Bazan, Jennifer Lim, Gimena Ruiz-Torrez. Credit: Jesse F. Rodriguez

and enthusiastic attitude about the sport of volleyball, which is why winning three straight games came easy.

While the season comes to an end, Tran is praised for her grand transformation from student to head coach.

UHD's women's volleyball team represents UHD's resil-

ience, for never giving up and demonstrating integrity when defeated.

Kudos for UHD women's volleyball team and to all the Sports & Fitness staff at UHD's Student Life Center who continue to make it all possible.

UHD Rocket League takes home first place in collegiate league

BY MUSA ALANSSARI

Putting in countless hours of hard work and dedication, UHD's Esports team, Rocket League, took the first place at the GGLeagues Division B.

GGLeagues is a service that hosts competitions for various games, one being Rocket League, against other universities. UHD's Rocket League team went up against various colleges, eventually placing on top of the six teams allowed into the next round of games.

"We won the summer GGLeagues Division B. That was our first ever tournament as a team that we joined, and to take first place feels great," Joao Romero, the UHD Rocket League team captain said.

Preparing for a task like this is easy. "We practice every Wednesday and Thursday, we have games for



Courtesy: Psonik

GGLeagues on Tuesdays," Joao Romero said

Practice, however, is only part of the equation. According to Romero, setting up, making sure you are in the right mindset and clearing your head are some things players must do to be able to win these competitions.

"Hard work and practice don't make perfection, but it makes you a better player" Romero said.

Knowing that they would have to get serious about these competitions, Romero formed a Varsity, Junior Varsity, and a Junior Varsity B

team to expand their horizon and be able to compete more for UHD Esports.

The UHD Rocket League team is not only for competing though, as students are also invited to come and hang out and have fun. Not everyone in UHD Esports is there to compete, rather just to kill time between classes and have fun.

If you are interested in finding out more about the UHD Rocket League team, feel free to stop by the UHD Esports Center located on the second floor of the One Main Building.

UHD BASKETBALL FALL 2022 SCHEDULE

28 OCT	TEXAS A&M 8:00PM
4 NOV	QUARTER-FINALS 7:30/8:30PM
6 NOV	MEN'S SEMI-FINALS 10:30/11:40AM
6 NOV	CHAMPIONSHIP GAME 2:15PM

Credit: Edward Saenz

New trend, trunk-or-treating, allows families to say goodbye to chilling anxiety, stress of trick-or-treating

BY CHANDLER GRIVETTI

As custom on Oct. 31, thousands of children put on their costumes and travel to local neighborhoods for their favorite candies.

Children traditionally walk and knock-on doors to get the Skittles, Tootsie Rolls and Butterfingers they waited all month for. However, in recent years, more and more parents have feared the dangers of allowing children to go to random houses.

This has sparked a new trend within communities: trunk-or-treating. This activity is when a collection of people come together to decorate stands or cars for candy to be given away from instead of their homes. The tradition started in the 1990s as a fall festival but, has transformed into trunk-or-treating about ten years ago.

“It is important to promote trunk-or-treats over traditional trick-or-

treating,” Alief community activist Erlinda Longoria commented when asked why she helps organize so many. “This way of celebrating is a lot safer than going door-to-door.”

Different institutions like churches, youth organizations and local businesses are renting parks and local areas to provide children with safe, spooky fun.

Going door to door has almost become a thing of the past. I have witnessed first-hand the steady decrease of people who will pass out candy from their home. Over the last few years, I have brought my son to different neighborhoods across Houston and barely collected candy from several houses.

There are others that believe that trunk-or-treating is not the solution to assuage the growing anxiety generated from letting children loose into



A Sugar Land community's annual trunk-or-treating at Dickinson Elementary. Credit: Chandler Grivetti

neighborhoods.

“The most important part of Halloween is the trick-or-treating,” UHD student Miranda De la Fuente said. “It may not be as prominent as it used to be, but there are still communities that are big on putting on elaborate presentations for children.”

The neighborhoods that still have many of the occupants that pass out candy are unfortunately spread out few and far between each other. Parents do not want to have their children spend their candy collecting time in transit from one community to the next.

Trunk-or-treating

has no intention of going away any time soon, especially since schools are getting involved. Dickinson Elementary in Sugarland, Texas held their annual “Trunk-or-Treat” on Oct. 28 to allow their community to enjoy candy collecting with several attractions and concessions.

Safety is the ever-growing concern of parents, and it becomes easier and harder to protect children every day. Transitions, such as trick-or-treating to trunk-or-treating, are a part of our human nature to acclimate to our ever-changing environment.

Beware of facade of famous ‘nice guys’ like Ned Fulmer



Credit: Giselle Oviedo