



Valencia is top pick, honored with \$600,000 grant

High hopes for future after receiving prize, first ever Aspen Award for Community College

By James Tutton
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Valencia College was acknowledged as one of the top educational institutions in the nation after winning the inaugural Aspen Award for Community College Excellence. Along with the award comes a grant of \$600,000 that Valencia can spend to expand on its future goals in education.

Valencia was given this honor because of striving to improve what really matters in a community college. Valencia's degree awards rates are one of the best nationally for a community college. Graduates get employed at a higher rate than any other Aspen finalist and the school boasts the highest number of four year college transfer students in the nation.

"If it can be done at a community college setting, they're doing at Valencia, and they're doing it very very well," said former Michigan governor John Engler. Engler and former South Carolina senator Richard Riley presented the award to Valencia's president Sandy Shugart during the Monday-morning ceremony at Washington, DC.

"We have this unique instrument at hand unlike any other institution anywhere else in the world," said Shugart,

speaking to the crowd at the ceremony after receiving the award. "Where excellence is not defined by exclusivity or expensiveness, and where opportunity is genuine."

Millions of students have shared in this unique opportunity since the founding of Valencia in Orlando, Florida in 1967. Valencia ranked number one last year for awarding the most Associate degrees in the nation's for two-year institutions. There is a current annual enrollment of over 70,000 students and an operating annual budget well over \$160 million dollars.

Global educational trends show that the U.S. has falling to twelfth place for young adults with Associate degrees, and nationally there is an increase of students dropping out of high school or feel unprepared to attend college after graduation. Despite this Valencia projects to expand on its number of graduates through its commitment to equitable outcomes and success plans for lower income and minority students.

Community colleges furthering the skills of American workers is a strong focal point for fixing the economic woes of the recent economic recession. With so many people today out of work or underemployed, continued educational



Valencia President Sandy Shugart accepting the Aspen Award for Community College Excellence.

programs like the one offered at Valencia are encouraged and supported by many in government.

"It's incumbent on us to keep to keep our country strong. We are really fighting for our country here," said secretary of education, Arne Duncan, at the award ceremony. "Keep those jobs here, and the only way we can do that is through great community colleges."

Currently around 60 percent of available jobs require advanced degrees, while

only 40 percent of adult American workers have those degrees. If Americans don't step up to fill these jobs they will migrate overseas and continue the general economic downturn in the near future.

The Aspen Institute hope to continue awarding future institutions by furthering this into a yearly prize. Founded in 1950 this organization's goals are "fostering enlightened leadership, the appreciation of timeless ideas and values, and open-minded dialogue on contemporary issues."



Political Section

GOP runs the gauntlet on the road to the White House

Candidate profiles: Who is in and out?

Opinions of Pro- Obama, Anti-Obama

Ronald Reagan compared to current Republicans

Jeff hates: GOP candidates

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Dealing with dialysis

Student reporter among millions fighting kidney disease

By Hadassah Lansiquot
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Every night I prepare for my dialysis treatment on my CCPD (continuous cycler peritoneal dialysis) machine. To perform the procedure you must have the right accessories including drain bags, mini caps, and cassettes (not the musical kind.)

There are several steps involved, which include connecting the right lines to the right bags. The final step occurs when I connect myself---through a catheter's tube---to the machine, and begin the 10-hour cleansing process.

There are an estimated 26 million Americans who have chronic kidney disease, according to the National Kidney Foundation. Many kidney patients develop ESRD (end stage renal disease) which can result in having to go on dialysis.

According to the annual United States Renal Data System, the number of people developing ESRD has increased 9.6 percent for people between the ages of 1-19, and 9.8 percent for those ages 20-44. This shows that kidney failure can happen at any age, not just to older people.

Marie Chin-Smith, a nurse at Davita Orlando Home Training, a peritoneal dialysis clinic, has worked with Davita for 18 years and has seen changes in the age of her patients over the years. She says they "used to be older patients only", but are now getting younger and younger. The youngest patient she's had was 17.

After developing kidney disease, generally, Chin-Smith said, "older patients have a harder time accepting it" and sometimes "they go into depression", while younger patients "have a will to live more" and "accept it better". She says for the young, "there's more to life" and she encourages them to pursue their goals and "change direction in life" which can range from a job change to going back to school.

The main reasons that younger people develop kidney failure and possibly end up on dialysis are drug abuse, alcoholism, and lupus, according to Chin-Smith, but hypertension and diabetes also play a huge role in more people developing the disease.

"Society is getting more stressful", she said, "and America is getting fatter."

Her biggest challenge is "having the patient comply with their treatments". She emphasizes the importance of patients faithfully doing their treatments, taking their medications, and sticking to their diets.

When I was first diagnosed with kidney failure, it was difficult for me to follow a renal diet. As with everything else, though, it's all about moderation for the things I'm not supposed to eat.

There are steps you can take to prevent kidney disease: eat nutritious meals, drink plenty of fluids, exercise, don't smoke, maintain a healthy weight, and get checked regularly for diabetes and blood pressure.

My kidney failure was diagnosed because I had swollen feet. Now after seven years going back and forth between hemodialysis and peritoneal dialysis, I feel I have better control of my kidney disease.

Hemodialysis involves going to a center three times a week, while peritoneal dialysis is done in your home at your convenience, typically while you sleep.

Davita has 1,777 clinics nationwide with 138,000 patients. It is one of the largest companies offering dialysis services in the world, second only to Fresenius. In the future, Chin-Smith hopes for Davita "to be the biggest, best dialysis unit in the world".

Davita lists several ways to help on its website. For more information log on to www.kidney.org/ and www.davita.com.



Jeffrey Cooke, 45, gets dialysis treatment at Davita in Philadelphia. Cooke is the third generation in his family to have renal failure.

African Americans more likely to have kidney disease, new study says

By Vabren L. Watts
The Philadelphia Inquirer

African Americans are four times as likely to have kidney disease as Caucasians, and a recent study from Harvard University may explain why.

Nephrologist Martin Pollak and his team found that a common genetic mutation of the APOL1 gene might be partly responsible for African Americans' susceptibility.

The mutation likely arose due to natural selection because it protects against African sleeping sickness, Pollak wrote. It also makes African Americans more vulnerable to kid-

ney disease, according to the study released last month in the online issue of Science Magazine.

"This is clearly a landmark paper," says nephrologist Lawrence Holzman, chief of the Renal-Electrolyte and Hypertension division at the University of Pennsylvania. He estimates that African Americans make up 70 percent of his patients. "It's amazing how natural selection plays such an important role in a common disorder," Holzman said. "This will start a gigantic avalanche for kidney research."

Penn evolutionary geneticist Sarah Tishkoff also praised the work,

calling this one of the most important examples of genetic variation since the discovery of the sickle cell trait, which protected against malaria.

The Harvard researchers used DNA samples from the 1000 Genomes Project's database of individuals of African, European, and Asian descents. They discovered that 30 percent of African American chromosomes contained a mutated APOL1 gene, and observed that individuals with kidney failure were three times as likely to have both copies of the variant. Alterations in other ethnic groups were not found.

— MCT Campus



Free dental exams were provided by Dr. Ameer Zufari at the Arab American Community Center.

Focusing on Arab health

Local physicians, hospitals provide free care, mammograms, screenings at community center

By Neda Hamdan
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There are currently 50 million Americans without health insurance. The Arab American Community Center, a non-profit organization, hosted the Health, Immigrant, and Kids Fair at the Central Florida Fairgrounds. The event consisted of various health tests, immigration advice, along with food, games and rides for kids.

"The core value of the AACC is to provide opportunities for uninsured patients in our community," said President of the AACC, Neal Abid.

There were also free consultations and workshops from lawyers about issues regarding immigration. Well-known law firm, Nejame Law, is a long time partner and sponsor of the AACC.

Shazad Ahmed, along with many other lawyers were offering advice pro-bono.

Florida Hospital and Metro Pharmacy provided several health tests. Metro Pharmacy provided blood pressure and ACCU-Check which targets the blood glucose. Florida Hospital also provided free mammograms for women.

"We are committed to making sure women get mammograms, and to take care of themselves in general," said Monica Lowry, community outreach coordinator for Florida Hospital.

Zumba classes were provided by Nadoona Zumba. Arig Wageeh who also works for Heart of Florida United Way, and Dr. Rachel Newcomb a professor at Rollins, taught the class.

"Middle-eastern women are more prone to gaining weight, and diseases that are resulted from it," Wageeh said. "I wanted to come and emphasize how important incorporating exercise into your daily life."

There were festival rides for children to keep them entertained, along with food from restaurants such as Elegante and Anatolia.

"I think it's imperative to be connected with the community, but also provide services as well," public relations and media director of the AACC, Rasha Mubarak said.



Classes were hosted by Nadoona Zumba, with local doctors Arig Wageeh and Rachel Newcomb.

'Tis the season to give

Local charities need time, money, you

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Coalition for the Homeless
(407) 426-1250

<http://centralfloridahomeless.org>

The Coalition for the Homeless are having a Match Gift Campaign. They received \$30,000 from the First Baptist Church of Orlando and are asking the community to match that amount with donations. This season they are collecting donations to match the funds to purchase gifts for needy children.

Orlando Union Rescue Mission
(407) 422-4855

www.ourm.org/

The Orlando Union rescue mission will be providing a home-like atmosphere for homeless families during this holiday season. They provide private and semi-private rooms and bathrooms for families that have no where to go.

Salvation Army
(407) 423-8581

www.uss.salvationarmy.org/uss/www_uss_orlando.nsf

Just as with every year before, the Salvation Army will be out in the public with their red buckets and bells collecting money for the homeless this holiday season. Ring for Change buckets can be found outside most local businesses.

Second Harvest Food Bank
(407) 295-1066

Mindy Ortiz- volunteer services manager (407) 295-8844

www.foodbankcentralflorida.org/

This season the Second Harvest Food Bank are asking for donations to the Holiday Gift Alternative Program. For a gift of \$5 (or more) per card, SHFB will share your holiday greetings with friends and family, letting them know of your generous donation. With each card purchased, 20 meals will be provided to needy families in the area.

