

NOVEMBER 10, 2010

Nov. 10 2010
VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 14
VALENCIAVOICE.COM

ValenciaVoice

Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

By Victor Ocasio
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A masked man ducks and dodges between dingy streets and alleyways, seeking to vanquish evil wherever it appears. His gadgets are ready, his fighting skills honed, and his costume complete. He is the superhero of Winter Park, Master Legend. But unlike his inked counterparts of Marvel and DC, Master Legend is very real.

He is part of the growing international community of real life superheroes who have, in recent years, gained popularity due to the slew of comic movies that have been flooding the mainstream market. But the overall message of these masked heroes is much bigger than mere imitation and role-playing.

"The real life superhero thing is about getting out there, being ready to fight evil, jumping into action and putting your life on the line if you have to," said Master Legend. "You have to accept that fact as a superhero."

Continued on page 9

*Master Legend spies evil
afoot, springs to action!*



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at Rollins College

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campus

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in race

Superheroes!!

Director Ben Goldman produces a documentary about real life superheroes...Will Zombies be next?

"A superhero at Valencia.... Do you know 'That Guy'?" -PB

X-Box 360 updates with ESPN

"I never have time to play games and i've never had an interest but from what I hear...Xbox 360 has tons of great games!" -PB

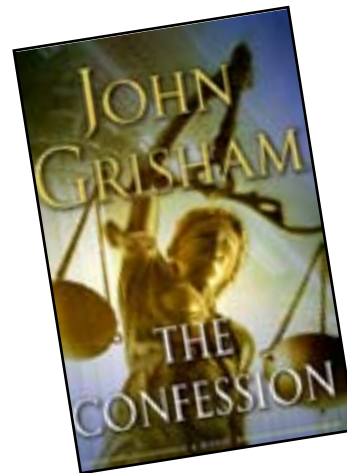


Latin American Student Association brings cultures together

Students played a game of limbo, lots of food and crazy hats!!

"Holidays are always my favorite time of the year...Whether it's Thanksgiving, Christmas, Valentines, or even birthdays...My family and I are always celebrating family traditions!" -PB

Book Watch:



"Southern Gothic ideas, court proceedings, protests and capital punishment.... This sounds like a great book!" -PB



Harry Potter Quidditch



Paige: I think we should create a team at Valencia..Don't you think that would be epic?

Veronica: I'm down!!

Paige: Really?

Veronica: When can we start?



The general gossip of people, places and things with Paige Branson



John F. Kennedy's nephew visits Rollins College!



"Nature is the infrastructure of our community."
-Robert F. Kennedy Jr.

"I personally believe that we should all be more aware and concerned with about being better 'energy entrepreneurs!'" - PB

Upcoming movies:

1. Unstoppable - 11/12
2. Morning Glory - 11/12
3. The Next Three Days - 11/19
4. Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows



"I cannot wait for the release of the new Harry Potter movie!" -PB

Release date: 11/19

Kennedy encourages the community to conserve

By Veronica Figueroa
vfigueroa@valenciavoices.com

Nephew of late president John F. Kennedy, Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. was present at Rollins College for its Winter Park Institute event last Thursday night.

"Nature is the infrastructure of our community," Kennedy began.

John F. Kennedy, Jr. was introduced by Lewis Duncan, Rollins' fourteenth president, as a "defender of the environment." Kennedy, Jr. has been an environmental activist for over 25 years.

Kennedy shared a testimony of a trip he made to the Appalachian Mountains. He said that during the Bush administration 1.4 million acres of that area had been flattened by 22-story high drag-lines.

"They are cutting down one of the richest ecosystems in our country that has over 80 dominant tree species," he said.

He expressed in his lecture that global warming and the acidification of the ocean are two of the greatest environmental issues that the Earth is facing.

"According to a ten year study, most fresh water fish have a dangerous amount of mercury in them," he said. "Most of the key creatures in the ocean need a certain pH level in the water in order to form shells. When we make the water acidic, our oceans will become impoverished and most of these species will cease to exist. This is all happening very fast."



Veronica Figueroa / Valencia Voice

Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. spoke to the Rollins College audience about environmental issues, Thursday night.

His perfect solution to conserve energy is to build a national marketplace that rewards good behavior, which would be efficiency. "Every American can be turned into an energy entrepreneur."

The Rollins College Winter Park Institute is a program very similar to Valencia Community College's Visions and Voices. They are both programs in which intellectuals from a broad range of expertise come and share with the students or teach master classes.

To find out more about Kennedy's activism, go to robertfkennedyjr.com.

ACHIEVEMENTS:

- Harvard University graduate.
- Holds a Masters Degree in Environmental Law.
- His published books are "Crimes Against Nature" (2004), "St. Francis of Assisi: A Life of Joy" (2005), "The Riverkeepers" (1997), and "Judge Frank M. Johnson, Jr: A Biography" (1977).
- Helped lead the fight to turn back the anti-environmental legislation during the 104th Congress.
- Named one of "Time" magazine's "Heroes for the Planet" for his success helping Riverkeeper lead the fight to restore the Hudson River.



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UCF Cheaters

By Don Lee and Christi Parsons
Tribune Washington Bureau

Close to 600 students in a senior-level business course at University of Central Florida must retake a midterm exam after a professor was tipped off to cheating on a midterm exam.

Students who admit to cheating will be given the chance to complete the course if they attend an ethics seminar, Professor Richard Quinn told students. Those who don't step forward will be found out anyway, Quinn promised during an emotional lecture.

The incident, Quinn told students, has left him "physically ill, absolutely disgusted" and "completely disillusioned" after 20 years of teaching.

All the students, even those who didn't cheat, must take the rewritten midterm exam by midnight Wednesday. Students who are found not to have cheated will be able to keep the higher score of the two.

An investigation is under way to determine how students got their hands on the exam key in advance.

Someone anonymously dropped off a copy of the exam key at Quinn's office not long after the exam was given earlier this month.

Quinn reviewed exam scores and discovered it is likely that one-third of the students in the strategic management course cheated.

But he did toss the exam scores for everybody. Faculty members have rewritten the midterm - 200 questions - so the exam key for the original test is useless.

The final exam still to be given has also been rewritten, Quinn told students.

"The days of being able to find a new way to cheat the system are over," Quinn told students. "This type of behavior cannot, will not be tolerated."

"It's disappointing these actions took place," UCF spokesman Grant Heston said.

Surge in jobs comes as Obama departs for trip

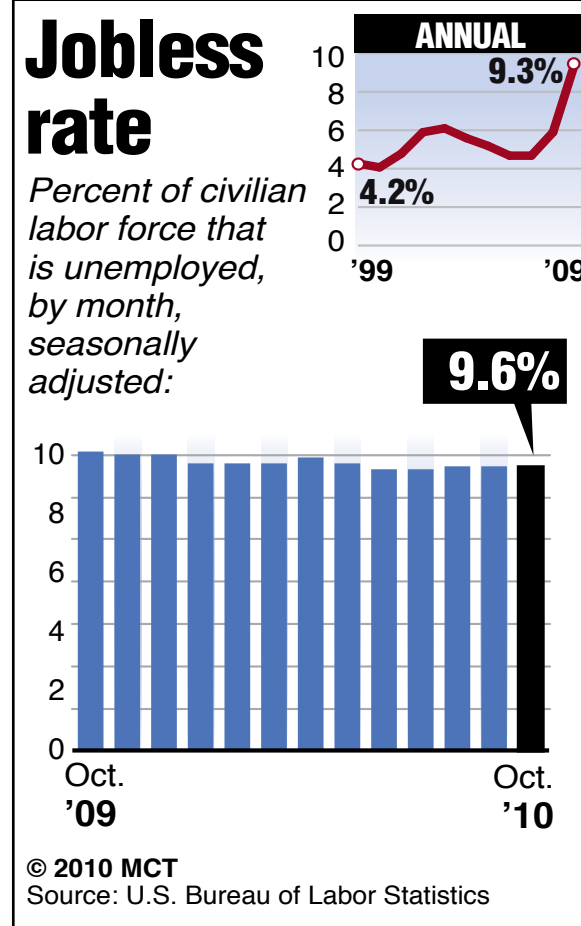
By Luis Zaragoza
The Orlando Sentinel

The U.S. economy last month unexpectedly produced the biggest burst of new jobs since last spring, raising hopes of stronger hiring ahead and giving a boost to President Barack Obama as he embarked on a 10-day trip to Asia that will focus on creating new opportunities for American workers.

But Friday's jobs report laid bare the underlying challenge the president faces as he tries to rev up the sluggish economy as well as his own political fortunes after Tuesday's Republican landslide in the midterm congressional elections: Obama remains committed to the idea that the key to prosperity for Americans is greater participation in the global economy, but he has yet to convince millions of Americans that his strategy will return them to financial security.

"You look at the (American) public anxiety about globalization and outsourcing and jobs - they're all connected," said Thea Lee, policy director at the AFL-CIO in Washington. "That's what we heard over and over when we knocked on thousands of doors during the political season."

Despite the addition of 151,000 new jobs in October, the nation's unemployment rate remained stuck at 9.6 percent for the third month in a row. And welcome as the new jobs were, they still suggested a long, pain-filled road ahead.



The economy needs to create about 7.5 million jobs to reach the pre-recession level - and it will most likely have to do so with fiscal stimulus dollars running out and policy options sharply reduced after the Republican sweep of the midterm elections.

More than a year after the official end of the recession, the number of jobless workers in October remained at nearly 15 million people, with more than 6 million unemployed for more than six months.

At the same time, Friday's jobs report capped a week of generally positive economic news that suggested the

recovery may be regaining some of the momentum lost in the spring.

The decline of the construction industry showed signs of bottoming, manufacturing continued to expand, and auto sales were stronger than expected. Meantime, the Federal Reserve's announcement Wednesday that it plans to buy an additional \$600 billion in Treasury bonds to stimulate spending and investment also has added to hopes of a stronger recovery.

Obama said Friday before departing for India, the first stop on the Asia swing, that the latest employment report was heartening. He noted that the private sector has added jobs for ten straight months, including more than 100,000 in each of the last four months, while also acknowledging that the jobless rate remained "unacceptably high."

Now, with little chance of getting a newly Republican-controlled House to support major new spending programs, and the Fed having fired what may be its last shot to stimulate the economy, Obama is turning to overseas markets in the hopes of creating more jobs through exports.

"It's also absolutely clear that one of the keys to creating jobs is to open markets to American goods made by American workers," Obama said Friday. "Our prosperity depends not just on consuming things, but also on being the maker of things."

In his January State of the Union address he pledged to double exports in

five years, but his Asia trip, which includes pursuing a free trade agreement with South Korea and dealing with the contentious issue of China's currency at the Group of 20 summit, will be fraught with political risks, both abroad and at home.

Much of the trip's message will be crafted for a domestic audience. The White House is working on making statements and generating pictures and videos that stress the central mission for the next two years: Obama's search for jobs.

In India, Obama will be accompanied by a large delegation of U.S. corporate executives. The White House is hoping to have specific announcements about business deals consummated during the president's travels, including the possible sale of as many as 10 Boeing C-17 military transport planes to the Indian government.

From India, Obama will move on to Indonesia, then South Korea for the G-20 large economies' summit, and end with meetings in Japan of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation.

Obama will seek to build and solidify relations with an increasingly important region on a broad level, including security, but the main purpose is economic.

Most of the 151,000 jobs created last month have come from temporary-help firms, health and education services, and restaurants, mostly service positions that don't pay as well.

—MCT Campus

Diversity on campus

VCC clubs host event bringing cultural traditions together



Taylor Weiss / Valencia Voice

The Latin American Student Association hosted a game of limbo, while the Japanese Chamorro Culture club handed out information on Tuesday, Nov. 2 on the West campus.

By Sabrina Alvarez
salvarez@valenciavoices.com

Valencia has always been known for its diversity of cultures. But this time, instead of showing countries that people are from and giving samples of their traditional foods they wanted to take it a step further and share with everyone the traditional holidays that are celebrated in their country of heritage.

Ant George, vice president of the Film Production club said, "We did this event in order to open up minds and expose holidays that people are not aware about, and it's for a good cause also."

Many clubs gave their time to put this event together in order for it to run smoothly. Everything turned out as planned, students were having fun participating in every station and clubs were collecting the money for the Leu-

kemia fundraising organization, "Pasta for Pennies." sponsored by Olive Garden.

Each club sold treats with the theme of their holiday either for a dollar or a volunteer donation. And after the donation was given you would be given a sticker to stick on your "Passport."

At one booth they were selling red roses for a dollar for the celebration of "White Day" in Japan.

Chris Ortega who is part of the "Japanese Chamorro Culture" club said, "It's a counter part to Valentine's Day, males will give in return three times as much as girls gave them for Valentine's Day."

The "Latin American Student Association" was celebrating Cinco de Mayo. They had sombreros and piñatas for their holiday decorations. As for the public, they had games such as pin on the donkey and limbo.

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Surge in jobs in U.S.

Obama departs for economic-focused trip

By Don Lee and Christi Parsons
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- The U.S. economy last month unexpectedly produced the biggest burst of new jobs since last spring, raising hopes of stronger hiring ahead and giving a boost to President Barack Obama as he embarked on a 10-day trip to Asia that will focus on creating new opportunities for American workers.

But Friday's jobs report laid bare the underlying challenge the president faces as he tries to rev up the sluggish economy as well as his own political fortunes after Tuesday's Republican landslide in the midterm congressional elections: Obama remains committed to the idea that the key to prosperity for Americans is greater participation in the global economy, but he has yet to convince millions of Americans that his strategy will return them to financial security.



Joe Burbank / Orlando Sentinel / MCT

Union members chant as they march around Lake Eola in downtown Orlando, Florida, Monday, September 6, 2010.

"You look at the (American) public anxiety about globalization and outsourcing and jobs _ they're all connected," said Thea Lee, policy director at the AFL-CIO in Washington. "That's what we heard over and over when we knocked on thousands of doors during the political season."

Despite the addition of 151,000 new jobs in October, the nation's unemployment rate remained stuck at 9.6 percent for the third month in a row. And welcome as the new jobs were, they still suggested a long, pain-filled road ahead. The economy needs to create about 7.5 million jobs to reach the pre-recession level _ and it will most likely have to do so with fiscal stimulus dollars running out and policy options sharply reduced after the Republican sweep of the midterm elections.

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Olivier Douliery / Abaca Press / MCT

President Barack Obama backed by members of his economic team as he speaks on a report on jobs and unemployment at the White House.

including more than 100,000 in each of the last four months, while also acknowledging that the jobless rate remained "unacceptably high."

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—MCT Campus

OUR VOICE

American media portrays a foreign nation

ValenciaVoice
Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

Considering the shellacking Democrats received Nov. 2 it is apparent that the public feels more and more separated from public officials. Not to mention increasingly, people are growing more wary of how large and intrusive government is becoming.

Perhaps, their fear is irrational or at the very least misguided. The appropriate source of this intrusion into the lives of Americans is the fault of the media, and of course this sentiment is echoed by certain outlets. The "Rally to Restore Sanity" devoted half of their broadcast to it, but it deserves to be analyzed, which is tricky to do when you are used to the current news cycle.

Consider exactly what the media's mission is in this country, to grab attention, to relate, and to sell. They use catchy one-liners, sharp graphics and attractive presenters to grab attention, present a story that either gets viewers angry, or tugs at the heart strings to relate. And finally the most important job of a news team is to grab and hold your attention long enough to get you through the commercial break.

This formula of entertainment news has bred a culture of news teams that are getting increasingly personal and are ignoring more important social and political movements taking place all over the world.

Every lawsuit, missing child, social trend, or arrest, is brought to you in a stunningly quick fashion by your local and national media. What we have in accordance with that, is a largely intrusive,

unregulated media beast with billions of dollars to spend on broadcasts that they hope to almost personalize to your tastes.

The entire goings on in your neighborhood is right at your finger tips, from mug shots, to warrants, to arrests and sexual offences; and what is largely ignored is the world outside this media created glass house.

European media, in contrast to its American counterpart devotes most of this neighborhood watch news to what is happening in other parts of Europe, America, and Africa.

Because of the colonial influences Europe has embedded in the African continent it makes perfect sense for news agencies to pay special attention. But in America we hardly hear about the day to day life of South Americans or Canadians to our North, aside from the occasional trapped miner.

Such political and cultural ties are lost to the abyssal media. Of course there are murmurs in the news of the affairs of other countries, but they are few and far between and they lack any investigative quality. So then in today's grab-and-go media culture, we are left with all the information we have on the world around us from a few years in a classroom and the few scraps of precious information the media accidentally let slip through the cracks.

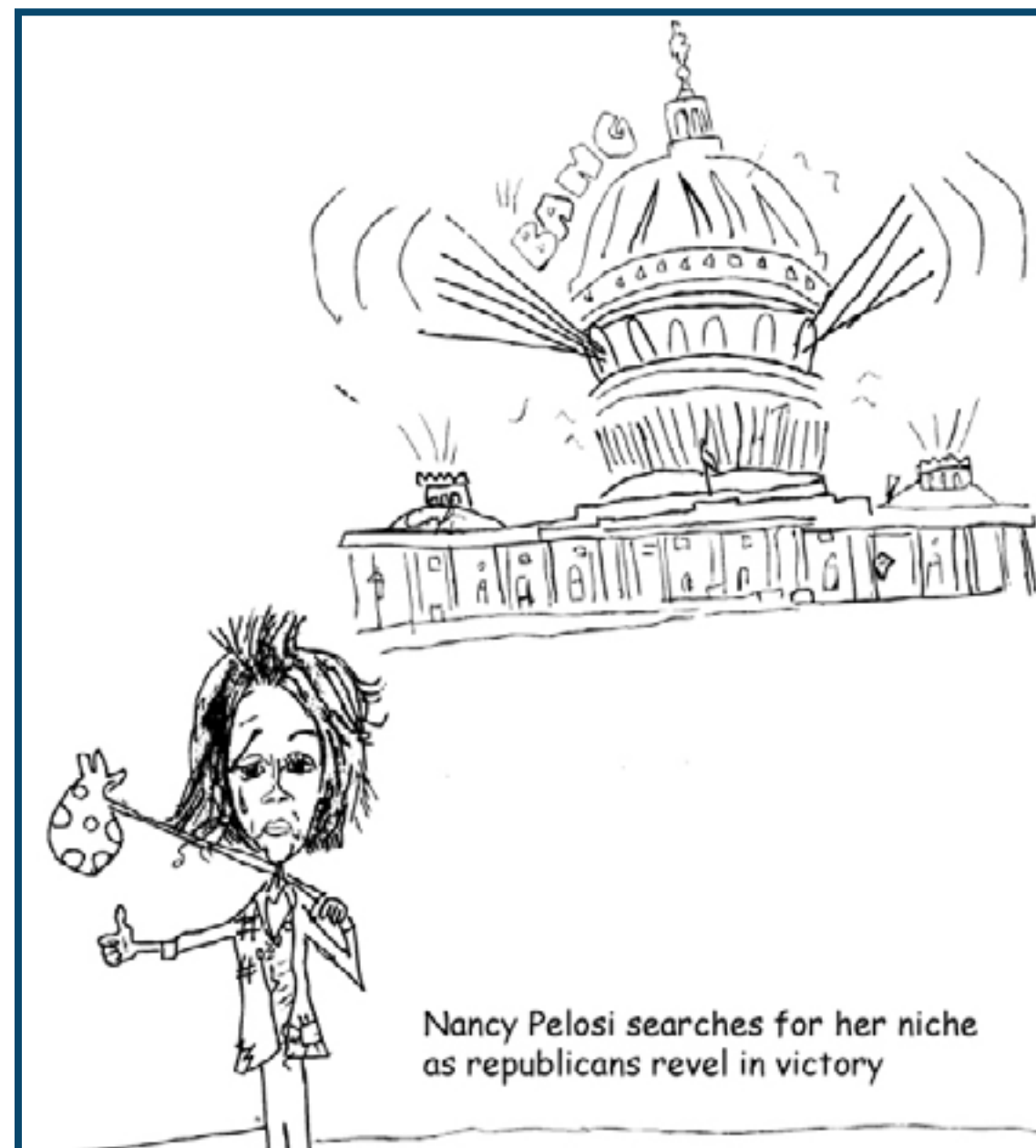
What do Americans make of the world around them, we have the South American continent that we largely ignore, fear and misunderstand. We have Canada

who is a very important ally and trade partner that we view as being "America-light," despite having several cultural differences. Then the South Pacific, which is almost completely forgotten even though at one time it was so important to control the islands that inhabit the area, that it almost saw the destruction of two nations.

That is just the western hemisphere.

There is no need to ponder why America is increasingly becoming disenfranchised from the world and that our news media is nothing more than an entertainment outlet.

The goal of the media, first and foremost should be to inform, then to entertain, then to sell, not the other way around.



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POLL

Costumes don't make heroes

By Rofkens Petit-Homme
rpetithomme@valenciavoice.com

Look, it's a bird; no it's a plane. Actually, it's your friendly neighborhood superhero. Yes, sir, there are heroes all around us.

From public service officials, corner store cashiers, maybe even a family friend over the phone.

Imagine going into work with a bright lime-green jacket and a huge stop sign that no one reads or follows. On a fall afternoon a few years ago an elderly man about 75-years-old did.

The small three hour shift started with the elementary bells ringing to signal the end of the school day, multiple school children quickly looking to escape the dungeons, their brains completely drained by the enemy known as time.

As time unfolded more and more students escaped and walked towards the end of the school to travel across the two lane road. More and more cars seemed to emerge, all but some of them following the 20 mph speed limit.

As the elderly man thought that it would be another simple and uneventful day, the driver of a blue sedan switched lanes onto the empty traffic lane, heading directly towards a distracted fourth grader.

The crossing guard, seeing this, began to run towards the unsuspecting child. The child hearing the shouts of his friends looked up to see the car headed straight for him.

75 and agile picked up the fourth grader and ran two steps to fall to the grassy plain near the road.

Blue and smooth continued to ride effortless through the traffic on the oncoming lane.

Dressing up is natural, becoming a hero takes something else, maybe even a stop sign.

To an ex-college linebacker/grandpa, I say to you sir, "With great colors comes great responsibility."

People just seem to forget sometimes, real heroes sometimes have superpowers.

What do you think of people who dress up and act like superheroes in real life?



"They're really nerdy, socially awkward, and deprived of friends. Probably outcasts growing up. It sounds like a cult."

— Karan Manghnani
Business administration, West



"In a way it's ridiculous, but it's kind of cool how they're putting humor into it; making people laugh. I wouldn't do it though."

— Dianna Graniela
Biology, West



"If that's what makes them happy, it's fine with me. It's fine with me, just don't karate chop me or anything."

— Dennis Galarza
Business management, West



"If they were just walking down the street, I'd be pretty weirded out. But if I knew more about them, I think I'd be interested."

— Agnes Fransisco
Film, West, East



"It sounds like fun. As long as you're not causing chaos, and helping the community, it's good. Kind of wierd, but cool."

— Melissa Somwaru
General studies, West



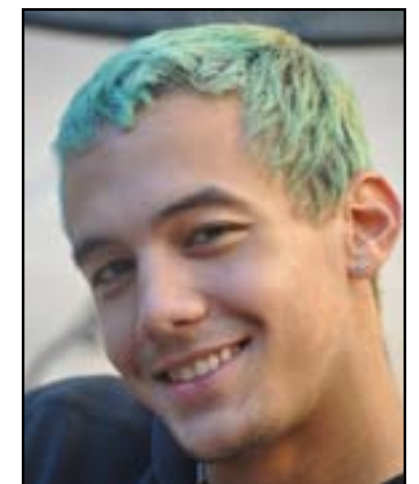
"Whatever floats their boat and makes them happy. This is America. I gave five years so people could have that right."

— Quinton Hagan
Building construction, West



"It's pretty cool. I wouldn't do it though. But I wouldn't mind helping with community service. I think that's important."

— Morjorie Droz
General studies, West



"They're just like everyone else only they're helping from behind a mask. If there is a problem, they're the ones who actually do something about it."

— Francisco Vega
General studies, West, East

Winter Park rests easy under superhero's watch

Continued from page 1

Originally from New Orleans, Louisiana, Master Legend has been a masked hero for well over 28 years, and in such time has managed to find the world's first non-profit superhero organization, Team Justice, Inc.

His first act of super-heroics was in second-grade. In an attempt to stop a classroom bully while remaining anonymous, the prepubescent Master Legend fashioned together a mask and an emblem clad shirt and physically confronted the boy. After successfully vanquishing his first villain, Master Legend had found his calling as a masked crime fighter.

"I feel that this is the best way I can serve a good purpose in this life," said Master Legend.

A majority of the work he has done involves acts of community service and aid for the homeless, such as food, clothes and blanket donations and gift drives for children during the holiday season. But the work isn't always easy for the 44-year-old hero.

"I'm the guy walking the streets in the dangerous parts of town with some food and a jacket for somebody," he said. "I go to places scarier than you'll see in the movies."

Claiming to have been in more than 1,000 fist fights, shot twice and involved in numerous gang battles, Master Legend is not your average volunteer and is certainly used to danger.

"Some people would be traumatized to have a knife pulled on them," he said. "For

me though, that's just another day."

Some may see his caped crusading as mere child's play, but to him it's all part of his daily life. His dedication to the superhero lifestyle makes it difficult to have a weekly scheduled job, so he makes his living doing property management and tree



removal services.

He believes that a regular job would hinder him from being able to help the community when disaster strikes and villains appear. Master Legend doesn't hesitate to jump into action when and where he is needed.

In the end, that's what it really is all about

for this unconventional humanitarian.

"The world can see that there are people out there that really do care, and who are willing to fight evil," said Master Legend. "Some people may laugh, but hey."

Being a superhero has also affected his social life and personal relationships. Although many of his close friends believe in his cause, he has lost friends and family who could not understand or accept his calling, including his former wife, who divorced the crime fighter more than 12 years ago.

"I have a 16 year-old daughter," said Master Legend. "She really doesn't have much to do with me. She doesn't really know much about what I do. Her mama has made it so I hardly get to see her anymore."

Unlike other superheroes, Master Legend believes he has a very clear message about the direction society has taken and that society's biggest problem is "the greed of the rich."

Although not against the idea of physical confrontation, as evident by the many tools and gadgets he has made—including the Iron Fist, the Master Blaster and the Legend Bomb, Master Legend believes that there are better alternatives to dealing with his community's problems.

"One of the best ways to prevent crime is to prevent desperation," said Master Legend. "That's one of the reasons why I help the homeless so much."

Life isn't all about disposing of drug



All photos by Russell Griner, Valencia Voice

dealers and corralling crack-heads for this superhero. When not on patrol, Master Legend enjoys playing guitar, dancing with pretty women, eating crawfish and having a few beers.

"I may be a superhero, but I'm not perfect!"

Despite what some may think, Master

Legend has truly made an impact on his community and has even been commemorated for his actions by the Orange County Sheriff's Office. And although he does not know where his heroics will take him, he is confident he will always do his part. "I'm the hero of the people. The voice of the silenced!"

'Superheroes Anonymous' director gets personal with Valencia Voice

Ben Goldman sets out to unmask real life community crusaders

By: Victor Ocasio
vocasio@valenciavoice.com

As children, so many wished for the chance to soar above the clouds like Superman, or take to the streets vanquishing evil like the dark knight Batman.

But what if that world of wonder and bat-shark repellent bat-spray wasn't so distant?

For many around the world, who are part of the Real Life Superhero Movement, it isn't.

They come from all over, don myriad unique costumes and all, in their own way, seek to better

the community around them.

Many provide aid to the less fortunate through charity, while others still insist on ol' fashioned street patrols to stop crime in its tracks.

In 2007, a project was started, in an effort to understand the realities of real life superheroism and to organize the first official gathering of these individuals in history.

Documentary filmmaker Ben Goldman and co-director Chiam Lazaros set out to unmask the world of these real life community crusaders, in their first film, "Superheroes Anonymous."

A Valencia Voice phone interview, with Goldman, offered insight into the ongoing project.

Valencia Voice: Where did the idea for a film about real life superheroes come from?

Goldman: I came to him [Co-Director Chiam Laz-

aros] in 2007 with the basic concept of 'Hey wouldn't it be cool if there were superheroes in the real world,' and we did some investigation and quickly discovered the real life superhero movement.

V.V: Are there any heroes in particular that stick out in your memory?

G: There is a superhero named Civitron who's located in New Bedford Massachusetts and through out the course of documenting him we've been there on Christmas day with him and his family, we've met his parents, we've spent weekends over there and he's just an all-around good hearted guy.

V.V: Would you say that you have made friends through out the course of filming?

G: Its hard not to become friends. You also have to realize that the real life superhero movement is so ripe for exploitation from people who don't quite get it, that is kind of



Photos by superheroesanonymous.com

necessary for us to really cultivate friendships with the superheroes.

V.V: In your documentary, there is a scene with real life superhero, Dark Guardian confronting a drug dealer at night. How did it feel being behind the camera watching that unfold?

G: That was probably the craziest experience I've had filming the real life superheroes. I don't condone that style of superheroism, but I'm filming, so its not my place to step in. Dark Guardian is a martial arts expert, but even so you never know what's going to happen in a situation like that.

V.V: Has this changed your outlook on life?

G: I'll tell you that its changed my outlook on life, not so much because of the superheroes, but because of the public's response to the real life superheroes.

V.V: When do you expect the film to be completed?

G: We are currently working with another documentary crew and combining forces. I can't say much about them, but they are a big documentary team, and I would say within the next few months you guys will see a trailer in theaters.

V.V: Whats your next project?

G: Well now that I've done a documentary on real life superheroes I might want to do a documentary on real life zombies. Who knows? Maybe it just requires a google search and I'll uncover a whole movement of zombies.



Citizen Prime designed a costume that is bullet proof, fire proof, stab proof and pretty much everything proof.

American author returns with 24th novel since 1989

Court thriller 'The Confession' features gothic ideas

By Jimmy Tater
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John Grisham, an American author from Arkansas, returns with his 24th novel since 1989. In "The Confession," a court thriller, features southern Gothic ideas, court proceedings, protests and capital punishment.

Donte Drumm is on death row in Texas for the murder of a former classmate, Nicole Yarber, during their senior year of high school. As the days approach his execution, Travis Boyette, a released serial rapist, meets with Keith Schroder, a Lutheran minister in Kansas City.

He claims to be Yarber's true killer and that he still remembers where he buried the body nine years later. But, he seems to have little credibility because of his criminal past and criminal courts expect to receive random claims from people wanting media attention before a capital punishment case.

After taking a leap of faith, the minister helps Boyette break his probation by crossing state lines into Texas in attempt to find the body, along with Drumm's attorney and save Drumm

from the death penalty, which takes place in a few hours.

Unfortunately, Drumm was executed by lethal injection before Yarber's body was located. Boyette was too cryptic and would not communicate with Drumm's attorney over the phone and lost so much time with the 12 hour car ride over the state line.

Shortly after the attorney, his team, Boyette, and minister Schroeder find the body, Boyette has a violent seizure due to a tumor and is taken to the hospital.

After the authorities arrive at the hospital they find Boyette, the true killer who let an innocent man serve his sentence for nine years, missing from his bed and on the run.

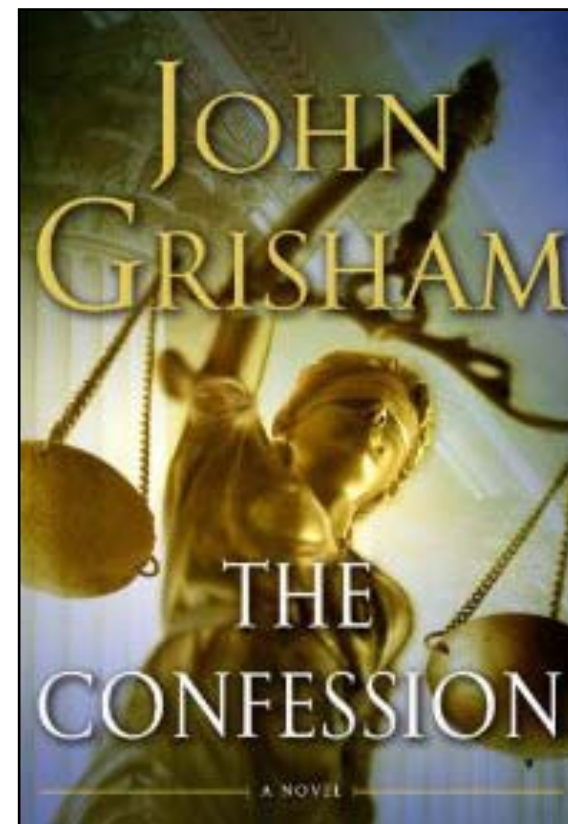
In southern gothic stories there are figures like the corrupt minister and the grotesque or strange, otherworldly characters. In "The Confession," minister Schroeder helps Boyette skip his probation limitations by driving him out of state.

Although he does so to save the life of the wrongly accused Drumm, objectively by municipal law he is a minister who has committed what could

be charged as a felony, this makes him a superficially deviant minister.

Also, Boyette fits the southern Gothic model of the grotesque figure, as he walks with a cane, suffers violent seizures from an egg sized brain tumor and is given usual descriptions.

When Boyette calls the minister's house and the minister answers his ringing phone by saying "Hello, Travis," these two words give his wife the chills



and she jumps out of bed to put on her bath robe while remembering her first encounter with the serial rapist.

Later, when the minister had some anxiety after getting stopped by a cop while he was helping an ex-convict jump probation, Boyette was noted as going unseen or undetected during the speeding ticket. This gives him an otherworldly vibe or simply that his presence with people like the minister's wife is very unsettling.

The book seems to have some bias about capital punishment, but makes a strong argument with its pro-life slant. The author points out the irony in communities like some in Texas, who want capital punishment for certain offenses and later complain about higher taxes.

When dealing with inmates on death row, they may not be able to pay a lawyer, particularly over several years of representation, so the tax payers have to cover that expense and when executions are rescheduled there more expenses.

This leads to millions of dollars worth of expense left to be paid by the tax payer, simply through the hiring of legal representation, so rather than raising taxes to cover these things, he argues it would be less costly to remove capital punishment.

The novel acknowledges racial tension in the present day in small towns. The community is moved to riot and protest as the wrongfully accused black football player is wrongfully given the lethal injection, along with nine years in jail for killing a white

cheerleader, which he did not do.

There were corruptions in the legal system when Donte Drumm was interrogated as a teen. There was no evidence to pin him to a murder, but the investigator interrogated him for over fifteen hours one day, and resulted in Donte confessing to a murder he did not commit.

He hoped that the real murderer would have been found, or the body and he would be released, but Boyette or the body was never found.

The book also claims that there are errors in Texas law that allow authorities to convict for murder with little to no evidence, which resulted in them accusing the wrong man of murder. Also, there are many minor aspects of the Texas town that are still segregated, notably the mortuary where Drumm was taken after he was given the lethal injection.

Grisham combines many elements into this novel including southern Gothic regulars, court proceedings, protests and capital punishment.

Fearlessly, he has the wrong man given the lethal injection early in the book, making all story conflicts afterward seem much smaller in comparison—it is still a low point even with so many events that occur afterward. Also, he boldly talks about racial tensions in the present day.

John Grisham, is making his debut in Digital. Random house, Inc. published the entire backlist of his titles, sold wherever e-books are sold. A good old print version can be found at amazon.com

Bad guy defies all we know about villains

In 'Mega Mind' the wicked save the day and get the girl

By Camilo Echeverri Bernal
Special to the Valencia Voice

A clashing of metal and laser vision, fiery red and acid green. Cerulean fury. A silence. A piercing cry. A burden. A choice to die. A choice to grow and deviate from what seemed right, what seemed comfortable.

If you expect "Mega Mind" to be the typical hero defeats villain story, you may as well set yourself up for a big disappointment. DreamWorks' "Mega Mind" seems like a predictable movie about a bad guy; an egotist who has been behind bars and constantly tries to find ways to destroy his arch-nemesis, Metro Man. His success is unforeseen as he becomes the city's hero.

With leading actors such as Brad Pitt, Will Ferrell, David Cross, Jonah Hill, and Tina Fey it was easy to understand why these charterers were invigorated, the cast illustrates the timeless allegory in its cartoon version.

Atop of a building, the

now villain holds a girl captive against her will. As far as "Mega Mind" is concerned, this young lady is his kryptonite. His love for her sets him apart from all other incomplete and vile people. He is no longer selfish and thinks of someone beside himself. Responsible for the creation of his creature and like Dr. Frankenstein, he needs to do something to stop him.

"In comparison to other films in this genre," said college graduate, Ajay Singh, "there was nothing that really stood out," he added. There may be a defiance of the typical portrayal of heroes and villains where each of them is set on a certain path that is predestined.

The central idea that an individual's outlook on life, on "good" and "evil" may be entirely dependent upon a person's choices. The possibility that everyone has the potential to better themselves is quite closer to reality.

The character of Mega Mind mentions that "destiny is the

path we choose for ourselves." The routine moments of his life were touching. We were able to glimpse inner turmoil, and how existence could become jaded. When there is no choice left, when there is no other way, either rise or fall-- either choose emotional and mental death, or walk the road less traveled by.

Metro Man tired of constantly battling his nemesis faked his death, for in a way he had already died. The droning of his fans was exhausting, void of meaning and feeling. Where do all super-heroes end up?-- forgotten. It is better to leave with dignity than to fade into oblivion and be replaced.

The younger audiences were mildly impressed on opening day. "it was really good" said Xavier Duran, 7. But perhaps the older generation may be less optimistic, "It was okay, it had it's moments" said Xavier's mother, Veronica.

Whether liked or disliked, it may be something worth watching.



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Quidditch flies onto sports fields

Colleges across the country are turning a fictional game into a real life sport

By Michael Vasquez
MCT Campus

Quidditch is part soccer, part basketball, part dodgeball, and all fantasy, or at least it used to be. The hybrid game was invented by author J.K. Rowling and, until recently, only played by the imaginary broom-flying wizards of her popular Harry Potter novels.

These days, a version for us humans, or “muggles,” in Potter terms, is popping up at more than a dozen college campuses in Florida alone.

There are brooms, but no gravity-defying co-eds. In-

stead, students run around with a broom tucked between their legs.

“You have to keep one hand on it at all times because we’re simulating flight,” explained University of Miami quidditch organizer Alex Locust. “If you take both hands off, you ‘fall.’” Five years ago, students at Vermont’s Middlebury College invented this new brand of quidditch, and the game took off faster than, well, a real flying broomstick. There are now more than 500 active quidditch teams worldwide, including teams in Brazil, New Zealand and Colombia.

In Florida, most of the nearly 30 quidditch teams that

have registered with the International Quidditch Association, a “magical nonprofit organization” that governs this fast-growing sport, are colleges.

Both the University of Miami and Florida International University have launched quidditch clubs this semester.

Quidditch players typically grew up reading Harry Potter, and relish the experience of playing even a scaled-down version of a game they dreamt about as children.

Muggle quidditch might not have any acrobatic broom-flying, but that doesn’t mean it’s for sissies. There’s plenty of bumping and other physical contact. Men and women play side-by-side.

“I’ve found the girls are more vicious,” said FIU quidditch organizer Chelsea Klaiber, adding that one team practice featured a snapped broom caused by a female student tackling one of the guys.

Ah, the brooms. This detail is responsible for much of the challenge that comes with playing quidditch: there’s the predictable awkward running, but holding the broom also takes one arm permanently out of play.

So far, the list of official “recommended” equipment includes goggles, shin guards, and capes.

How exactly does the game work? For non-Potter fans, try visualizing an oval-shaped, half-sized soccer field where each team’s net is replaced by three basketball-hoop-like spheres. The underlying principle is the same - ball goes in, points get scored (with a goalie-type player standing in the way). In this case, the ball is a partially deflated volleyball known as a “quaffle.”

While teams’ offensive players scurry about on their brooms attempting to score goals, defensive players known as “beaters” work to sabotage any scoring attempt by knocking the quaffle-holder temporarily out of play. This is done through a method closely resembling dodgeball - beaters toss partially deflated dodge-



Charles Mostoller/Miami Herald/MCT

balls at opponents who are “knocked out” for a moment if they get hit.

One of those players assumes the role of the “Golden Snitch” featured in Harry Potter’s pages. In the book, the snitch is a small, gold-colored ball with wings - whichever team catches it is rewarded with a healthy amount of points, and the game then concludes.

In the land of Muggles, the snitch is an actual person, dressed in yellow or gold, with an ability to run really fast. The snitch is chased by a representative from each team, with both players attempting to “catch” the snitch by grabbing a tennis ball that hangs from the snitch’s body, housed in a sock.

Nabbing the snitch is harder than it may seem. The snitch is allowed to scamper far off the playing field, in and around campus, and can use whatever he or she finds to aid the escape. If the snitch sees a bicycle, the snitch might just snatch it.

After finally cornering the snitch during a recent practice at UM, quidditch player Sean Beloff returned panting and out of breath.

“He hid in bushes, and then he hid in a family,” Beloff said. “I saw him in the family ... he jumped off a ledge, I followed him, and then I caught up to him a couple seconds later.”



Charles Mostoller/Miami Herald/MCT

Not only have colleges in the US been starting Quidditch teams, but they’re also forming in countries such as Brazil and Columbia. In top right, students from the Quidditch club at the University of Miami show off their skills.



Chris Griesen got his first career UFL start against the Nighthawks, posting a QB rating of 100.9 for the game.



The emergence of ex-Colt Dominic Rhodes has given way to the release of Antoine Cason. Rhodes had 111 yards and a touchdown against Omaha.

Tuskers back in place for race

Quarterback Chris Greisen was all but flawless in his first United Football League start in a 31-14 victory over the Omaha Nighthawks.

In a dominating Tuskers win, running back Dominic Rhodes broke one TD for 65 yards and amassed 111 total in rushing (both franchise records), the defense held Jeff Garcia and the Omaha Nighthawks to 85 total yards, registered a pick six and flirted with the league’s first-ever shutout through three quarters.

The win kept alive the Tuskers’ post-season hopes before a Florida Citrus Bowl crowd of 9,203 and Florida (3-3) registered its first home victory

of the season to move into a tie with the Nighthawks (3-3) for second place in the UFL standings. Head to head, the Tuskers have the edge.

“Any time you get up 31-0 on a quality team like Omaha, no doubt everyone is doing well,” said Florida coach Jay Gruden. “Everyone has a great feeling tonight because everyone had a hand in this one.”

“A great way to bounce back,” Gruden said. Maurice Claret had five catches for 38 yards for the Nighthawks, who managed just 46 yards rushing.

“Give the Tuskers credit – they outplayed us

Florida’s first home win opens up two week chase for postseason

in every facet of the game,” said Omaha coach Jeff Jagodzinski. “The good news is that we’ll get things corrected and we have these guys again in Omaha on the last [regular season] game of the year. We control our own destiny, and so do they.

“We’ve still got two games left and one of the best things about Omaha is the great fans at Rosenblatt Stadium and I expect a good turn out and believe they can help us get into the Championship Game. There’s no doubt this is now playoff football. We have a two-game playoff now. I want our fans to know we’ll get things corrected.”








RESULTS (3-3) / SCHEDULE

| | | |
|----------------------|---------------|---------|
| Nov. 19 | at Las Vegas | W 27-20 |
| Nov. 25 | at Sacramento | L 20-24 |
| Nov. 30 | Las Vegas | L 17-20 |
| Oct. 09 | at Hartford | W 33-20 |
| Oct. 21 | Sacramento | L 17-21 |
| Nov. 05 | Omaha | W 31-14 |
| Nov. 11 | Hartford | |
| Nov. 19 | at Omaha | |
| Bye weeks - 5 and 7 | | |
| Points for / against | | 145-119 |

Story and photos C / O Florida Tuskers



(Picks are winners, they do not take odds into account.)

| |  Alex Barrett 83-19 |  Breanne Murphy 56-47 |  Russell Griner 58-44 |
|-------------------------------|--|---|--|
| BAL @ ATL |  |  |  |
| DET @ BUF |  |  |  |
| CIN @ IND |  |  |  |
| NYJ @ CLE |  |  |  |
| HOU @ JAC |  |  |  |
| MIN @ CHI |  |  |  |
| TEN @ MIA |  |  |  |
| CAR @ TB |  |  |  |
| KC @ DEN |  |  |  |
| STL @ SF |  |  |  |
| DAL @ NYG |  |  |  |
| SEA @ ARI |  |  |  |
| NE @ PIT |  |  |  |
| MONDAY NIGHT PHI @ WAS |  |  |  |

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