

Orlando Sentinel LOCAL & STATE

Cubans unite to participate in #15NCuba protest

By Daniela Vivas
Labrador
El Sentinel

Once again Cubans all around the world are taking to the streets in solidarity with their peers protesting in Cuba for freedom and democracy for the island.

#15NCuba protests are taking place in more than 100 cities across the world, and Central Florida gathered on Sunday and will again today at the Sedano's Supermarket at the corner of Curry Ford and Semoran Boulevard at 4 p.m. It's the same area where Cubans held protests day and night for weeks back in July.

"The November 15 protest [was born] after the social outbreak from July 11 when the community spontaneously came out in a massive manner to ask for freedom overall," said Michel Reys who is part of the Cuban community in Orlando. "That was where the Archipiélago group was created."

The group was named in honor of Cuba's geography, Reys said, and it has three basic requests for today: the liberation of political prisoners, freedom from oppression of the free press, and the right to protest without violence.

This time around, Reys says that the planning process distinguishes from the previous protests for following the "from the law to the law" idea, since the group is using the Cuban constitution to manifest freely.

The information about when and where protesters are getting together is being shared through social media channels, mainly on WhatsApp groups and being promoted by word of

mouth. People interested in attending can access a Google doc where cities are being constantly added and Google Maps for exact locations.

Marcos Marchena, who organized similar events in the past, said that it was after the July 11 protest that this group of Cubans on the island realized the constitution adopted under the communist regime of Cuba included a provision that guaranteed people's rights to peacefully march and protest.

"I think they put that in there thinking nobody would ever actually ask to do that," Marchena said. "But this group went and asked the government for permission to protest on November 20 and the government refused them."

Marchena added that a little after the petition, the government announced they would do pro-communist protests on November 19, 20, and 21. Now, the Cubans will protest today, which is the same day the island's tourism reopens and COVID-19 restrictions get lifted.

"The world's public opinion is realizing that there is not such democracy and that everything had been a manipulation," Reys said. "With the people having internet access they can now make things graphic, and leave an evident proof of course, that there is a dictatorship."

However, the lack of internet before, during, and the days following the protest, is one of the biggest concerns for the Cuban diaspora.

"What we think is going to happen is the Cuban government is going to shut down the internet in Cuba

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Saribel Garcia holds her Cuba Wants Freedom and Intervention signs and leads the chant during the Cuba rally in July at Lake Eola in Orlando. WILLIE J. ALLEN JR./ORLANDO SENTINEL

DISNEY WORLD AT 50



Grand Prix Raceway, a Tomorrowland attraction in Magic Kingdom Park, opened Oct. 1, 1971. In 1994 the attraction's name was changed to Tomorrowland Indy Speedway, and in 2008 to Tomorrowland Speedway. ORLANDO SENTINEL FILE PHOTOS

Park attraction names don't stay the same

By Dewayne Bevil
Orlando Sentinel

Disney, Disney, bo-bisney, banana fanna fo fisney, fee fi mo Misney ... Disney. Walt Disney World has played the name game for many attractions, sometimes switching up names without doing much else to the experience.

For this week's Walt Disney World at 50 feature, we look at five alterations of interest since the resort opened in 1971.

The Studios shuffle

■ **What it was:** Disney-MGM Studios, Walt Disney World's third theme park, opened in 1989.

■ **What it became:** Disney's Hollywood Studios in 2008

■ **The skinny:** Disney's licensing agreement with MGM was fraught with legal issues, lawsuits and countersuits. Some of that was over the use of the studios' famed lion logo, but it spread into other marketing territory and issues. Finally, amid an overhaul of the park, Disney unveiled a name change, which surprised

many watchers expecting the word "Pixar" to be used somewhere.

Then, in 2015, CEO Bob Iger fielded a question about yet another park name change at a Walt Disney Co. shareholders meeting.

"We're doing some significant work there right now that I guess will result in a name change," he said. "Now we can announce that. It's not been announced, right? No. ... We'll announce that we're changing the name, but we won't announce what we're changing it to. How's that?"

Then ... nothing. Fast forward to 2018 and a stray post about the Alien Swirling Saucers on the official Disney Parks Blog. A closing paragraph says "We also want to let fans know that Disney's Hollywood Studios name will remain the same for the foreseeable future."

A LOT of Epcot

■ **What it was:** EPCOT Center opened in 1982.

■ **What it became:** Epcot, then Epcot '94, then Epcot '95, then more Epcot, then EPCOT

■ **The skinny:** Walt Disney

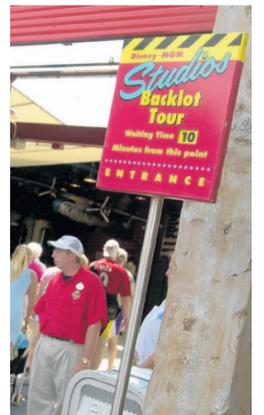


EPCOT Center opened in 1982 before becoming Epcot, Epcot '94, Epcot '95 — and eventually, EPCOT.

himself introduced the term Experimental Prototype Community of Tomorrow "or Epcot." Before it was a theme park, it was a Walt Disney concept of a modern city where folks would live and work. That notion was tweaked significantly after his death, resulting in the hybrid Future World/World Showcase attraction that used EPCOT as an acronym.

In 1994, the park underwent a rebranding and updating attempt. Thus, Epcot '94 was hatched. The term first appears in the Orlando Sentinel as part of

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Disney-MGM Studios visitors enter the Studio Backlot Tour attraction in 2001.

Manatees starving to death in record numbers

Florida wildlife authorities considering supplementing their diets this winter

By Amy Green
WMFE Public Media

Wildlife authorities are bracing for more manatee deaths this winter, after a record 974 have perished so far this year in Florida waters.

Many of the deaths have been in the Indian River Lagoon. The situation is so dire wildlife authorities now are considering the controversial measure of supplemental feedings.

WMFE environmental reporter Amy Green talked with the Save the Manatee Club's Pat Rose.

ROSE: Supplemental feeding would be providing forage for manatees, and in this case, we're talking about possibly in the wild. That's really something that's been illegal for many years. It's something we don't condone. It can change adversely the manatees' behavior. And so it's not, it's illegal and not recommended. These are special circumstances, though.

GREEN: The number of deaths represents 10% of

the animal's population in the state. Why aren't wildlife authorities already doing supplemental feedings for starving manatees?

ROSE: Well, the thing to understand is that the problem is most noticeable, if you will, are in effect in the wintertime when manatees have to make that choice between being able to find food nearby where they have to also stay warm. And there's been such a devastating loss of seagrasses, there just isn't enough food from around the power plant there in the Titusville area. So the manatees have to make that choice to stay warm or starve to death in that process. And so it's a terrible choice.

GREEN: How would this work logistically?

ROSE: Well, it's still being worked out as to what would happen. It's going to take some experimenting. And this winter weather, it's not winter yet, but we've had enough cold that started to move some of the manatees into even the power plant. And so this is suggesting that this supplemental



Threatened Florida manatees are trying to live out their lives despite red tide toxins, boat strikes and loss of sea grasses. U.S. FWS

feeding needs to be strongly considered. And it needs to be tested and needs to be likely undertaken before the animals get too much more malnourished, if you will, and farther along in the starvation cycle. But we also need to know what percentage of the manatees are facing this situation.

GREEN: What would the manatees eat? And how would the wildlife agencies do this?

ROSE: So it's being considered as to whether

to use natural vegetation. But it's more likely going to come down to providing them some form of agriculture-based vegetation, whether it be lettuce or cabbage or some of those other plants. There are big concerns, too, about being able to contain that properly so it's available to the manatees and whether they'll even eat it. And then not having too much excess vegetation even that would remain in the ecosystem that could contribute potentially

to just unneeded nutrients in that system. But I think that's a pretty small concern by comparison.

GREEN: The manatee was down-listed in 2017 from endangered to threatened. Has anything like this ever been tried before for other imperiled species?

ROSE: Well, I think it has, and then as a routine and a long-term feeding, I don't think anybody feels that's what we need to do. But we have such an acute problem with last year's starva-

tion and this year likely to be repeating, we need to have a bridge to get them across this really acute situation. It's 10% loss equal to of the entire population in Florida, but it's 20% of the East Coast population.

So it's impacting those animals even more severely. As an alternative, we must bear in mind that there's going to have to be a lot more manatees rescued this year. We've already had 131 manatees rescued, and that's a sort of counterpart of feeding them. Because even if we provided food, they may not eat it. So we've got to be ready to rescue many more manatees, if it's determined their body condition is so poor that they're likely to die. And then we've got to have facilities able to house those manatees and take care of them.

This story was produced in partnership with the Florida Climate Reporting Network, a multi-newsroom initiative founded by the Miami Herald, the South Florida Sun Sentinel, The Palm Beach Post, the Orlando Sentinel, WLRN Public Media and the Tampa Bay Times.

Disney

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an advertisement touting low prices for Florida residents (\$25 through early February), the “Splashtacular” fountain show and “The Magical World of Barbie” show. The trend continued for Epcot ‘95, but it disappeared by ‘96.

Then there were years of just Epcot, with some fans defiantly referring to it as Epcot Center and you’d still see it in all caps on occasion. Then, a refreshed but retro logo seemed to push the company back toward EPCOT, although some would argue that’s just the stylized look. These days, Disney goes with all caps in its promotional materials for the park and on the official blog. Argue amongst yourselves.

Car talk

■ **What it was:** Grand Prix Raceway, a minicar attraction, opened with Magic Kingdom in 1971.

■ **What it became:** Today we call it Tomorrowland Speedway.

■ **The skinny:** In 1994, the attraction was renamed Tomorrowland Indy Speedway, coinciding with a new look for Tomorrowland. That’s the wave that also ushered in the Extraterrestrial Alien Encounter show.

A few years later, a partnership with Indianapolis Motor Speedway made the Indy name make more sense. But in 2008, the middle name was dropped entirely.

Nest of the rest

■ **What it was:** Tropical Serenade, an animatronic bird show, debuted with Magic Kingdom in 1971.

■ **What it became:** There was a detour, but the attraction now is known as Walt Disney’s Enchanted Tiki Room.

■ **The skinny:** The Serenade was a clone of Disneyland’s Tiki Room, but with a different name and orange juice options. In 1997, the attraction was revamped to feature a couple of Disney movie birds (Zazu from



Adventureland visitors stroll past Walt Disney’s Enchanted Tiki Room, an attraction originally called Tropical Serenade. DEWAYNE BEVIL/ORLANDO SENTINEL

“Lion King,” Iago from “Aladdin”) and under the name Enchanted Tiki Room (Under New Management).

As always, not everyone was happy, and if this were an episode of “Murder, She Wrote,” it would be mighty suspicious when a fire broke out above the attraction in early 2011. That summer, a tightened version of the original show came on board under the name Walt Disney’s Enchanted Tiki Room.

Flight club

■ **What it was:** If You Had Wings

■ **What it became:** Two or three similarly themed names

■ **The skinny:** The long-gone Tomorrowland ride was an old-school favorite because of its welcoming air-conditioning and, in the E-ticket era, it required no ticket at all. Visitors boarded the Omnimover system that glided by various airborne images. Eastern Airlines was the title sponsor until 1987. The company logos and references were stripped out and the attraction moved on for a couple of years as If You

Fly. Enter Delta Air Lines and a revamped experience called Delta Dreamflight until 1996, which Disney took out all the Delta stuff and renamed it Take Flight, which lasted a couple of years.

The space is now home to Buzz Lightyear’s Space Ranger Spin.

Disney World at 50 series

Read the Orlando Sentinel’s “Disney World at 50 series — a year’s worth of stories leading up to the 50th anniversary of the historic opening of Walt Disney World on Oct. 1, 1971. Find stories, photos and videos at OrlandoSentinel.com/wdw50.

Email me at dbevil@orlandosentinel.com. Want more theme park news? Subscribe to the Theme Park Rangers newsletter at orlandosentinel.com/newsletters or the Theme Park Rangers podcast at orlandosentinel.com/travel/attractions/theme-park-rangers-podcast.



Magic Kingdom visitors putter past holiday decor to Tomorrowland Speedway, formerly Grand Prix Raceway, in 2019. DEWAYNE BEVIL/ORLANDO SENTINEL



Buzz Lightyear’s Space Ranger Spin stands on the footprint of the former If You Had Wings attraction in Magic Kingdom’s Tomorrowland. DISNEY/COURTESY

Winter, beloved ‘Dolphin Tale’ star, died of twisted intestines

Associated Press

CLEARWATER — Florida’s most famous dolphin Winter, beloved by fans around the world and star of the movie “Dolphin Tale,” died of twisted intestines, according to necropsy results released by the aquarium Saturday.

The dolphin’s intestines were in an area impossible to reach through surgery.

“There was nothing more the team could have done to save her life,” according to a statement from Clearwater Marine Aquarium, adding that the condition is found in stranded wild dolphins “as well as any living being with intestines.”

Winter, who died Thursday, inspired fans young and old after her tail was amputated when it became entangled in a crab trap rope, cutting off circulation. But the prosthetic tail and the dolphin’s miraculous recovery offered hopes to many with illnesses and disabilities.

“Because of Winter’s injury and the distortion it caused in her body, she was more prone to facing health complications since her rescue 16 years ago,” the aquarium said in a statement.



Winter the dolphin rests on her mat at the Clearwater Marine Aquarium in Clearwater in 2007. FILE

The staff said they worked around the clock in recent days to try to save 16-year-old Winter and minimize her pain. The facility was closed Friday, in part to mourn the loss of its most famous resident, but reopened Saturday.

Shortly after the dolphin arrived following her 2005 rescue, the aquarium partnered with Hanger Clinic, the nation’s largest provider of prosthetic limbs, to create her tail. While Winter might have survived without one, using her side flippers to swim, that would have led to skeletal misalignment and other health issues.

Attaching the tail without damaging Winter’s skin was problematic because her skin is so thin it can be cut with a fingernail. Eventually, a soft silicone-like sleeve was created and is now marketed as WintersGel. The prosthetic tail then slid snugly over the sleeve.

Fans — including autistic children and soldiers with missing limbs — made pilgrimages to visit Winter, star of the 2011 film “Dolphin Tale,” which chronicled her recovery. Such sleeves are now used for human prosthetics and have all but eliminated skin sores.

Cuba

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probably starting Friday, to try to keep any news from being able to come out,” said Marchena. “We are very worried about the level of violence the government is going to impart on the people who march, and we think they are going to arrest lots of the leaders in advance of the marches on Monday.”

Marchena said that these expectations have been created as this is probably the biggest challenge the government has faced ever since

they came to power over 60 years ago.

“We want the reality of the Cuban’s life to be known, the dictatorship’s cruelty to be known,” Rey’s said. “To show the world its inefficiency, its cruelty, how it stays in power, and how it stays impoverished.”

The action request is not aimed toward any American political body, Marchena said. The call is to direct everyone’s attention to Cuba and for the world to support them.

“We want everybody to be focused on Cuba on Monday, and Tuesday, and

Wednesday,” Marchena said, “because we don’t want the government to be able to impose their violence on these people who are trying to peacefully protest without the world seeing what they are doing.”

The list for the cities, days, times and locations for the protests can be found at bit.ly/3nbkk3f.

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