Shoebbox for Haiti (through Dec. 15)
www.shoebboxdrive.com/

Due to the devastating earthquake that occurred in Haiti many children will be without basic necessities, as well as gifts for Christmas this holiday season. Shoebbox for Haiti will be collecting items such as school supplies, hygiene items, and clothing, along with small toys and Christmas cards to be gathered into individual shoe-boxes and distributed out to the children. Packing parties are being arranged now to have the shoe-boxes put together and sent out in time for Christmas day.

Toys for Tots (through Dec. 19)
(407) 240-5939 ext: 1708

www.toysfortots.org/

Since 1947 the USMC has been gathering toys for underprivileged children and distributing out in the areas in which they are collected. This year is no different. Collection bins have been distributed throughout the area, collecting toys for the kids since November. Marines will be playing Santa as they deliver the toys to needy families.

Looking back: 2011

Notable news events of the past year

By James Tutten / jtutten@valenciavoice.com



Arab Spring. Seen as the largest political uprising in the modern Middle East, the “Arab Spring” officially started when a young man in Tunisia set himself on fire to protest government actions. This uprising spread to several countries around the Middle East including Syria, Bahrain, Jordan, Yemen, Libya, Egypt, and more. Use of Twitter and Facebook to plan and communicate led these protests to be classified by many as a social media movement.



Arizona shooting.

U.S. Rep. Gabrielle Giffords from Arizona was shot in the head during a public meeting on Jan. 8. Nineteen people were shot and six died from the actions of shooting suspect Jared Loughner. Giffords has since made a remarkable recovery including a return to Congress for an important debt ceiling vote on Aug. 1.

Japanese earthquake and Fukushima nuclear disaster.

A deadly Tsunami destroyed much of the north-east Japanese coast after a 9.0 magnitude earthquake. The Fukushima nuclear power plant suffered a great deal of damage and started going through a devastating meltdown. The crises were eventually averted and controlled. Estimates of the damages range in the tens of billions.



Bin Laden killed.

Osama bin Laden was killed by member of the Navy's SEAL Team Six. He was hiding out at a fortified mansion in Abbottabad, Pakistan after being targeted by America for his role in the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001 and further attacks around the world. Bin Laden's body was dumped at sea to avoid his followers enshrining him.

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2011: Year in review

Continued from Page 4



Final shuttle launch. NASA launched its final shuttle after 30 years of shooting for the stars and raising the bar in science and exploration. New rocket design and a focus on private industry is the new direction for the government program. Jobs have been cut on the space coast with concerns about the future stability of the space program at the Kennedy Space Center in Merritt Island, Fla.



Occupy Wall Street.

National protests over social and economic inequality started in Zuccotti Park, in the financial district of New York City. Protesters are also upset about the financial gains by big business, in the midst of a severe economic recession.

Casey Anthony Trial.

The nation was shocked by the not-guilty verdict for Casey Anthony after a whirlwind trial in Orlando, Florida. Anthony was charged with first-degree murder of her 2 year-old daughter, Caylee. Members of the jury have said since they second-guessed the verdict and feel Anthony is responsible.



Gadhafi killed. Moammar Gadhafi was shot and killed in Libya after being forced out of office by rebels, ending the former dictator's reign. He had connections to several terrorist attacks, and was also wanted for crimes against humanity for ordering the killings of thousands of Libyans.

Seasoned newsman shares stories

Patrick May of San Jose Mercury news visits journalism students

By Fred Lambert
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Patrick May has seen a lot. Before he became a staff writer for the San Jose Mercury News in Silicon Valley south of San Francisco, he was a train-hopping, hitchhiking college drop-out.

Drifting through Boston, Alaska and Oregon, and eventually all over the world, working odd jobs like guitar-playing and cab-driving, May would ultimately find himself covering gritty crime beats and international news.

"Basically I get paid to write, which I love," he said.

It started when the Oakland native headed to Europe with \$8,000 of saved taxi fares from working in Seattle.

"The one thing I really wanted to do was see the world," May said. "I didn't want to go back to another university, but I wanted to have my university in my mind."

After meeting an Iranian on the plane over and agreeing to help deliver a new car to Amsterdam, May commenced a seven-year cyclone of travelling through Europe, Turkey, North Africa and pre-revolution Iran. He eventually met an Australian journalist at a youth hostel in Greece.

"He was on assignment, and he was being paid to write and travel," May said. "I always liked writing stuff – journals, letters back home – and I loved travel, so I asked, 'How do I become a journalist?'"

Following the Aussie's advice, May finished his "around-the-world" trip, returning to obtain a degree at San Francisco State University.

"By then I was 30, so it was harder to get a job. There was a lot of competition," May recalled. "I applied to about 250 newspapers all over the United States. I got one response."

This started May's time as a police reporter in Jacksonville, Fla. His work at the Florida Times Union is something May describes as a "crazy adventure, covering plane crashes, homicides, and a lot of mayhem and death."

Next was the Miami Herald, a 15-year job that had May cover-

ing stories like Hurricane Andrew, the Gulf War, and the "cocaine cowboy days" of violent Cuban immigrant crime.

May was hooked. He returned closer to home in San Jose, but is still plugged into major events and oddities throughout the American news scene.

Covering 9/11, he claimed that the smell of death hung in New York for weeks. While 9/11 was bad, his worst experience was reporting on famine-ravaged Kurds in Northern Iraq after the Gulf War.

"It was like a scene in a weird movie," he said. "All these fathers were bringing their dead kids – who'd died the night before – to put them in this big grave. I was just surrounded by death, and I'd never been in a situation like that before."

His favorite was a human interest story about a recently deceased homeless man in Miami, which May spent five weeks putting together. "I pieced together his whole life, and the top editor read it and killed it. He said it glorified alcoholism."

May also writes business news. He compares covering Apple to dealing with CIA secrecy. "They don't tell you anything," he said. "They are masters at manipulating the media and masters at getting people all hyped up for the next product launch."

After covering crime, war and I-Phones, May, 60 years old, is still in the business. Now he deals with a changing industry.

"About ten years ago the newspaper industry started to really get into trouble and shrink," he said, explaining how Craigslist's free advertising killed the traditional classified ad revenue of local papers.

"We started having layoffs. We're getting really lean; everybody's working a lot harder," he said. "You're now expected to write at least a story a day, sometimes more, as opposed to the old days when you could spend a week working on one story. Those days are gone. Everything is going online."

In any case, May's portfolio speaks on its own. He's never shrunk from the tough news. On seeing violence and death, he claims that there's a sense of getting used to it.

"I know it sounds kind of macabre," he said, "but those make the best stories."

"It was like a scene in a weird movie. All these fathers were bringing their dead kids to put them in this big grave. I was just surrounded by death."

— Patrick May

Valencia, Rick Scott bring business to state

Gun manufacturers move to Kissimmee

Gov. Rick Scott and officials from Osceola County announced this week that Colt's Manufacturing Co. LLC will build a new regional headquarters and production facility in Kissimmee.

Valencia College was instrumental in helping Osceola County officials put together the deal. Osceola County will spend about \$550,000 to renovate the old Council on Aging building that will house the new Colt plant, while Valencia offered \$100,000 for worker training. In addition, the Governor's Quick Action Closing Fund contributed \$250,000 in incentives.

The new facility will create 63 jobs in Osceola County, most in engineering and manufacturing. The jobs will pay an average salary of \$45,060.

At the announcement, Gov. Rick Scott and Colt's Manufacturing Company president and chief executive officer, M. William Keys, were joined by the Osceola County Board of County Commissioners and a team of Valencia representatives, including President Sanford Shugart, Gaby Hawat, the college's senior executive for strategic initiatives and economic development, Osceola Campus President Kathleen Plinske and Joe Battista, chief operating officer of Valencia Enterprises.

"Colt's expansion to Osceola County is a perfect fit for the region," said Shugart, who said Valencia College will design a specialized training program for the company. "Valencia College stands ready to deliver the best

trained, best educated workforce possible. We welcome Colt's Manufacturing Company to Osceola County and commit to partnering with them and serving their employees and families for many years to come."

Colt is making a \$2.5 million capital investment in the vacant building, which the company will lease. Gov. Scott and his economic development team at Enterprise Florida Inc. and the Osceola County Economic Development Department worked with Colt to bring the project to fruition.

"Colt looked at many possible sites across the nation, but we ultimately decided to locate our new facility in the state of Florida," said Keys, Colt's president. "Florida offered a strong pro-business incentive package. Coupled with the low cost of doing business in Florida and a favorable regulatory environment, opening this new facility was very attractive to us."

"Governor Scott's personal commitment to both Colt's growth plan and America's right to bear arms was instrumental in our decision."

"Attracting an American icon like Colt, which is one of the world's top brands, is a real coup for our economic development efforts," said John Quiñones, chairman of the Osceola County Commission.

"Beyond creating new, high-wage jobs, Colt is going to be a great asset to our community."

— Valencia News

Official 2012 Presidential Candidates



Stewart Alexander

Socialist Party USA

Political Activist

'Uniting Progressives'

www.stewartalexandercares.com



Michelle Bachmann

Republican/ Tea Party

U.S. Representative from
Minnesota

'Restoring Constitutional
Conservative Values'

www.michelebachmann.com



Roger Gary

Libertarian Party

Former Chair of the
Libertarian Party of Texas

'Rock Solid Experience,
Dedication, Leadership'

www.rvgary2012.com



Newt Gingrich

Republican Party

Former Speaker of
the House

'Newt2012'

www.newt.org



RJ Harris

Libertarian Party

Philosopher/ Law Student

'Wake Up America'

www.rjharris2012.com



Jon Huntsman

Republican Party

Former Governor of Utah
and Ambassador to China

'Be Part of The Solution'

www.jon2012.com



Gary Johnson

Republican Party

Former Governor of
New Mexico

'The People's President for
2012'

www.garyjohnson2012.com



Fred Karger

Republican Party

Political Consultant and
Gay Rights Activist

'Fred Who?'

www.fredkarger.com



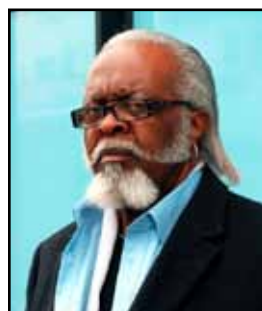
Andy Martin

Republican Party

Self-professed People's
Attorney General

'The Right Republican for
President of the United States'

www.andymartinforpresident.com



Jimmy McMillan

Republican Party

Former mayoral, gubernatorial
and senatorial candidate

'Rent is too damn high'

www.mcmillan2012.com



Tom Miller

Republican Party

Career Flight Attendant

'Miller for President'

www.MillerforPresident.com



Barack Obama

Democratic Party

President of the United
States

'Obama for America'

www.barackobama.com

Official 2012 Presidential Candidates



Ron Paul

Republican Party

U.S. Representative from
Texas

'Restore America Now'

www.ronpaul2012.com



Rick Perry

Republican Party

Current Governor of Texas

'Get America Working
Again'

www.rickperry.org



Carl Person

Libertarian Party

New York Attorney

'Carl Person for President'

www.carlperson.org



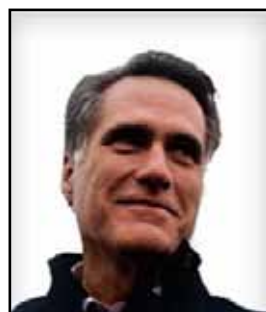
Buddy Roemer

Republican Party

Former Governor of
Louisiana

'America Needs Buddy for
President 2012'

www.buddyroemer.com



Mitt Romney

Republican Party

Former Governor of
Massachusetts

'Believe in America'

www.mittromney.com



Rick Santorum

Republican Party

Former U.S. Senator
from Pennsylvania

'The Courage To Fight For
America'

www.ricksantorum.com



Matt Snyder

Republican Party

Supporter of People,
not Parties

'Constitution First'

www.mattsnyderforpresident.com



Randall Terry

Democratic Party

Pro - life Activist

'Life, Liberty and Justice
Under God'

www.terryforpresident.com



Dan Woodring

Independent

Vietnam Veteran

'A Breath of Fresh Air'

www.woodring2012.com



R. Lee Wrights

Libertarian Party

Libertarian Activist

'Stop All War'

www.wrights2012.com



Vern Wuensche

Republican Party

Businessman

'Vote for Vern'

www.voteforvern.com

Officially Withdrawn



Hermain Cain

12/3/2011



Thad McCotter

9/22/2011



Tim Pawlenty

8/13/2011

Former Massachusetts governor portrayed as capable leader

Mitt Romney labeled as a 'flip-flopper' by competing Republicans

By Kenny Figueroa and Daniel Londono
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Mitt Romney, former governor of Massachusetts and son of former Michigan governor George W. Romney, is attempting to secure the Republican for the second time in the 2012 presidential election. He has been labeled

a "flip-flopper" by competing Republican and Democratic candidates for his ambiguous views on health-care, abortion, and gun control.

Currently a front runner in the race, he is socially conservative but viewed as a more left-leaning candidate among than his Republican opponents.

Raised in Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Romney served as a Mormon

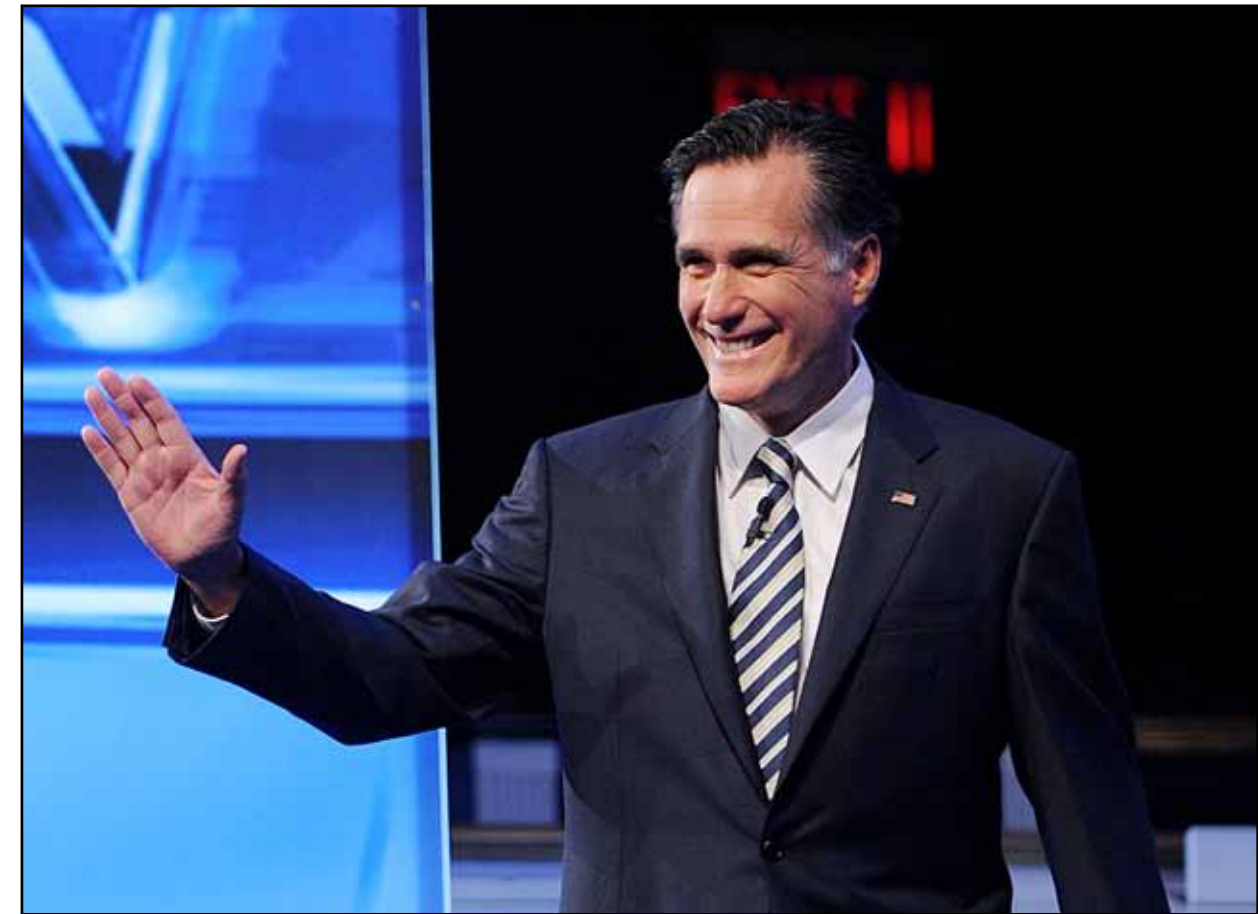
missionary in France in his early years. He attended a year at Stanford while the campus was being radicalized in the midst of the 1960s social and political movements, and attended sit-in counter-protests for the draft there. He earned his Bachelor's Degree from Brigham Young University and earned his Master in Business Administration and Jurist Doctor Degree from Harvard University.

He entered the management consulting business and became CEO of Bain & Company, a global management consulting firm. He is credited with bringing the firm out of crisis.

His business and political background have made him a viable candidate for the GOP. Romney helped turn around the Winter Olympics in 2002, turning it into a financial success during a turbulent post-9/11 period.

Romney opposes the use of medical marijuana, is a staunch pro-life advocate and has opposed gay marriage. He is supportive of Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy which requires service men and women to hide their homosexual identity.

Wishing to maintain a powerful military in the face of Islamic extremists, he originally supported the invasion of Iraq along with the 2007 troop surge. He has been critical of the complete withdrawal announced by President Barack Obama calling it an 'astonishing failure.' Romney wants to support U.S. countries. With the revolutions occurring in the Arab spring, Mitt Romney wants to insure



Mitt Romney attends the Republican presidential debate at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.



Mitt Romney speaks during a town hall meeting to discuss jobs and the economy on Dec. 9.

radical Islamists do not assume power with this transition. Romney has been under fire for his Mormon faith started by Rick Perry-supporter and Baptist pastor, Robert Jeffress, who referred to Mormonism as 'a cult'. This controversy has gained significant overage in press media and distanced Romney from other candidates who belonged to more popular Christian faiths.

Being labeled as a "flip-flopper", he has been conveyed as someone who switches his views for political influence. This has been pointed out in his pro-choice stance when running for Ted Kennedy's senate seat. He also previously worked with democratic con-

gressmen as governor in supporting a government-mandated health-care measure, which was similar to Barack Obama's health-care plan.

He has criticized opponent Rick Perry on immigration reform for giving illegal immigrants in-state tuition rates. Romney himself has been criticized for state-funded medical aid available to illegal immigrants through the Health Safety Net program in Massachusetts.

With the country in economic crisis, Romney portrays himself as capable to lead the United States with his entrepreneurial experience as a successful business executive and as a moderate politician.

Ron Paul returns for round 3 of presidential race

Texas congressman hopes to ride Tea Party wave to White House

By Maria Gutierrez
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Congressman Ron Paul is a Republican candidate running for president with a plan to "Restore America."

Paul graduated from Gettysburg College and the Duke University School of Medicine, before serving as a flight surgeon in the U.S. Air Force during the 1960s. He moved to Texas in 1968 and began his medical practice in Brazoria County as a specialist in obstetrics/gynecology.

Paul served in Congress during the late 1970s until 1984 when he returned to his medical practice. He returned to Congress in 1997 to represent the Fourteenth Congressional district of Texas.

He currently serves on the House Financial Services Committee, the Foreign Affairs Committee and the Finan-

cial Services Committee where he is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Domestic Monetary Policy and Technology. Paul is an advocate for limited constitutional government, low taxes, free markets, and a return to the gold standard for currency.

Paul says he will cut \$1 trillion in spending during his first term as president. He plans on eliminating five cabinet departments; Energy, HUD, Commerce, Interior, and Education. He also plans on abolishing the Transportation Security Administration, abolishing corporate subsidies, stopping foreign aid, ending foreign wars, and returning most other spending to 2006 levels.

His plans include blocking grants, Medicaid and making a 10 percent reduction in the federal workforce which he refers to as "government waste." He also plans to lower the corporate tax rate to 15 percent, extend all of George Bush tax cuts, abolish the Death Tax, and end taxes on personal savings. Also, as Commander-in-Chief he plans on avoiding wars and abolishing the Patriot Act.

As an OB/GYN, Ron Paul is against abortion. "I have a Bill in congress I certainly would promote and push as president, called the Sanctity of Life Amendment," Paul has said. "We establish the principle that life begins at conception. And someone says, 'Oh why are you saying that?' and I say, 'well, that's not a political statement -- that's a scientific statement that I'm making.'"

Paul intends to repeal Obama's health

care plan, instead allowing the purchase of health insurance across state lines, as well as providing tax credits and deductions for all medical expenses.

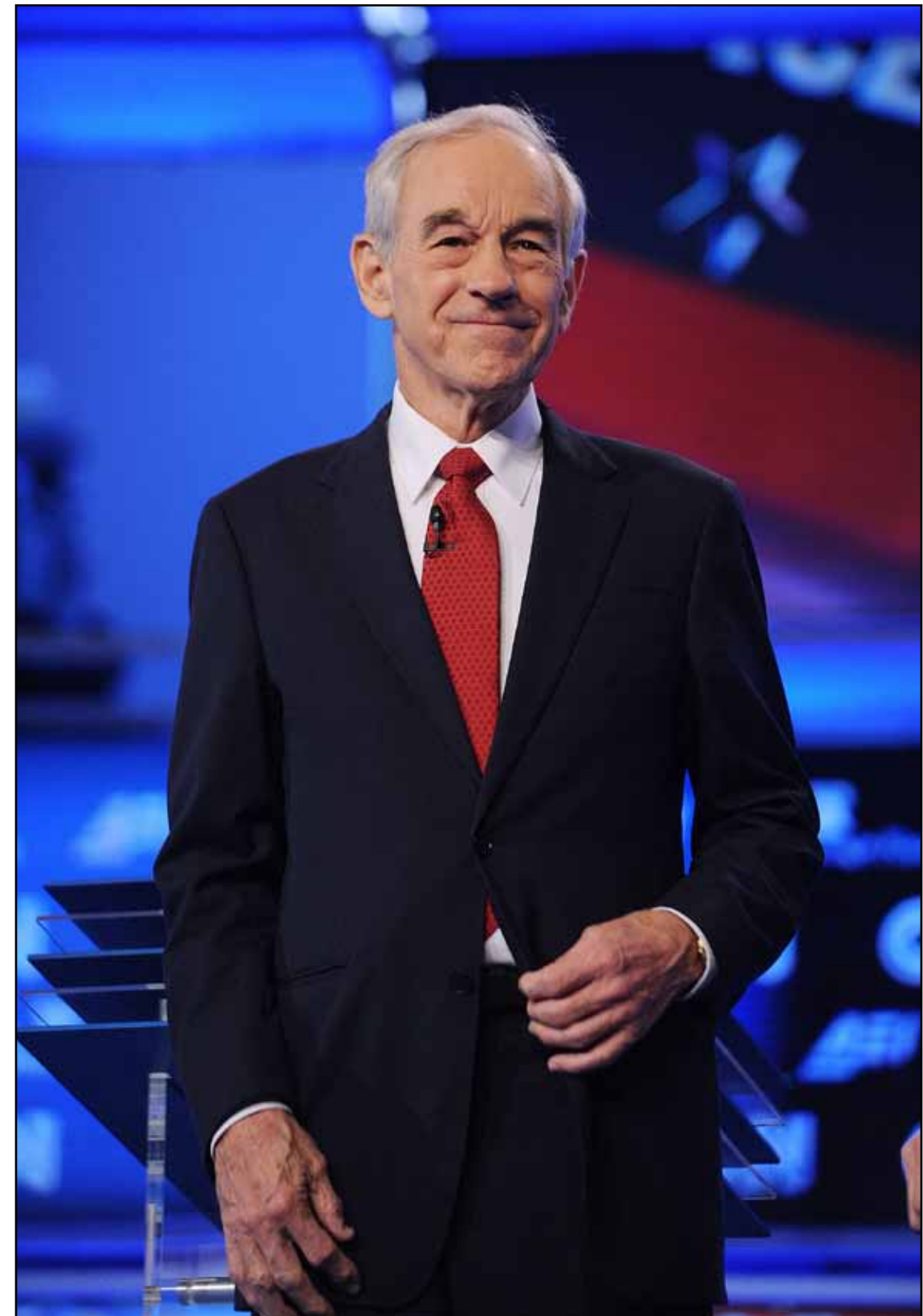
He wants to exempt those with terminal illnesses from the employee portion of payroll taxes while they are suffering from such illnesses or are incurring significant medical costs associated with their conditions and give a payroll deduction to any worker who is the primary caregiver for a spouse, parent, or child with a terminal illness.

Paul's plan will make all Americans eligible for Health Savings Accounts (HSAs) and remove government-imposed barriers to obtaining HSAs. Last but not least, he plans on prohibiting the use of taxpayer funds for a national database of personal health information.

His stances on energy are sweeping. He supports the removal of restrictions on drilling, and the repeal of federal tax on gasoline. Paul plans to lift government roadblocks to the use of coal and nuclear power, and make tax credits available for the purchase and production of alternative fuel technologies.

Paul not only believes that no amnesty and no birthright citizenship should be given to illegal immigrants, but also wants to enforce border security along with abolishing the welfare state.

Lastly, when elected to become president he plans on cutting government waste by receiving a salary of \$39,336, approximately equal to the median personal income of the American worker.



Ron Paul has run for president twice before, once in 1988 as a Libertarian and again in 2008 as a Republican. Paul received just over 1,000 write-in votes in 2008.



Ron Paul supporters at the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando, Florida.

Perry's support on downward spiral

Former governor of Texas criticized for poor performances during debates

By Victoria Hoa
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Who would have thought another Texas governor would come out of his saddle and run for office?

Texas governor Rick Perry threw his hat into the ring for the Republican presidential nomination on Aug. 13 of this year. In a crowded campaign with eight other Republican candidates, Perry is set apart by his position as chairman of the Republican Governors Association.

Perry has been criticized for his public image, poor performance in debates, and his position on immigration. People have also questioned the relevancy of his Bachelors degree in Animal Science from Texas A&M University. Many people are unaware that Perry served in the United States Air Force and earned the rank of captain.

Perry has a plan that focuses in on domestic energy production. It entails that Americans make and purchase within the country, which he hopes will help the economy financially. In addition to his plan for jobs, Perry has a proposal to fix the tax code by offering citizens the option of a flat tax.

This plan is the "Cut, Balance, and Grow" concept that will offer citizens the option of a 20 percent flat tax on their income. Perry hopes to achieve this by "giving a \$12,500 deduction for every member of a household while preserving exemptions for state and local taxes, mortgage interest and charitable contributions for anyone making less than \$500,000." Perry insists that, all income levels will see tax cuts.

Perry hopes to put major funds towards U.S. border protection. Many candidates like Mitt Romney and Herman

Cain believe that fences should be installed to separate the country from Mexico. Perry does not see that as a solution. He believes that there should be a "boots on the ground," meaning soldiers at the border who can respond immediately.

Perry's position on immigration has been the talk of the nation. He opposes legislation that grants illegal immigrants with driver's licenses, yet he is for the Dream Act, which gives undocumented children of illegal immigrants the ability to pay in-state tuition. He views it is important to help these children because their parents pay into U.S. tax. Allowing undocumented children to pay in-state tuition and opening a free flow will generate money to go towards the U.S. tax. Ultimately, these plans aim to decrease the country's debt.

Not many republicans are in favor of Perry's immigration policy. Some fear that his unstable immigration stand is to attract the Latino community and this may cost him votes from his own party.

According to the USA Today/Gallup survey on Nov. 7, Perry has attracted 11 percent of support from the Republicans and the GOP leaning independents, down from 31 percent in September. Perry's support has been decreasing in the last couple of months.

Perry is preparing himself to deliver stronger debate performances. He is choosing to engage in study sessions rather than mock debates. The fact that many electorates have not decided on a specific candidate to vote for makes Perry's path to presidency bright.



Perry saluting the flag at the Republican presidential debate at DAR Constitution Hall in Washington, D.C.



Rick Perry peaked in the GOP polls in Aug. and has slowly lost ground throughout the last months.



Rick Perry, center, participates in Veterans Day events in Columbia, South Carolina, Nov. 11.

Huntsman stays dead last in polls

Presidential candidate experienced in government, private sector

By Shaileana Rodriguez
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Jon Huntsman is a Republican candidate for president with a strong conservative background and extensive experience in both government and the private sector.

Huntsman was White House staff assistant for Reagan, US trade representative under Bush, US ambassador to China, and former governor of Utah.

Huntsman, who dropped out of his senior year of high school to play keyboards in a band called "Wizard," later entered the University of Utah as a non-matriculated student. He went on

a two-year Mormon mission in Taiwan where he learned Mandarin Chinese and now speaks it fluently.

Huntsman has faced a stiff competition throughout his campaign with opposing viewpoints on a lot of issues.

Huntsman's plan for the economy includes cutting marginal taxes for small businesses, cutting EPA regulations, ending capital gains taxes, and cutting corporate tax rates from 35 to 25 percent.

Huntsman also supports a plan created by the Fiscal Commission known as the Zero Plan. It introduces a revenue-neutral plan that eliminates all deductions and credits and has only three, lower tax rates of eight percent,

14 percent, and 23 percent.

Huntsman's views on social issues are varying. He supports the Right to Life Amendment which would overturn Roe vs. Wade. He supports civil unions but not gay marriages. He says that the No Child Left Behind education program failed.

Huntsman breaks from the pack on immigration issues. He supports amnesty for illegal aliens and opposes efforts to remove benefits. Huntsman signed a bill in 2005 that granted driving privileges to illegal aliens. Instead of getting a driver's license, an illegal alien could apply for a driving-privilege card, which the state stamps "not valid for identification" across the top.

He is also a supporter of taxpayer subsidized in-state tuition for illegal aliens.

Huntsman wants to repeal the Obama health care plan and end the \$300 billion tax credit for business health insurance which allows small businesses to be able to afford health insurance. He believes states should make decisions on health care, and that no denial of coverage should happen for any minor illness.

On the issue of foreign policy, where Huntsman's degree and background gives him an advantage, he wants more international trade and a better relationship with India and China.

"To be good abroad, we must be great at home," he has said. He thinks that we should stop neglecting Latin America, manage our resources, and choose carefully when to exercise our power.

He believes that we should maintain



Jon Huntsman waves to the audience as he arrives for a Republican presidential debate.

our traditional alliances. When asked about the Middle East, on his campaign web page Huntsman states that "U.S. policy toward these nations should support the democratic aspirations of the Arab Spring while maintaining continued Middle East stability."

As with any country the main goal is to maintain peace and stability throughout the world. Huntsman wants to create a more modern defense where the military would be more prepared for future wars and adapt to the stricter more modern tactics.



Huntsman addressed the Conservative Political Action Conference in Orlando, Florida, Sept. 23.

Old dog becomes top dog in GOP fight

Gingrich uses intellect, experience to surge in polls as new frontrunner

By Anna Yeaman
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As Newt Gingrich works towards the Republican nomination for the 2012 election, he promises to have a "Contract with America."

Newt comes from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and has an extensive education, including a Bachelors degree from Emory University and a Masters and Doctorate in Modern European History from Tulane University. He taught History and Environmental Studies for eight years at West Georgia College.

He, like most of the other candidates, has previous experience in politics, including being elected to Congress in 1978 and representing Georgia in Congress for 20 years, four years as Speaker of the House.

This "Contract with America" comes from the book he co-wrote in 1994 "Winning The Future: A 21st Century Contract With America."

His Contract with America has four parts to it: A set of legislative proposals to shift America back to job creation, prosperity, freedom and safety; a "First Day" project of executive orders to be signed on inauguration day to immediately transform the way the executive branch works; a training program for the transition teams and the appointees who will lead the shift back to Constitutional, limited government; and a system of citizen involvement to help us sustain grassroots support for change and help implement the change through 2021.

As for the Legislative proposals, these include repealing Obama's Universal health care plan, saving Medicare and Social Security, balancing the federal budget, control of the border by Jan. 1, 2014, job creation by tax cuts, maximize the speed and impact of medical breakthroughs, restoring the role of the judicial branch, and enforcing the Tenth Amendment.

Will this "Contract with America" be enough to get



Newt Gingrich revived his 'Contract with America' for his bid for the GOP nomination. He is up 12 points in the latest poll numbers.

him the Republican nomination? He has said himself "I'm not a natural leader. I'm too intellectual; I'm too abstract; I think too much."

Gingrich has surged in the polls since Cain's self-removal from the race. The latest numbers from the Iowa Republican Caucuses have Gingrich at 30.8 percent, with Mitt Romney being his closest competitor at 18.2 percent. The Gallup poll has Gingrich at 32.8 percent and Romney at 20.8 percent.



L-R: Prof. Adrienne Matthews, Angel Flores, Jihye Shin, Daniel Londono, Maria Gutierrez, David Arrona, Fredric Remy, Anna Yeaman, Bethany Schuster, Rob Iverson, Victoria Hoa, Ozzie Sinkler, James Radcliffe, Hillel Dalmad, Shailina Rodriguez, Kenny Figueroa

Thank you to Prof. Matthew's Government and Media class for contributing to this special political section.



Teams





Changes affect voting

Stricter requirements could lower turnout

By Fredric Remy
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The 2008 election had voters from all classes and races going to the polls in record-breaking numbers. The process seemed to be voter friendly, but things will all have changed by 2012, making the term "Be Prepared" the theme of this election for young people, minorities, and low-income households.

According to the many sources, including the "Brennan Center for Justice," these law changes can affect around 5 million people.

Voter ID law change

Over 34 states have passed a legislation requiring voters to provide a valid government issued ID. This may effect over 11 percent of American citizens who do not have these types of identification (over 21 million Americans.)

Proof of citizenship

Voters in Alabama, Kansas, and Tennessee now have to prove citizenship with documents such as birth certificates.

Shortening early voting and absentee dates

Florida, Georgia, Ohio, Tennessee, and West Virginia have shortened dates and actually eliminated early voting. If you live in any of these states, it is advised to check new changes.

Restoring voting rights

This new legislative change will affect two states; Iowa and Florida, making it harder for citizens with felonies on their record to vote.

Many of the major changes will affect citizens in the state of Florida. For young people such as college students and minorities it is important to "Be Prepared" if you want your vote to count.

New, 'fair' districts far from perfect

Maps may oust incumbents, create controversial minority districts

By Mary Ellen Klas
The Miami Herald

If a goal of the proponents of the Fair Districts amendments was to make legislative seats more competitive and diverse, the House redistricting maps released this week may inch closer to that ideal.

The House staff created five different maps for redistricting the House.

In each of the maps, based on voter registration figures, 49 districts are solidly Republican, 33 are solidly Democratic and at least 21 districts could be considered swing districts. But voter registration doesn't always determine who gets elected and, based on results of the 2008 and 2010 elections, there may be only 15 reliably swing seats, according to a Herald/Times analysis. Nevertheless, that's a big shift from the current House, where 81 Republicans hold a super-majority over 39 Democrats.

Rep. Chris Dorworth, R-Lake Mary, chairman of the House Subcommittee on House Reapportionment, dismissed the calculations as part of lawmakers' "duty" to follow the new law.

The Fair District amendments approved by voters in 2010 prohibit the lawmakers from protecting incumbents or parties and require them to draw compact districts when possible. In an attempt to adhere to the new standards, the five maps create more pleasing boundaries than Florida has seen in its legislative maps of the past and create 34 seats with no incumbent.

"You take an oath to preserve protect and preserve the Constitution of the state and we've done that," Dorworth said.

"That means that many of us are not going to live in the seats we had before and just because you feel like you should it doesn't mean that you can."

But the House's well-intentioned design has also created some serious heartburn for incumbent legislators of both parties. According to a Herald/Times analysis, at least 24 incumbents are pitted against each other in the maps, including a three-way race in Miami that has three black lawmakers, all freshmen Democrats, in a potential face-off.

"This is like a baseball game and we're in the middle of the second inning," said Rep. Mack Bernard, a West Palm Beach Democrat. "We're a long way from the ninth inning. We'll get there by the end of session."

None of these political numbers were included, however, in the data-heavy packets released by the House redistricting committee. The Herald/Times culled them from the House's MyDistrictBuilder.com web site and the voter registration files that include home addresses of lawmakers.

Legislators in St. Petersburg, Broward and Miami were hardest hit by the new proposals. Because population in those regions has been stagnant or declined over the last decade, their political boundaries must expand.

In Miami Dade, Democrats Daphne Campbell, John Julien and Barbara Watson of Miami would all be forced into the new district 107. Reps. Elaine Schwartz and Perry Thurston, both Democrats, would be merged into District 99. And Republicans Eddy Gonzalez and Jose Oliva would be matched against each other in Hialeah District 110, while Jose

Diaz and Ana Rivas Logan would be forced into District 116.

And in Broward, Democrats Joe Gibbons and Evan Jenne would be forced into District 100.

Staff Director Alex Kelly told members of the House redistricting committee on Thursday that they drew the maps with no knowledge of the political repercussions, except to consider whether the minority districts would effectively perform to elect a minority candidate. Preserving the voting strength of minority candidates was the primary goal of the redistricting, he said.

Each of the House maps creates two new minority districts: a Hispanic-majority district in the Orange County area of Kissimmee and another in Palm Beach County's City of Palm Springs. Four of the maps create a new district intended to elect a black near Eatonville.

But the maps also follow the pattern established in 1992 of creating meandering districts through black neighborhoods that also pack the districts with Democrats and blacks. Each of the House maps includes black majority seats with Democrat registration of between 63 percent and 77 percent. Some Democrats argue that those high numbers are not needed to elect a minority to office and point to a handful of existing district, such as Rep. Dwayne Taylor's Daytona Beach seat, that has elected a black with just over 50 percent majority Democrat registration.

The House will take its first vote on the maps when legislators convene in an early special session on Jan. 10.

— MCT Campus

Actor-charm appeal only goes so far when weighing the truth

Republicans should check their fact-sheets when preaching Reagan-style methods

By Fred Lambert
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Many Republican politicians will point to Ronald Reagan when asked who their hero is. The former-actor-turned-politician presided over the executive branch from 1981 to 1989, serving two terms as president, and is widely applauded for repairing the economy and ending the Cold War.

But there are some that feel he is an over-rated figurehead, inaccurately attributed to some of these outcomes. Additionally, some results of his policies appear contradictory, and raise question as to why he is the conservative messiah.



President Ronald Reagan and first lady Nancy Reagan wave during Reagan's first inauguration.

Reagan promised to voters that if elected president, he would lower taxes. Today's fiscal conservatives are bound by Grover Norquist's oath to not raise taxes at all, and many point to Reagan's ideas of free-market, supply-side economics. But in truth, Reagan had a shoddy track record when dealing with tax policies.

It started when he was elected as governor of California in 1966. After inheriting a giant-sized budget deficit from his predecessor Pat Brown, Reagan found it necessary to raise taxes repeatedly throughout his time in state office.

According to Bruce Bartlett of capitalgainsandgames.com, Governor Rea-

gan endorsed a \$1 billion per year tax increase (roughly \$17 billion in today's terms), or a third of the state's revenues, which encompassed hikes in income, sales, cigarette, alcohol, bank, corporate and inheritance taxes.

While Reagan was originally a New Deal Democrat, he changed his personal allegiance in 1962 to the Republican Party amid massive government size increases. He ran in California based on reducing taxes, among other things, like eliminating welfare fraud and college radicalism.

Reagan found it hard to balance California's messy budget without a semblance of tax hikes. He was largely silent on these tax increases in his memoirs, according to Bartlett, except to say that he "gave back \$5 billion to taxpayers."

Reagan did fulfill many of his promises, including halting welfare payment growth, freezing state-government hiring, reducing social spending, and gaining budget surpluses (which were used to reduce local property taxes), but the latter was only possible with the help of the previously mentioned tax hikes.

He was a leader who was willing to compromise to achieve what he wanted. This isn't something that many modern Republicans in Congress appear to uphold as a positive trait.

The tax increases spilled over into his presidency. He ran on a policy of lowering taxes, increasing defense spending, and reducing the budget deficit. As president, Reagan repeated his tactics again, mixing tax decreases with increases.



President Ronald Reagan addresses the Republican National Convention in Dallas, Texas, Aug. 23, 1984.

First he went with tax reduction in the 1981 Kemp-Roth bill, which cut statutory income tax rates by about 30 percent. But then he was put under pressure by his administration to decrease the deficit, and cutting spending wasn't politically possible.

He eventually reneged on his campaign promise and endorsed the Tax Equity and Fiscal Responsibility Act of 1982, which raised taxes by close to one percent of the GDP (or \$150 billion annually by today's standards), according to Bartlett, entailing one of the highest tax increases in US history.

This was the first of 11 tax hikes in Reagan's presidency. These hikes would eventually total a cumulative \$132.7 billion as of 1988, compared with tax decreases ranging around \$275 billion. In the end, he took back half of

the revenue he let taxpayers save in the 1981 Kemp-Roth bill.

In his diary, Reagan said that the 1982 bill was "the price we have to pay to get the budget cuts," basically suggesting that the 1980s deficit required a mixture of spending cuts and raises in revenue to tame.

"Although he would cut taxes when he could," wrote Bartlett, "he raised them when he had to." This makes Reagan look much more like a centrist than the godfather of modern conservatism.

Taxes aren't the only thing that Reagan is misconceived on. His management of the budget deficit, despite tax increases and a long spurt of economic growth between 1983 and 1990, was a complete failure in terms of what he promised. Instead of decreasing spending all around, he did so in select

Ronald Reagan

Continued from page 15

areas, while ballooning the national debt through defense expenditures.

Reagan can take some blame for the 1987 Stock Market Crash and Savings and Loan crisis, if only because both occurred under his watch and required borrowing that raised the national debt to \$3 trillion from \$700 billion, according to an online article by Marquis Codjia.

Much of Reagan's military spending is attributed with ending the Cold War. Most people point to his Strategic Defense Initiative (or Star Wars program), a fantastic vision of satellite lasers in space which were intended to pick nukes out of the sky before they reached their targets. It was supposed to make nuclear warfare obsolete.

The problem is that the technology was yet to be developed. Essentially it was a fantasy-land concept which critics hailed as way too expensive and uncertain, and was later cancelled by later administrations because of the complexities involved.

Was the massive overhaul to the American debt in pursuing these researches what brought the Soviets down? It may have been a factor, since any Russian response in kind would have been a massive monetary burden, what with an already sagging economy and a draining guerilla conflict in Afghanistan.

But the Star Wars program was not the coup de grace any more than CIA efforts to arm the mujahedeen were.

The USSR was on an unstable path for decades before Reagan came along, contrary to paranoid speculation in America. The Soviets had been dealing with revolting Eastern bloc satel-

lites since the 60s, and the military industrial complex which drove them in the post-World War II years was lacking innovation and growth by the 70s.

Gorbachev's perestroika ("economic restructuring") and glasnost ("intellectual openness") policies emboldened some of the Soviet satellites like Hungary, Poland and East Germany to rebel against their communist governments, which were largely powerless by that point.

Reagan saying "Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall" didn't bring down the Berlin Wall – Germans did. If Reagan is owed any credit, his policies of outspending the Russians merely exacerbated a long-standing issue of economic illness in the USSR.

To say that Reagan ended the Cold War is inaccurate – if he wasn't elected it would have happened anyway.

The Iran-Contra affair is something that many Republicans don't mention when discussing Reagan's presidency. The adage usually espoused by conservatives is that after the weak-kneed Jimmy Carter failed to successfully negotiate captive Americans from militants in Iran, Reagan became the president and the Iranians immediately let them go out of fear.

According to a passage from Valencia's online American History ABC-CLIO database, "In 1987, it was discovered that, contrary to his pledge never to deal with terrorists, Reagan had, at the very least, not attempted to stop subordinates from arranging a complicated arms-for-hostage swap by circumventing congressional restrictions and selling weapons to Iran in exchange for the release of hostages."



President Ronald Reagan delivers his inaugural address in Washington, D.C., Jan. 20, 1981.

Reagan himself denied any knowledge about the deal, but even if he wasn't lying and having Oliver North, John Poindexter and others in the National Security Council (which was directly under Reagan's control) fall on their swords for his own political survival, this still shows a gross lack of accountability.

The Iran-contra incident smacked of corruption on a highly irresponsible level, and nearly brought Reagan to impeachment hearings.

The legacy of supply-side economics is now known as Reaganomics. It's debatable whether this was a good or bad policy, and modern conservatives still wistfully look back to the glory days of the 1980s, hoping for the ghost of Reagan

to reanimate the GOP with this form of deregulation and tax cuts for the wealthy.

According to eHow contributor Eric Moll, proponents of supply-side economics believe that cutting taxes and deregulating the economy would result in higher investment and increased consumer spending, actually increasing the amount of money brought in by taxes as a result of the growing economy.

"The government would take a smaller piece of the pie, but the whole pie would be bigger," Moll wrote. In practice, though, Reaganomics resulted in decreased government revenue, and consequently reduction in government services and budget deficits.

While inflation decreased fourfold and

16 million new jobs were created (shrinking unemployment by three points, down to 7.5 percent from 10.8 percent), the deficit was exploded to gargantuan levels.

Moll also points out that Reaganomics widened the gap between rich and poor (since the primary beneficiaries were higher income Americans) and deregulation could allow businesses to drop health standards (e.g: reduced emission standards in coal power plants), resulting in lost productivity, due to sick workers.

"While it appears deregulation makes the economy grow," Moll wrote, "it could actually reduce the overall population's health and standard of living."

In retrospect, Reagan was a decent president, but whenever he is compared with George Washington and Teddy Roosevelt, it raises questions as to where the standard is at these days.

He promised to lower taxes, and raised them on many occasions. He promised a balanced budget, but gave America the largest deficit up until that point, mostly through military spending.

He is said to have ended the Cold War single-handedly, but his contributions don't add up in that equation. And he supposedly had nothing to do with an illegal arms deal with Iran, even though his very close advisors were the puppet-masters.

He did decent, since being the president is never easy. And this isn't to say that being moderate and compromising is a bad thing – it's just that Reagan isn't the infallible ultra-conservative that the contemporary right fables him to be.

Actor-charm and grandfatherly appeal only go so far when weighing the truth. Modern Republicans should check their fact-sheets when preaching Reagan-style methods of lowered taxes, balanced deficits and reduced government.

Obama supporters still waiting for 'change'

Young voters unhappy with current President's politics

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I cast my first ever vote in 2008 for Barack Obama, with the understanding that I was voting for a true progressive, someone who could respond to the financial crisis in such a way as to assist in recovering the economy, or, failing that, to at the very least ease the worry.

I felt I was sending a strong message that liberalism in America was

on the rise again. That the thirty years of trickling down voodoo economics, deregulation, and erosion of workers' rights was finally coming to an end.

In hindsight I was gravely mistaken. Obama may have gotten my vote, but somewhere along the way he failed to get my message.

I am fully aware that I can not expect the President of the United States to be beholden to me for anything. He represents every single American and

he surely cannot sit in the pocket of one voting bloc. Therein lies the problem, however, as it has become apparent to many on the left that he has spent the entirety of his presidency thus far courting a voting bloc that will never in a thousand years cast a vote for him.

Liberals are perhaps to blame for the current state of affairs. After electing Obama, far too many of us decided now was the time to rest on our laurels and appreciate ourselves for what we had accomplished. Instead of demanding that the new Democratic majority govern in our name, we silently waited with bated breath for the "change."

At the same time, a new angry minority rose their collective voice and with it bent the debate sharply rightward. The squeaky wheel gets the grease, and in this case the wheel that squeaked did so at a legendary volume.

Obama had no choice but to acquiesce, but did he have to surrender so completely? Did he have to spend his political capital on losing battles while ignoring the most important issue facing us—the economy?

With a super-majority in the Senate, Obama had ample opportunity to pass sound economic policies to create jobs. Instead he fought and lost on health care. Anything short of a single-payer system is failure. The oft-lampooned Stimulus package was a nice start. It was only a start, however, as according to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, unemployment rates



President Barack Obama delivers remarks before signing legislation into law that will provide tax credits to help put veterans back to work at a ceremony in the Eisenhower building Nov. 21.

have only fallen from the high of 10.1 percent in 2009 to nine percent today.

Nobel-prize winning economist Paul Krugman has repeatedly called the stimulus bill inadequate. In woulda-coulda-shoulda land, Obama would have taken the opportunity to invest massively in American infrastructure. Our roads and bridges crumble, our public transit system is a joke, and according to the New York Times, 66 percent of all electricity produced is lost as waste.

Some might argue that with such a deficit we cannot afford to tackle problems like these. That is indicative of the red herring that both parties have fallen for. The argument is that cutting spending by firing government workers will lower unemployment, and that allowing states to lay off thousands of

teachers while simultaneously gutting the unions and handing billions in tax cuts to the rich will miraculously encourage economic growth.

There is little, if any, evidence that businesses are not hiring due to over-taxation or onerous regulation. According to polling by McClatchy Newspapers of business owners, taxes (which are at record lows) and regulation were hardly mentioned.

The real problem? Demand.

Until we recognize that and institute policies that give ordinary people purchasing-power we will never stabilize this economy.

That Obama has failed to counter the "taxes-and-deficits-are-killing-business" narrative with a defense of demand economics is a failure can not forgive.



President Obama meeting and greeting his supporters as a presidential nominee in Sept. 2008.

Obama's good intentions best thing for Americans

Why we should re-elect Barack

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Barack Obama is a victim of circumstance, but is he a bad president?

It's hard to say. History needs a window of time to provide retrospect. Obama has been what some would call ideal – an intelligent, well-spoken and pragmatic leader.

His foreign policy has been spot on. Republicans like John McCain scoffed at the Illinois Senator's lack of military experience in the 2008 election, suggesting that being a Navy Pilot gave McCain the same expertise as an Army General. Bush Jr. had military experience in the Texas Air National Guard, and his foreign policy was atrocious.

Rather than deploy entire armies into Middle Eastern countries to chase elusive, small terrorist groups, Obama shifted to a policy of lighter, elite units for combating terrorism. He upped drone strikes on the Afghan-Pakistan border, and was able to kill more top Al Qaeda leaders during his first years in office than Bush did in eight.

Let's not forget about the special-forces raid which snuffed out Osama Bin Laden in Pakistan – something the previous administration was unable to accomplish. Obama had intelligence suggesting that Bin Laden was in the Abbottabad compound, not verified proof – and he still ordered the raid.



President Barack Obama, seen here in Ohio in September, campaigned around the nation to gain support for his American Jobs Act Bill.

Politically, that took balls of steel.

Foreign relations have also improved under Obama, despite what many on the right may insinuate. Lots of GOP supporters suggest that Obama makes America look weak with his multilateral approach and apologetic attitude about US aggression.

Why would US citizens think that insulting and threatening the rest of the world is in our best interest? The United States is not the only country on this earth, and going a unilateral route

is counterproductive to engaging in partnerships and alliances.

Republicans also scrutinized Obama for taking a lesser role in NATO efforts to support Libyan rebels. This seemed to support claims of his meek stance in world leadership.

Instead, Western European NATO members finally pulled their weight, and Gaddafi was dead in the streets within months. All of this without the supposedly necessary might of the US military in the driver's seat.

The main thing that Obama is hit on is the economy, though. One of the major points his opponents refer to are "Obama's Bailouts," when in actuality, Bush began the bailouts, and Obama just continued them.

Another policy Obama continued is the Bush-era tax cuts for the wealthy. This hurt him in his own party, with many Democrats condemning the move as a renege of previous promises. But the political reality suggested that Obama was merely trying

to reach out to the ideologically opposite right, showing them that he was willing to compromise.

The GOP has shown no move toward returning the favor. Congress continues to stonewall any attempts to pass legislation which may create jobs for Americans, who wind up getting the rawest deal at the end of the day.

Another major argument coming from the right is that regulations and taxes are the cause of America's woes. Obama's policies didn't cause this mess. It was unscrupulous business practices in the loaning market (like sub-prime mortgage lending) that induced much of the economic mayhem.

Why would completely deregulating business pull America out of a recession if the free hand of the market caused this to happen?

None of this is to say that Obama is perfect; he isn't, and neither are all of his moves. But what president is flawless?

All you can hope for is a responsible emergency-control expert who has the interest of the people in mind. Everything Obama has done has been in pursuit of the greater good. One of the major things that he is criminalized for is his health care reform – something designed to help people.

So as the 2012 election creeps around the bend, Americans should ask themselves if Obama is the harmful leader he's fabled to be, or if he's a man doing everything he can after inheriting an extremely difficult situation. Even more than that, they should ask themselves if piss-and-wind demagogues have a plan, or just a lot of criticism.

Jeff hates: The Republican primaries

By Jeff Shedden
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Let's face it, this election season's Republican primary is the biggest freak show the GOP has ever handed us. There isn't a single candidate in the entire bunch that would make a good president of a chess club, much less the United States.

The Republican party has spent so much time trying to gather the votes of fringe lunatics and morally corrupt bigots, that a lot of this insanity is now



Herman Cain bowed out of the race with a smile on his face and Papa John's on his breath.

just accepted policy.

Somehow we've ended up with a bunch of people running for the highest office who would probably benefit more from a shot of Thorazine and a comfy chair placed in front of a TV showing reruns of "Designing Women."

The GOP has already had one candidate self-destruct. Herman Cain was a token attempt at showing that insanity is color-blind. Too bad he liked touching boobies that he wasn't married to a little too much. It's no big deal that he dropped out, though, because he didn't have a chance in hell of winning.

Cain was CEO of Godfather's Pizza, which was one of the largest chains of pizza restaurants in the world in the late 1970s and 80s. Domino's delivered, Pizza Hut had great food; Godfather's had game rooms.

Godfather's pizza was pretty good, plus you could play a few rounds of Donkey Kong while waiting for your pie. Then Herman Cain was brought on as CEO. Dominos still delivers and Pizza Hut still has more or less great food, but Godfather's is a brand you can now only buy in gas stations.

Newt Gingrich is another unabashed womanizer. He's had so many affairs that he could be a one man Democratic National Convention. He was even pushing for Clinton's impeachment over the Monica Lewinsky scandal while having an affair himself.

After being basically forced to resign from Congress by his fellow Republicans, we thought we were done

with him, but he's somehow come back from the dead.

Gingrich is corrupt and vile in every way that would matter to the bulk of the American population. But he's also smart, sly, and pretty much the only candidate who could hold his own against Obama in a debate. Luckily, he's also got so many skeletons in his closet that keep him completely unelectable, because otherwise we might have to change our nation's motto to "Hide your kids, hide your wife."

This season's deck is stacked pretty high with the hyper-religious nutball candidates too. Easily the most forgettable of this lot is Rick Santorum.

Santorum once waged a one man war on the First Amendment trying to get creationism as a mandatory subject in schools and make homosexuality illegal. His views were so repugnant, that a strong effort was made to redefine "santorum" as a disgusting substance much like a politician. You'll have to google it yourself, though, as it is too gross to publish here.

Then there's Michele Bachmann, a woman who saw Sarah Palin and said, "I can be crazier than that!"

Bachmann thinks the U.S.A. should be a Christian dictatorship, a system called Dominionism.

She confuses actors for serial killers, thinks Abraham Lincoln was a Founding Father, and would lose against a fifth grader in a quiz on civics and The Constitution.

Her crazy eyes even make her unnerving to look at. Never trust anyone



Michele Bachmann waving a dollar bill. Not pictured, the starving orphan she's teasing with the bill.

who always shows the entire irises of their eyes. This is usually either a sign that they're schizophrenic, or they're a high school typing teacher.

I always thought Bachmann was the worst of the bunch, but then Rick Perry threw his too-tight cowboy hat into the ring.

Perry's the poster boy for everything that's wrong with our politicians. He used to be a Democrat until he started losing, so he changed all of his views, switched parties and rode the Republican train to Psychoville.

Perry is completely incapable of foresight and merely parrots things that he thinks will win him voters. He's basically what George W. Bush would have been without Karl Rove and Dick Cheney handling him.

It looks like Perry may have sab-

otaged his campaign with a homophobic rant coupled with a factually incorrect callback to FOX News' nonexistent wars on Christmas and Christianity in general.

He claimed that kids aren't allowed to pray in school or even celebrate Christmas. Loads of kids pray in school, especially before tests, but schools aren't allowed to MAKE students pray. And kids celebrate Christmas in school so much, that by the first of December, they may as well be taught by Santa.

The end result is Perry now holds the record for the most disliked video on Youtube, and the internet is awash with Photoshopped pictures of him in drag.

Ron Paul is still holding on, mostly as a comedy option. He'll start off with

Jeff hates: Candidates

Continued from page 19

perfectly reasonable, Eisenhower-esque Republican views, and then take a detour into alien conspiracies, New World Orders, and reverting to the gold standard. Paul doesn't have a chance at winning the primary, but he'd be a Democratic kingmaker if he ran as a third party. The only reason he's even running now is all the encouragement he got from the wacky "OMG so random" hipster support he got four years ago.

John Huntsman is also running.

Finally there's Mitt Romney. He's a likeable enough guy, but the GOP is such a cesspool that you can't be a candidate without compromising your own ideas. He supported health care reform until it became a Democratic platform. Now he's willing to throw all of those people whose lives he actually saved under the bus, simply to win the support of a bunch of morally questionable voters.

He used to support some more-or-less progressive economic ideas until the GOP's official stance became anything that inconveniences a rich person is pure Marxism.

My opinion is that the GOP isn't really interested in beating Obama in 2012. Otherwise they'd have to start taking responsibility for all of the damage they've done since 2009.

They've got a free ride, and the only thing they need to worry about is holding onto the House, which won't be difficult. It's obvious Romney will get the nomination, because he's the least interesting of the candidates.

And in modern America, the election process has gotten so screwed up, that people are more likely to vote for Snooki than a legitimate candidate.

It's the end of the world as we know it

The Mayan calendar, presidential election both mysteriously end in 2012

By Rob Iversen
rob@robiversen.com

It's the end of the world as we know it... and I feel fine. So said REM (the "it" letter band back when LMFAO was still just AOL chat room slang), and so say the 2012 GOP candidates for President.

The Maya calendar mysteriously ends on Dec. 21, 2012, leading many to believe that the world will end right along with it. Some believe solar flares will reverse the polarity of the Earth, and some believe that the aliens who "seeded" this planet thousands of years ago will come to collect their harvest. According to Barack Obama, the world will only end if he is not re-elected.

The Republicans aren't buying any of it. Even though the world may end a few short weeks after election night, the fight for the Republican presidential nomination continues to be fierce. Do they doubt those ancient Mathletes, or are they simply relishing the inevitable end to those pesky entitlement programs and the even peskier people who are entitled to them? Maybe they're just hoping they'll inherit the keys to the bunker where they built the Cheney 5000.

In an effort to gain some perspective on this issue, we reached out to the Republican candidates. Herman Cain, the current anybody-but-Romney front-runner and most hands-on (former staff) candidate in the fray, cannot recall if he had flirted with the doomsday notion in his past but settled—er, agreed—on a stance of stockpiling apples and oranges, just in case.

"I'll admit," said Cain, "12/21/12 is catchy, but I still believe in 9-9-9...because someone has to." Cain has been falling in the polls recently, after it was revealed that he has more in common with Clarence Thomas than just that sexy 'stache.

This one time, at band camp, Texas governor Rick Perry seemed like a shoo-in for the nomina-

tion. Capitalizing on some of that down-home Texas wisdom, he artfully played with the base before working his way up the polls. Things got harder and harder for Perry as he moved towards the top, as a couple of poor debate performances proved he didn't have the oral skills for a happy finish.

Looking to rebound from this early softening, Perry recently unveiled his three-part plan for saving the world. "First, we're gonna... well, then we're gonna... well, but what it really comes down to is that we do something, right? I mean, c'mon brother, 2012 world end sure seems bad for to me!"

For to us, too, Rick... for to us, too.

Michelle Bachmann, after answering the question, "Who are you again?" had much to say on the end of the world.

Bachmann referred to a story she had apparently heard the night before from a friend of a guy who had once owned a dog that had once been petted by a woman who swears the Maya rumors are false.

Although Bachmann was quick to point out

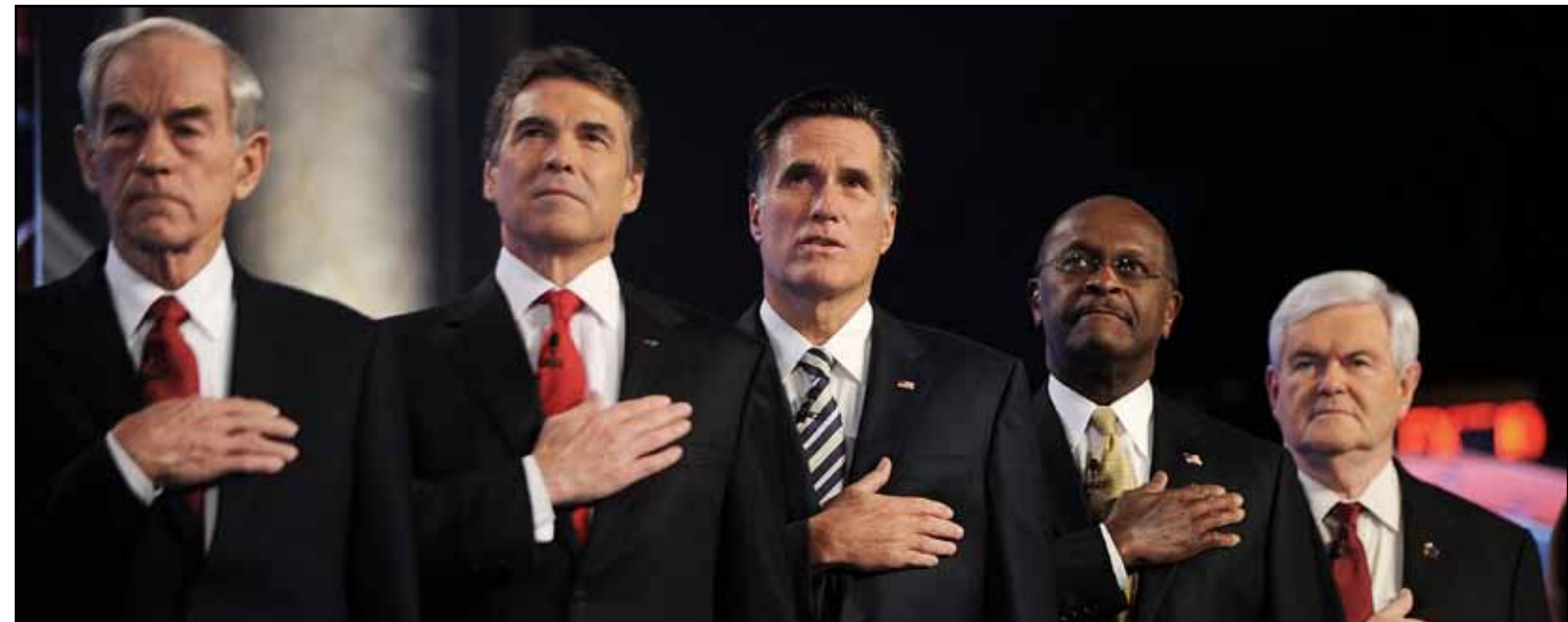
that she herself was not a Maya, a scientist, or a dog, she did remind us that she is still crazy.

Of the remaining soon-to-be-also-rans in the Fox News anchor auditions, half claimed that they believed the end of the world was coming, but that it was more likely to be in the form of the angry hand of God smiting the poor, the gays, and Barack Obama, than any of that Maya math and science mumbo jumbo.

The other half looked vacant and bewildered, so much so that our pollsters declined to even pose the question to them.

Of all the candidates, only one seemed to be offering a solution to the problem. Rick Santorum is apparently developing a proprietary concoction that he will use to nurture and protect himself during the end times. According to rumors, the full recipe can be found by Googling "Santorum."

Only time will tell if the Maya predictions are math or myth, but one thing is clear: if any of these candidates reach the highest office in the land, we may all be rooting for the Maya just a little bit more.



Ron Paul, Rick Perry, Mitt Romney, Herman Cain, and Newt Gingrich covering their hearts in effort to ward off the vampire hunters.

What should Valencia do with the Aspen Prize money?

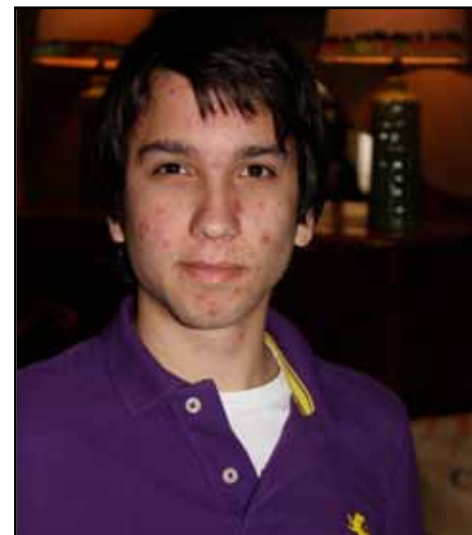
Photos by Sebastian Arbelaez/Interviews by Neda Hamdan



"I think we should use the money to expand the parking lot because there's always a long line,"
— Kirk Delio



"The money should go to scholarships and financial aid to help students,"
— Jasmine Mendoza



"Valencia should use the award money to start sports teams, because I think people would be more interested in coming to the school,"
— Felipe Guzman



"We should make basketball courts to play, and if the rest should go to the scholarships to give it to people who deserve it,"
— Kyle Wright



"The money should be used to put printers into each classroom, because we're only allowed to print ten pages at a time before charging us,"
— Amelia Mataela



"They should pay for our textbooks for us instead of charging us, and give students more benefits,"
— Catelyn Smithmyer



"It should be directed towards scholarships and create a healthcare program,"
— Rebecca Gordon



"They should make books cheaper, especially the culinary textbooks, or make the answer center bigger and more accessible,"
— Nick Hatfield



"We already have a childcare program, but I think they should create a center where we can drop off our children while we're in our classes,"
— Shardeh Barry



"Valencia should create a gym that's free and available for all students,"
— Patrick Lespinasse

OUR VOICE

Well-earned honor given to Valencia

Congrats to Valencia for nabbing the honor as top community college in the nation at the inagural Aspen Institute Awards for Community College Excellence.

It's nice to be recognized for what the students, faculty, and community of Valencia have known for years; Valencia is the best.

The college is the number one producer of associate degrees in the country. Minority graduation rates are among the highest in the nation, and employment for graduates is superb.

The recognition comes with \$600,000 in grant money, which will go a long way in providing student services.

Valencia's many innovations, such as

LifeMap, Direct Connect to UCF, and the Bridges program, help ensure student success at 40 percent less than state universities.

We may not have a nationally ranked sports team, but there is no better reason to have school pride than knowing you are part of an institution that is such a positive force in the community and the country.

'Tis the season

Classes resume in a little under a month, so now would be a good time to fill your spare hours with good works.

There are many charities and even more needs. See a list of good local causes on Page 3.

Talking politics

We have a special section designated to the GOP candidates for president (see pages 7-20.) The pages are intended to inform students about the candidates; their backgrounds, accomplishments, and views on issues.

Democracy is a great gift, and we should be the generation to gain back an appreciation of the voting process and sense of responsibility and civic duty.

As activist Abbie Hoffman once said, "Democracy is not something you believe in or a place to hang your hat, but it's something you do. You participate. If you stop doing it, democracy crumbles."



Tweet of the Week

“This holiday season, let’s remember those who lack the skills or education to do anything but run for President.”

— @BorwitzReport
Andy Borowitz

ValenciaVoice

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Page 2: Akira Suwa, Philadelphia Inquirer / MCT

Page 3: Sebastian Arbelaez / Valencia Voice

Page 4: Clockwise from L, Mohannad Sabry / MCT; Gina Ferazzi, