

Welcome Back Students

By James Tutton
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On a blustery cold day, when Florida was the only state in America without snow, piping hot food was given to thaw the chill of winter break.

The Welcome Back Barbecue took place at Valencia's West Campus last Thursday. This event welcomed students to the campus following winter break and provided free food, entertainment, and information about Valencia-based groups.

Free barbecue meals were provided by Cabin Creek Catering with choices ranging from chicken, hot dogs, hamburgers, pork, beans, and coleslaw. Bill Whitney, another food vendor, also provided "tornado potatoes" which are twirled, seasoned, and deep fried potatoes on a stick. The lines, full of hungry students, all spoke highly of the quality and flavor of the food provided.

Additional festivities included face painting, body art, a photography booth, and custom stickers.

This event was organized by SGA to provide students with a chance to have some fun and also learn about Valencia's many on-campus groups. Valencia's Nursing Students Association, Intercultural Students Association, Model United Nations, and Phi Theta Kappa, among others, were all stationed throughout the outdoor courtyard. SGA Vice President Wendell Smith said a main goal for this event was to "let students understand how much school spirit Valencia shows."

Keith W. Houck, vice president for Administrative Services at West Campus, was at the event and said, "it's very exciting, a lot of students have turned out, and they are enjoying the barbecue today."

Jacob Solomon, a third-year Nursing student, agreed. "Anytime you can get a free meal, it's great for college students."

Live musical entertainment was provided by Erin Sparks from Nashville, Tenn. Accompanied by her husband on acoustic guitar, she performed a mix of original and cover



James Tutton / Valencia Voice

Were you in class during the Welcome back BBQ? No worries, here's a video re-cap brought to you by the Voice.



Sebastian Arbelaez / Valencia Voice
Musician Erin Sparks Entertained students during the Welcome Back BBQ.

songs inspired by artists like Sheryl Crow. Sparks brings her folk/country music style to universities and other venues throughout the country.

If you were unable to attend the events, all clubs and organizations can be accessed through the college's main web site at <http://www.valenciacc.edu>.

News:

Valencia uses students' absence to make changes

Page 3

Poll:

Do you like the changes the new semester brings?

Page 7

Violence in Arizona reminds colleges to focus on safety

Valencia ensures security with Valencia Alert

By James Tutton
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Security and safety are everyone’s responsibility in a free society where we maintain personal freedoms, while also looking out for the well being of others. The recent tragic shooting in Arizona can teach a lesson in security and personal empathy here at Valencia.

Jared Loughner, the suspected Arizona gunman, recently attended Pima Community College, a campus smaller in size, but similar to Valencia in many ways. At Valencia, procedures dealing with security are handled by vice-president of Security and Safety, Tom Lopez, who oversees all four Valencia campuses. Lopez strongly believes when dealing with safety “nothing can happen without information; knowledge is power.”

For any on-campus disturbance, reports are filed



Valencia Community College
Call boxes can mean the difference between staying safe and getting stuck in a bad situation.

with the campus dean, and if needed, students are removed from the area and taken to speak directly with the dean, or law enforcement, if required. The dean of students will then form a review of the instance and individual on a case-by-case basis. If the disruptive person is not a student at Valencia, or a guest, they are asked to leave school grounds and can be forced off property by security if necessary. Lopez points out that “if an individual is a danger to themselves or anyone else, Florida’s 72-hour Baker Act law can be applied for any type of assessment through law enforcement or mental evaluation.”

Politically motivated

violence has been seen in Florida over the past few months, with death threats against former congressman Alan Grayson during his reelection campaign in November. In December, the near tragic scene when the Panama City School Board meeting was held hostage by a deranged gunman. As a precaution, any congressperson or special guests attending events at Valencia receive elevated security protection as part of their visit.

Several students at Valencia’s Osceola campus personally encountered a disturbing individual yelling at everyone in the front parking area in late September. He was yelling anti-religious rants that offended many students, some of whom threatened

‘Nothing can happen without information; knowledge is power.’
-Tom Lopez VP Security

Continued on page 5



SGA attends District Two

By Max Murphy
Special to the Valencia Voice

Every semester Student Government Associations across Central Florida’s Community Colleges gather to discuss pertinent issues surrounding students. Known as the Florida Community College Student Government Association, or FJCCSGA, these meetings allow SGA’s to debate issues that will be presented to the Florida State Legislature, and decide on where their support lay.

In the fall this meeting was held on Valencia’s West Campus, this term, the FJCCSGA District Two meeting was held at Brevard Community College in the Astronaut Memorial Planetarium and Observatory .

The first item was the Community Ser-

vice Project.; the group decided to focus on battered and abused women.

The schools discussed legislative issues to be voted on at the FJCCSGA State Conference in February.

The issues included the Sustainability Initiative, Bright Futures, and the state budget in relation to Community Colleges. They also discussed the Local Option Referendum and the Dream Act.

Before the meeting closed, there was the discussion of the opening of all Executive Board positions within FJCCSGA. Participants were encouraged to campaign for these positions over the next semester with voting taking place later this term.




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New debit card for financial aid users

By Karlwyn Louis-Charles
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Students used to getting reimbursement checks from the business office will be surprised this term, because starting Feb. 4, Valencia will distribute financial aid refunds through a new debit card system.

The debit card will utilize the direct deposit banking feature, allowing students to receive their refunds within an hour of disbursement. This will make funds more easily accessible and will be the only reimbursement option offered by Valencia.

"If a student absolutely wants a paper check they will have to go through Higher One, the company we're using for the debit cards," said Kisha Peart, a business office specialist on Valencia's East campus. "Basically what could happen is after 21 days, they will automatically mail out a paper check, so the student will have to wait an additional 3-4 weeks if they want a paper check."

The new system allows students to receive funds within hours after the business office has released them instead of weeks under the school's past policies. Valencia plans to have all cards mailed out by the end of this month.

This won't be the first semester Valencia has used the system. Valencia students with flex-



schedules starting in November or December of last year already received their funds through the new debit card system. Once the student has received the debit card, the next step is to activate it at <http://www.valenciadebitcard.com>.

The activation process is simple. Go to the website, type in your new debit card number and click the "Get Started" link on the page. Once you have personalized your account with information like your Valencia ID, social security number, and birth date, the next step is choosing a refund option. This would be by either setting up an account with Higher One and using their debit card, or having the funds transferred to your pre-existing checking account, using the ACH transfer refund option.

Kisha Peart from the business office stated, "We do recommend the debit card only because you will get your funds faster. So on Fridays when we disperse at 12 o'clock, by 12:30 or 1 o'clock students will have access to their money on their debit card."

If the ACH option is chosen, steps involving the student's bank account number and bank name are then added to the process. "If students choose their bank account, they do have to wait an additional 3-4 days."

The new debit card system should help make the reimbursement process simpler and faster for both the students and Valencia College.

The iPhones are coming

Verizon offers long awaited lifeboat to frustrated AT&T customers

By Shay Castle
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Verizon officials announced in a press conference Tuesday that the wireless network will offer the iPhone for sale early next month.

Pre-ordering begins Feb. 3 for existing Verizon customers, and opens to the general public a week later.

Verizon is capitalizing on the excitement by marketing the debut of the iPhone as an event in and of itself. A banner on the company's website reads "iPhone 4. Verizon. It begins 02.10.11."

A promotional offer of \$199.99 for the 16GB phone or \$299.99 for the 32GB model is available with the signing of a two year contract.

The long awaited announcement comes, after months of media speculation, to the delight of iPhone users dissatisfied with the limitations of the AT&T network.

Most of the features on the Verizon iPhone will be identical to those offered by AT&T.

One exception is 3G personal hot spot capability, which allows users to connect up to five Wi-Fi enabled devices. This feature will only be available on the new Verizon models.

Despite the general excitement,



some online bloggers have expressed disappointment that the iPhone will not run on Verizon's 4G network, but instead utilize older technology.

Older technology means limited capabilities. Verizon iPhone users will not be able to use the internet while placing a call or use their phone overseas.

Apple COO Tim Cook said

that the company was unwilling to make "design compromises" needed to allow the iPhone to run on the 4G network. Also coming into play was the incredible demand by Verizon customers for the popular smart phone.

"Verizon customers have told us they want the iPhone now," Cook said at the press conference. "I can't tell you the number of times that I've been asked: 'When will the iPhone work on the Verizon network?'"

Verizon and iPhone maker Apple began discussions in 2008, one year after the iPhone was released by AT&T. The two wireless providers will remain exclusive carriers.

Still, the question remains: Will the acquisition of the iPhone result in a sizable shift of users from AT&T to Verizon?

Big numbers have been thrown around as estimates. Ted Moore, a portfolio manager with Fifth Third, predicted in the "Washington Post" that as many as three million AT&T subscribers will defect to Verizon within the first year.

What went on while you were gone

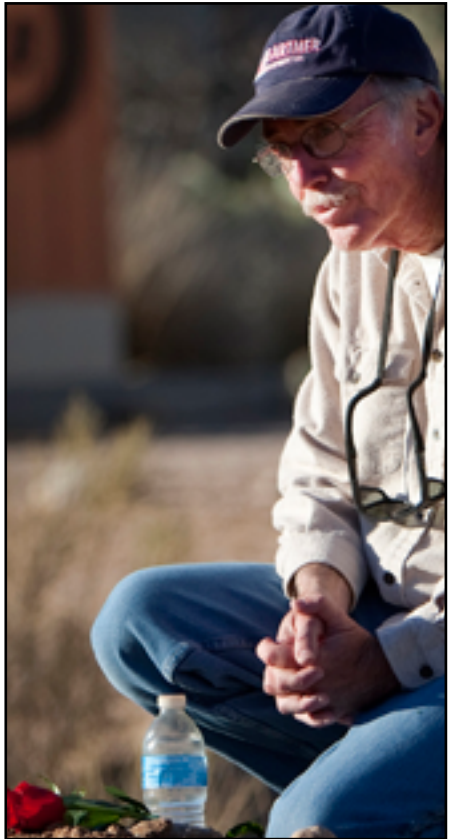


Magic players Dwight Howard, Jason Richardson and Hedo Turkoglu.

By James Austin
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Magic make all star trades

As a result of rigorous negotiations, the Magic made some



Marty Kool of Tucson, Arizona, pays his respects on the roadside.

drastic changes to their lineup. Trades included: Rashard Lewis to the Wizards for Gilbert Arenas and, Vince Carter, Marcin Gortat and Mickael Pietrus to the Suns for Jason Richardson, Earl Clark and Hedo Turkoglu.

The Magic lost the first two games after the trade but went on to win their next nine.

Congress says good bye in the lame-duck session

Before the new Republican-controlled House of Representatives officially took office, congress members who were voted out this past November got the chance to make lasting impressions in this years lameduck session. New legislation included:

-The S.T.A.R.T. treaty

A treaty between the US and Russia limiting the nuclear arsenal of both countries down to 1,550 warheads each.

-DADT repeal

A repeal of the military's controversial 'Don't Ask Don't Tell' policy preventing gay soldiers from serving openly in America's armed services.

-9/11 heros recieve aid

New legislation that provides health care for the rescue workers at the World Trade Center who have developed deadly respiratory conditions due to their work at Ground Zero.

-Extension of Bush tax cuts

Legislation that extended the federal tax cuts established by George W. Bush that were scheduled to expire at the start of the new year.

New congress in session

The 112th congress was brought into session January 5. This congress brings a new Republican majority into the House of Representatives and a Republican increase in the Senate. Speaker of the House, Republican John Boehner, has already started discussion on a bill to repeal the demonized health care laws passed over summer. The vote on the bill is scheduled for Wednesday.

Arizona shooting

United States congresswomen Gabrielle Giffords was shot in the head during an open meeting she was hosting on January 8 with her constituents near Tuscon, Arizona. Of the 19 people shot, six were killed. The deceased included US District

Court Chief Judge John Roll, Dorthy "Dot" Morris, a 79-year-old retired secretary, and Christina-Taylor Green, a nine-year-old girl who had been elected to her school's student council and was interested in the world of politics.

Giffords is currently recovering at the University Medical Center in Tuscon. Her con-

dition was upgraded from critical to serious this past Monday and her doctors are optimistic that she will recover.

The alleged shooter, Jared Lee Loughner, was subdued by bystanders at the scene and is being charged with a number of crimes including attempted assassina-

tion of a member of congress.



All Photos Courtesy of MCT
Former Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi congratulates Speaker of the House Rep. John Boehner (R-OH) on the floor of the House chamber.

Violence

Continued from page 2

the disturbed person in response. This person then abruptly reached into a bag he was carrying and presented papers with wild, incoherent scribbling over the pages.

Despite several threats and other actions, this individual went on for several minutes without any regard for his personal safety. A disturbed person has the potential to cause harm to others when they have no regard for their own safety.

Nathan Hicks, in charge of security at the Osceola campus, had no record of this event because it went unreported to his office, but stated “in the past, the public Lynx buses that connect to all the campuses have brought disruptive individuals that are then dealt with by security.”

There are programs in existence - and in the works - all fo-



Emanuel Colon / Valencia Voice
Emergency call towers are located in various places around every campus to ensure safety.

cused on helping Valencia students remain safe and informed with alert stations throughout all campuses, telephones with a quick connection to security, and off-duty police officers during peak hours that maintain radio connections with security and law enforcement dispatch. All of these systems and



Courtesy of valenciacc.edu

precautions have been in effect for several years at Valencia.

“Valencia Alert” is a security and crisis alert system that sends important messages via e-mail, and text message. Alerts are sent in the event of any dangerous situations, or severe weather related warnings. Anyone interested can sign up and select which alert system they prefer at <http://www.alert.valenciacc.edu>.

There is also talk of a smart phone application in the future where students can send in alerts and warnings, via text message. For now, any student that feels a need to discuss disturbances or unruly behavior can speak to any faculty member, security personnel, or anyone they feel comfortable with on campus. Reports are filed in the security office and can remain anonymous.

Reach out to any friend or classmates you believe are in a troubled emotional state. The suspected gunman in Tucson is a young former college student that used the same social media sites most young people use today. These websites are often used by individuals to reach out to others, even when dealing with personal problems.

Anyone that has personal issues that affect their life can be referred to mental health professionals. A small effort to reach out and help someone in need can have larger impacts and help avoid or prevent dangerous or harmful situations like the Tucson tragedy.



(Carl Juste/Miami Herald/MCT)
A police officer places a wreath on a cross erected on top of a mass gravesite in memory of the victims of the January 2010 earthquake.

Haiti remembers deadly earthquake

Citizens hold memorial for the 316,000 lives lost one year ago

Al Jazeera
MCT campus

Thousands of people in Haiti gathered in the capital, Port-au-Prince, to mark the moment a massive earthquake struck one year ago, killing an estimated 316,000 people. Memorial services were held, one of these was held at the ruins of the National Cathedral, and attended by a papal envoy to Haiti, other religious leaders, government officials and foreign dignitaries.

Traditionally, women and

men were dressed in white in mourning as they clambered over the ruins for a better view of a Catholic Mass being held to remember the dead. The magnitude 7.0 quake hit the Caribbean island state at 4:53 p.m. on Jan. 12, 2010 and left an estimated 1.3 million people homeless, as well as the hundreds of thousands that were killed. Despite an outpouring of global solidarity for Haiti, billions of dollars of aid pledges and a huge ongoing humani-

tarian operation, survivors say they are still waiting to see a positive impact from all the aid. “If the reconstruction were serious, the mass would be happening inside the rebuilt church,” Carla Fleuriven, a 19-year-old mother of three, told the Reuters news agency outside the cathedral.

In Champs Mars, the capital’s central plaza where thousands of families live in a sweltering tent city, residents said the official ceremonies and renewed pledges of aid and progress for Haiti from foreign officials were like something taking place in another world. Hundreds of thousands are still living in such camps, which are now being ravaged by a cholera epidemic that has already taken about 3,750 lives since mid-October.

“The diplomats pass through in the air, in helicopters, but they never come through here on the ground,” said Hyacinthe Mintha, 56, a resident of Champs Mars. Mintha’s daughter, Hyacinthe Benita, 39, lives in a metal-and-wood shack with a frayed tarp roof and a thin pallet as the only bed for herself and her four children. “We are still here in misery,” she said of the quake anniversary. “I hope this year brings serious change because 2010 was hell for us.”

A literary classic becomes a ‘slave’ to racial debate

Being a famous American author means having your books read for generations. It means being forever remembered as an influential part of history. And for Mark Twain it means having your words changed 126 years after they have been written.

Published in 1885, “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn” was one of Twain’s most memorable and influential fiction novels. It tells the tale of young men growing up in the South during a sensitive time in American history.

One of the things most notable about the book is its harsh criticism of, and it’s social commentary on racism and slavery. This is exemplified by the book’s heavy use of the word “nigger.”

With the up rise of political correctness and racial sensitivity, in addition to the election of Barack Obama as president, anything regarding racism, especially books with a prevalent use of a racially insensitive word, are avoided as much as possible. It’s this attitude that

has led to a publisher at New South Books replacing the word “nigger” with “slave” in a 2011 edition of the book.

Some historians argue that the change does not actually ruin Mark Twain’s original meaning and will benefit students who were offended or felt uneasy while trying to learn the material. Other scholars say that the change does have an altogether different connotation and ruins the intent of the original.

Other than the obvious debate of racial insensitivity, there is at the heart, two issues to this topic. First is the umbrella of related issues of tampering with art, editing history, changing an author’s intent and freedom of speech. The other question at hand is what are the measures willing to be taken to ensure safe and beneficial learning experiences for students?

It’s important to understand that a word, no matter what it’s history, origin, or meaning is nothing more than a word. Words have no inherent power, only what

people place upon them. The speaker and their intent does play a role in how a word’s meaning can change.

In the case of Twain, his use of the word “nigger” was not only a convention of the story’s context, but it was used to address the issues of racism. This can be shown at the end of the story when Huckleberry Finn no longer refers to Jim as a “nigger,” and both characters understand each other’s worth.

By changing any part of the creator’s original work, it devalues it as a work of art. Also, because it was published the way it was, to edit new versions of the book would essentially ignore the values of people in the past and what was accepted. This is just as bad as ignoring slavery altogether.

Something else to take into consideration is the new word that they intend to use. Using the word “slave” is just plain incorrect as most of the book refers to Jim, a freed man. Many have also contested that the word “slave” is just as harsh and offensive, if not

more, than the word “nigger.”

Perhaps the word choice may not have been the right one, but if the original word is at all offensive, or more importantly, distracting to children, then exploring other possibilities may not be a bad idea.

What’s more important than protecting the validity and originality of Mark Twain’s historically significant work, is ensuring that it remains, in at least some form, accessible to as many students, in as many classrooms, and for as many generations as possible. If that means taking out a significant word and replacing it, then so be it.

One has to wonder though, if after little more than a century we’re okay with taking out words from an important piece of literature, imagine what commonplace words might be considered inappropriate in the future and taken out of documents created today. It’s certainly a dangerous prospect, but one that will hopefully be taken into consideration with plenty of discussion.

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Changes bring in the new semester

By Evelyn Ortega
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Spring semester has already begun, and along with the usual changes every student must go through each semester, new classes, new teachers, new routine, Valencia itself has given us a few changes of its own. These changes are somewhat simple and they are designed to make communication and services easier for faculty, staff, and students.

The day before classes began, Valencia completed an upgrade of the Atlas e-mail system, giving us a new e-mail system supported by Microsoft Outlook Live.

After logging into Atlas Monday morning, I checked my mail and upon clicking the e-mail button, I found myself bothered and confused. I would consider myself to be a somewhat computer savvy person, who prefers simplicity above all. I find no need to see a calendar, photos, contact and task list when all I'm really looking for is my e-mail.

Needless to say, I preferred our old Atlas system; which did its job and gave students their mail.

Thankfully, all mail is now forwarded to our new email addreses, saving students from any more confusion. Now, all there is left to do is see if faculty, staff and students really do prefer it.

Along with their new e-mail addresses students registered for spring term classes will also receive a Valencia debit card through the mail. Though you may not have financial aid, you are advised not to throw away the card for if you drop a class or eventually receive financial aid, you will receive your refund through the card.

I don't have financial aid but I approve this particular change. If I do obtain financial aid in the future I'd prefer a card to a check. Cashing the check and having the card deposited to your existing bank account would take the same amount of time. However, the time it would take for you to receive your refund is what makes the difference. Your refund will now be automatically deposited to your card each semester, instead of having to wait for a check in the mail. I was informed I will be receiving a debit card anytime soon and will keep it safe. If I ever have a refund I know that the card will have my money ready to be used wherever MasterCard is accepted.

How do you feel about Valencia's changes?



"I don't like it. It seems like it is more difficult to use."

— Vishaal Patel



"The new email system is a lot easier to use than it was before."

--- Ashley Bergdahl



"I find the new atlas email much easier and organized."

—Alyssa Rennell



"I am curious about the new email features, but I am concerned about my redirected mail."

—David Dalton



"It was easy with the old email because it was all right there. Now you have to click on another link."

—Erin Haynes



"I wrote an email to a teacher that was lost because of the conversion to the new system and somehow managed to buy a book I didn't need."

— Josh Macgregor



"I think it's pretty cool that the money is on a card now. I didn't like the new email, they shouldn't have changed it."

— Brian Cobb



"I like the new changes to financial aid. I think the debit card is better than a check."

— Jazzi Jones

Starbucks' Ethos Water fund comes up dry

By Verónica Figueroa
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Starbucks donates \$0.05 and \$0.10 Canadian dollars per bottle sold to the Ethos Water Fund. Yes, a nickel for every \$1.80 bottle. Starbucks had made a goal to

have \$10 million, for humanitarian grants, by 2010. It is now January 2011, and they have only made \$6.2 million.

"Due to a challenging economy and changes in Ethos Water distribution, Starbucks must extend the timeline to reach our \$10 million contribution goal beyond 2010," Starbucks' Customer Care commented.

You'd think that if they choose to donate more from the earnings they make from the water bottles they would have reached their goal a long time ago. "We remain committed to our \$10 million

goal and to raising awareness of the world water crisis through the sales of Ethos Water," said Customer Care.

In 2005, Starbucks bought the company called Ethos Water from Peter Thum and Jonathan Greenblatt for \$8 million.

Thum worked in Africa for six months with McKinsey and Company, a global management consulting firm. During his time there, he saw the trouble people had getting sanitized water. It sparked his mission to help children get clean water. He partnered with Greenblatt, his business school classmate, and in

2003 they had their company.

In an article written by Melissa Allison for "The Seattle Times," she writes that, "Ethos has generated more than \$6.2 million to support water, sanitation, and hygiene education programs in Africa and Asia." This statement is remarkably similar to an e-mail I received when I inquired about their goal. Melissa Allison's article was written in 2008.

So is another year going to have to pass for them to reach their \$10 million goal? In the meantime, Starbucks will be pocketing the

\$1.75 it makes per bottle.

On the other hand, Scott Harrison began an organization called Charity: water. Harrison, a photojournalist, traveled on Mercy Ships, a humanitarian organization which offers free medical care in the world's poorest nations. He visited Africa and was immediately humbled.

On the website, charity: water.org, it reads, "charity: water is a non-profit organization bringing clean, safe drinking water to people in developing nations. We use 100% of public donations to directly fund sus-

tainable water solutions in areas of greatest need. Just \$20 can give one person clean water for 20 years."

As of Nov. 1 2010, Charity: water has raised more than \$20 million and funded 3,196 projects. In just four years, they have made far more progress than Ethos.

So while Starbucks and Ethos attempt to drag on their project a while longer, Harrison and Charity: water are out making a difference in underdeveloped nations.

Pot substitute causes distress for lawmakers

By Victor Ocasio
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K2, a widely manufactured product marketed as incense, has grown in popularity over recent years for its more practical use as a smoking substitute for marijuana, giving users a similar mental euphoria comparable to that of its illegal and criminalized counterpart.

As of December 24 of last year, the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency announced plans to outlaw certain blends of the incense for one year in order to conduct medical research to determine if the blends will be placed on the United States' list of controlled substances similarly to cannabis.

Only 16 states have set in place laws regarding the use of K2 and four states (Kentucky, Louisiana, Michigan and Oregon) have banned it completely. The substance has remained

in almost a legal loop hole within varying state legislation. Florida remains in the majority of states that have not banned its use, sale, or possession.

Containing a synthetic form of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, K2 is part of a growing industry including other brands such as Spice and Red X Dawn that are sold state-wide at locally owned gas stations and smoke shops.

But issues regarding the recreational use of these synthetic substances in place of marijuana remain present, with the only medical observations being those made by doctors treating emergency room patients who have smoked the incense.

Reported side effects have included anxi-

ety, rapid heart rate, hallucinations, nausea, high blood pressure and paranoia.

Despite all this surface evidence pointing toward the legitimate medical dangers of K2, it is still as easy to purchase as a pack of gum.

Cannabis plays an overwhelming role in America's underground culture, it's status as a Schedule 1 drug makes continued research on it's possible health benefits a tedious process for scientists and doctors.

Even with all of this early research pointing toward the benefits of marijuana, and K2's soon to be evident negative health effects, public health concerns are not the major factor guiding the agenda of governmental powers.

It seems that those in charge have their priorities reversed, led by hypocrisy and backward rulings, and are leaving the impressionable youth no legal recourse besides turning to a substance as mysterious as its name would suggest, putting their selves at a greater risk than they would using cannabis.



Escaping the issue is impossible; Americans have, will and are smoking marijuana. Perhaps beating around the bush and putting lives at risk isn't the best solution to a resolvable issue. Maybe legalization isn't the worst that can happen.

Weekend of tech at Orlando Science Center

Valencia professor teaches cyber security in 'Catch the Hacker' simulation

By Amanda Gonzalez
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Video games, simulators, workshops, and entertainment were just a few components of the Otronicon convention that took place at the Orlando Science Center (OSC) Jan. 14-17. Otronicon event goers were given the opportunity

to take part in today's world of technology.

Each floor at the OSC had something different to offer. Arcade-style games such as "Ms. Pacman" and "Asteroids" filled one room of the first floor. In another room was the Dr. Phillips Cine-Dome in which showings of both "Tron" and "Tron: Legacy" could be seen.

Workshops and simulations of all types

were to be found on the second floor. One of the workshops, which took place at 12 p.m. on each day of the Otronicon convention, was held by Dr. Wael Yousif, who teaches computer engineering and technology at Valencia Community College. Dr. Yousif presented "How to Catch a Hacker" alongside Nick Lennox, a security engineer for SAIC (Science Applications International Corporation).

Attendees of the workshop were encouraged to navigate through the computer in front of them. "There are no firewalls, it doesn't have antivirus protection. What we are trying to have you do here is try to see if you can define the threats that exist," Dr. Yousif said.

He also stated that part of the purpose of the workshop, "is to create awareness of computer attacks and the simple measures that can be taken." Information on computer security, as well as jobs in the field, can be found at <http://www.valenciacollege.edu/dfas>.

Sports, medical, and military simulators were available for guests to have a hands-on experience. Military simulators allowed for realistic shooting range and aircraft pilot practice, while EA Sports had its own section for guests to join professional sports players in different EA Sports games.

Danny Brown, with Stryker, came from Atlanta, Ga. to take part in Otronicon. Danny was demonstrating the computer assisted surgery simulator.

"This is used at the Florida Hospital for every brain surgery," explained Danny. He demonstrated how the L.E.D. lights are



Dr. Yousif, a Valencia Professor, with Nick Lennox ran 'Catch the Hacker' a computer exercise designed to teach cyber security to young kids.



Russell Griner / Valencia Voice

Children flooded the Orlando Science Center for Otronicon, an all things technology convention this past weekend.



Jaimie Trueblood / Courtesy Columbia Pictures / MCT

‘The Green Hornet’ is a swing in the dark

By Charmayne Knox
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“The Green Hornet,” based on the 1966 television series of the same name, opened in theaters this weekend. The cast boasts some pretty big talent including Seth Rogen, Cameron Diaz, and Edward James Olmos. Lenore Case (Diaz) works as Britt Reid’s (Rogen) assistant at “The Daily Sentinel.” After the death of Britt’s father, Edward James Olmos, Britt becomes the editor in charge of the newspaper. Seth Rogen was cast as the lead role of Britt Reid, the spoiled bachelor, turned masked prankster, turned heroic antihero. When comparing the movie with the television series one has to ask if Rogen was

truly the ideal choice to play the role of a suave businessman. Van Williams, the former Green Hornet, seemed to fit the role quite well and played it with a seriousness. Considering Seth’s usual roles, a suave and serious performance was not likely to appear. “The Green Hornet” also featured Taiwanese actor Jay Chou as Kato, a role previously held by Bruce Lee in the television series. A playboy who lives in his father’s pool house, Britt Reid makes headlines and messes up his father’s reputation for a living. After his father’s death, he inherits his father’s newspaper and has to deal with filling his father’s shoes. In a stupor, Britt fires all of his father’s staff including the mechanic and maker of his morning coffee, Kato (Chou). After real-

izing that without Kato his coffee is terrible, Britt re-hires him. Back at the Reid mansion, Kato shows Britt his workshop, which contained cars that Kato had specifically designed for Britt’s father, with certain vigilante intentions in mind. During their first midnight heist, Britt witnesses a couple about to get jumped by a group of men, so he and Kato spring into action, with Kato doing most of the heavy lifting. Later that night, Britt gets the idea to stop the bad guys all over Los Angeles, under the guise of being one of them, and thus ensues the movie’s plot. Overall, “The Green Hornet” wasn’t exactly true to the original series; there was a lot of humor and action. Unfortunately, there were a lot of loose ends which failed to make it a great movie.

Cult classic ‘Chicago’ brings ‘All That Jazz’ to Theatre Downtown

By Elisannett Martinez
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Theatre Downtown has produced yet another entertaining and energetic production. The famous musical ‘Chicago’ premiered this past Friday in downtown Orlando. For those of you who have been living under a rock, ‘Chicago’ is a story about a young woman named Roxie Hart, played by Michelle Elise, who dreams of becoming a starlet in the jazz infused city of Chicago. Roxie is married to Amos Hart, played by Eddy Coppens, a quiet and gullible mechanic. Roxie finds herself in a very stagnant love life with her husband and decides to have an affair with Fred Casely, played by Stephen Pugh, their furniture salesman. After a night of liquor, jazz, and fornication, Roxie realizes that Casely was only after one thing and shoots him dead. Elise portrays Roxie with

completeness. Her dedication as an actor is apparent as she has even gone so far as to dye her hair platinum blonde for the role. ‘Chicago’ is Elise’s first appearance in Theatre Downtown but she has been performing original music since 2008 at venues like The House of Blues, Club Firestone, and the Langerado Music festival. “There is a lot of good talent in there, a lot of good singers,” said Brad Powers, a member of the audience. Elise is playful and entertaining, complemented by the appearance of Joel Warren, whose personality jumps off the stage and might as well share your seat with you. Warren is a graduate of CalArts with a BFA in acting. The real joy of this production is Danielle Lang. Lang embodies the character Velma Kelly in a manner that is so real, it is undeniable. This actress captures the essence of



c/o Rick Trux
Chicago cast: Michelle Elise, Joel Warren , and Danielle Lang as “Roxie, Billy and Velma.”

the dangerous ‘20s with perfection. Lang has a voice that carries through the entire theatre. Along with beautiful vocals, Lang executes the intricate choreography effortlessly. “It was very entertaining,” said Candance Kasinsky, a lover of ‘Chicago.’ “I thought everyone did a great job, it was great all around.” As if the actors were not enough assets, Theatre Downtown takes ‘Chicago’ to the next level by adding a live jazz ensemble, directed by Spencer Crosswell. The musicians in the ensemble play with authority, precision and energy. Theatre Downtown has done an amazing job at executing such an entertaining musical. For more information on Theatre Downtown visit <http://www.theatredowntown.net>.

Alternative funk masters take control

Cake returns with "Showroom of Compassion"

By Christine Saraceno
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In a world full of carbon-copy pop stars singing generic songs about "pop-pin' bottles," alternative funk masters Cake haven't lost their edge or their individuality. After a seven year hiatus, their highly anticipated and entirely self-produced new album "Showroom of Compassion" was finally released on Jan. 10, and it definitely delivers.

Chock full of fun and upbeat tunes, it will make listeners want to get up and dance, or at the very least, bob their heads a bit. "Showroom of Compassion" showcases a perfect blend of vocals, infectious choruses, and Vince DiFiore's always catchy trumpeting.

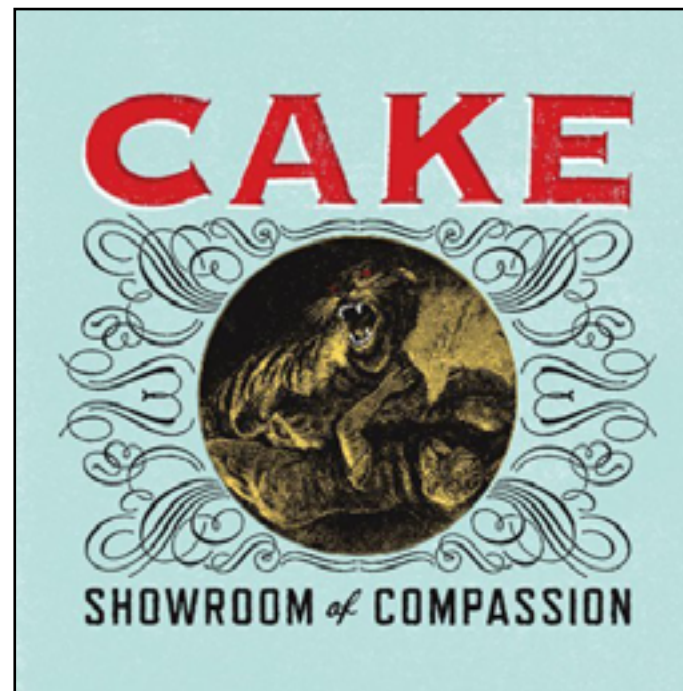
The lead single of the album, "Sick of You," is already the band's highest charting song since 1998's "Never There," with the song reaching number one on the Canadian alternative chart.

Putting the album together was no simple task for the Sacramento natives though. The bandmates were pushed by Columbia Records during the making of 2004's "Pressure Chief" to make their sound more appealing to mainstream radio stations and their audiences. This led to them severing ties with the label and creating Upbeat Records so they could retain full control over their music.

"Major labels work for artists like Jay-Z and Taylor Swift, where there is some celebrity to the artist. They can market that. They don't know how to market Cake," frontman John McCrea told "Rolling Stone."

With the newfound freedom of self-producing, they even decided to experiment with an entire song based on jazz piano ("Teenage Pregnancy") and even a track with a country groove feel ("Bound Away"). These are feats they never would of imagined attempting on previous albums.

In what could have been a disastrous career move, Cake overcame, and produced a fantastic and versatile album that will captivate listeners until the very last song.



British Sea Power's latest album leaves much to be desired

By Christine Saraceno
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Brighton-based indie rockers, British Sea Power (BSP), are back with their not so aptly titled new album, "Valhalla Dancehall." The BSP boys have dealt with years worth of unjustified comparisons to Arcade Fire, but they certainly won't be hearing many

of those comments this time around.

Arcade Fire and other semi-mainstream acts (Iron & Wine, Mumford and Sons) have perfected their own signature sounds and grown with each new record. Conversely, BSP has stayed loyal to the tired ethereal wails of albums past that helped them gain their first glimpses of popularity, without any real noticeable evolution in their sound or lyrical writing.

"Valhalla Dancehall" gets off to an energetic start with the heavy kick drum beat of "Who's In Control?" with the piercing shrieks of lead singer Yan Wilkinson following closely behind. It seems as if the album is headed in a positive direction with the next two tracks being just as upbeat as the first.

Then it quickly loses momentum in the middle. This is in no small part due to the seven minute snooze-fest called "Cleaning out the Rooms." Thanks to a lazy viola backdrop, it becomes one long bore that the record never quite recovers from.

Proper mixing is a vital part of the making of any album in order to attain the perfect balance of music and vocals. However, it seems like those two components were completely disregarded as the overpowering instruments drown out the faint moans of Wilkinson. It's something you would expect out of a band's first album, not fifth.

This album presents listeners with nothing new and lacks any sense of real musicianship. It may be in their best interest to study the Arcade Fire formula a little closer so maybe their next record achieves a more polished and cohesive sound.

This little planet just got a whole lot bigger

By Jonathan Terbeche
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Just a few months after the release of the original “LittleBigPlanet” fans had already used its creation tools to make some of the most unique and awe-inspiring levels ever seen in gaming. With the release of the sequel on Jan. 18, comes more tools, more game types, and the potential for even more creativity. The only question is, is it worth picking up? This time around the main character, Sackboy, must save his arts-and-crafts world from the Negativatron and the evil Sackbots, who are trying to eliminate imagination.

At its heart “LittleBigPlanet 2” (LBP 2) is a platformer, meaning, just like “Super Mario Bros.,” you play the game by running from the one side of the screen to the other to reach the goal. There is much more here than just running from left to right though. In one level you’ll be jumping off of trampo-

lines, trying to traverse the complicated, puzzle-like stage, and then the very next level will be a side-scrolling shooter, with Sackboy riding atop some funny animal or vehicle. One thing that has thankfully remained the same from the first title is the



sheer amount of collectibles. So other than amazing platforming and numerous collectibles, the other aspect to “LittleBigPlanet 2” is its plethora of creation options. While the community may have made some amazing things with what was offered them in the first game, this time around players

will be able to create entire genres of video games. Feel like a racing game; make it in LBP 2. Want to play a shooter; make it in LBP 2. In the mood for a complex, challenging puzzle game that rivals “Tetris;” well you get the picture. Unfortunately, being able to use all of these creation tools and actually playing them in the way you intend is somewhat cumbersome. It’s one thing to say you want to make a shooter game, but to actually get it the way you want will take much time and even more patience. It’s a grievance that definitely hinders the otherwise fantastic experience.

It’s hard to believe that within one game exists an adorable, kid-friendly protagonist, a tight platformer, a collect-fest, a character-creator, a level-builder, and a genre-maker. What results is a fun world filled with, and encouraging, imagination and creativity. What results is “LittleBigPlanet 2!”



‘DC Universal Online’ packs a punch

Gamers are sure to love Sony Online Entertainment’s new MMO

By Victor Ocasio
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The world of Massively Multiplayer Online games (MMO’s) has for years been dominated by the popular gaming sensation, “World of Warcraft.” But those looking for the same expansive, never-ending gameplay without the elves, orcs and veteran bad-mouthed players, will find a universe as familiar and action as packed as the Saturday morning cartoons of their youth in Sony Online Entertainment’s newest title, “DC Universe Online” (DCUO). Playable on both PC and PS3, it is the first action MMO in the history of online gaming to be offered on a home console. It features the responsive action controls and combo systems present in so many

game titles with the familiar open world mission-based online community of an MMO. Players jump right into the world of their favorite comic book characters and get to fight with (or against) such icons as Superman, Batman, or Lex Luthor. Players start off in one of two fictional cities, made famous by DC comics, depending on their chosen mentors and affiliated hero/villain: Metropolis or Gotham City. The introductory story is over the top and epic. Brainiac and his army are bent on destroying all super humans and taking the earth for his own villainous doing. Players create characters endowed with special powers taken from the future in order to bolster Earth’s defenses. As far as graphics are concerned, characters, locations

and objects are rendered well and look outstanding in the game world, and the game soars miles above the average run of the mill graphics that have come to be expected from other content heavy online games. Gameplay runs smoothly and the mix of action-oriented controls and the heads-up display work so seamlessly that it may lead many players to wonder why the hybrid gaming style has never been attempted before. Servers have been packed since the game’s release last week and have undergone few mandatory updates giving players eager to jump into the action the facilities needed to do so. Fun, expansive, user friendly and addictive, “DC Universe Online” is a home-run that gamers and comic fans are sure to enjoy.



Russell Griner / Valencia Voice

Knights Score Another Win

University of Central Florida Women's basketball defeat University of Alabama at Birmingham

By Andresa Knight
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The University of Central Florida Knights women's basketball team continued their winning streak with a 65-55 win over the University Alabama at Birmingham Blazers Thursday, Jan. 13th, at the Brighthouse Networks Stadium.

The Knights are currently 7-1 at home and have won three of the last four games.

Racking up 16 points, 10 rebounds and two steals, Senior D'Nay Daniels scored her second double-double of the season.

Attacking the basket, Daniels helped her team to it's fifth straight win. "We as a team work very hard to win every game," states Daniels.

The Knights continue to dominate the court using a strong defense. Currently, the Knights are 3-0 in the Conference USA standings.

Fourth-year head coach of the Knights, Joi Williams states, "We have a very good team and we just continue to grind out every win."

Next, the Knights will hit the road and face off against the Southern Methodist University Mustangs on Jan. 16, 2010.



Russell Griner / Valencia Voice
5'10 Jelisa Caldwell is a guard for the UCF woman's basketball team. She is in her senior year.

There's an app for that

New workout mobile software allow users to track sweat, calories and miles, making it easier to reach workout goals



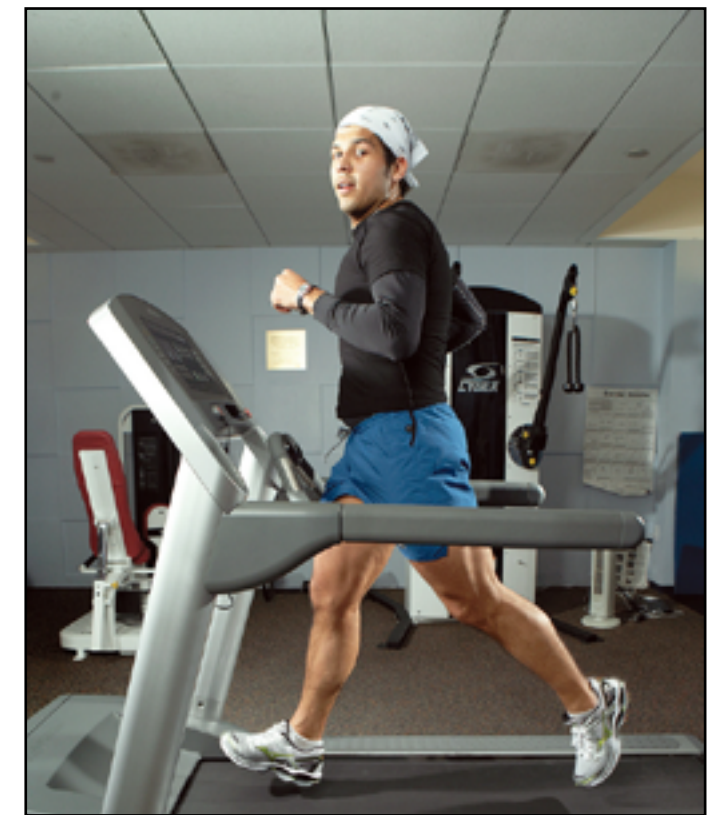
By Vicky Hallett
The Washington Post

Want to carry a personal trainer in your pocket to the gym, calculate how fast you ran the first mile of your morning jog or get gift cards in exchange for sweating? It's all easy to do with the right gizmos.

Probably the only thing growing faster than the obesity rate in this country is the number of health-care and fitness programs in the iTunes App Store. There are literally thousands to choose from, including the popular Lose It!, a free calorie counter launched in November 2008 that lets you input your exercise and anything you've eaten to help you slim down. Charles Teague, co-founder of FitNow, which makes Lose It!, thinks going mobile has been critical to users' success, "Instead of being something you track at the end of each day, you know now."

Other favorite apps are ones that rely on GPS to measure your speed and distance when you're running, walking or cycling. RunKeeper, Endomondo and Adidas miCoach each provide this sort of tracking.

If you have a specific goal, there are apps for that, too. Hundred PushUps, Two Hundred Squats and Twenty Chinups allow you to set goals and track your success towards meeting those goals. Apps like, NikeWomen Training Club, have a series of workouts designed to help you "get lean," "get toned," "get strong" or "get focused" on specific body parts.



Peterson / Washington Post
New gadgets take the guess work out of exercising. Knowing the productivity of your workout is only a button away.

lack of respect drives playoff teams towards success



By Sam Farmer
Los Angeles Times

Nobody believed in them. Only the people in their locker room thought they could get this far. They are a team of destiny, and Super Bowl XLV is just one win away.

They are the New York Jets, and the Pittsburgh Steelers, Green Bay Packers and Chicago Bears.

With all due respect, where's all the respect that's due?

All of the four NFL teams in this weekend's conference championship games have at some point claimed they have been overlooked, undervalued, ignored by all but those rare true believers.

People have been waiting for weeks for the Bears to come unglued. The Steelers were doomed from the start, and playing their fourth-string quarterback by Week 3. As for the Packers and Jets, they barely made it into the playoffs as sixth-seeded teams.

"Maybe everybody else didn't believe in us or whatever, but we believed," said Jets coach Rex Ryan,

whose team followed the example set by Green Bay and knocked out the No. 1-seeded team.

The Jets latch on to the disrespect card the way Santonio Holmes hangs on to the football with gusto. Yes, there have been slights, but, as is the case with all teams, everything that can be magnified will be.

"We're all still little football players at heart and little football players like to be motivated, like to have an edge going into a game, some sort of anger, some reason to be more focused," said CBS analyst Boomer Esiason.

Before the Packers played their divisional game at Atlanta, Green Bay defensive coordinator Dom Capers apprised his players of dismissive comments allegedly made by Falcons fullback Ovie Mughelli.

While saying he didn't know where Capers came up with the comments Mughelli supposedly made after a three-point win over the Packers in November, Green Bay's B.J. Raji said the remarks

"kind of fueled our fire a little bit."

Said Raji, in the wake of Saturday's win in the Georgia Dome: "(Mughelli) was saying after the first game how we were soft. When somebody challenges your manhood, you have to respond. It had nothing to do with football. It was just strictly being a man."

It's not uncommon for coaches and players to go in search of bulletin-board material for snubs, interpreting everything in the most negative way possible.

Last summer, for instance, Pittsburgh's Hines Ward talked about how no one believes in the Steelers, no one was willing to give them the respect they deserve. It's one of his favorite refrains.

The Steelers have overcome a lot to get this far, including going 3-1 during Ben Roethlisberger's suspension, losing offensive tackles Max Starks and Willie Colon for long stretches.

"People are doubting Hines? Good," Roethlisberger said recently. "He loves proving people wrong."

New England loses

By Reggie Hayes
The News-Sentinel

New England Patriots coach Bill Belichick benched receiver Wes Welker for the first offensive series in their loss to the New York Jets because of Welker's pregame monologue subtly mocking Jets coach Rex Ryan's alleged foot fetish.

Belichick then punished himself for lack of institutional control by letting Patrick Chung call the key play in the game.

To add insult to injury, in a video from Week 2 released by Fox Sports on Sunday, some Patriots were shown lining up along the

sideline and apparently trying to trip a Jets player on a punt, much in the manner for which Jets assistant coach Sal Alosi was fined \$100,000.

Upon hearing the Patriots might push the envelope of ethical strategy, sports fans outside of New England yawned.

As if it were a suspense novel, the rivalry between the Green Bay Packers and the Chicago Bears is fueled and the teams will meet in the playoffs for only the second time in history. The first time was in 1941. The Packers lost that day, but quarterback Brett Favre came back to have some good games after that.



Karl Mondon / MCTCampus
New England Patriots Head Coach, Bill Belichick, benched Wes Welker for mocking New York Jets coach.

Ron Jenkins / MCTCampus

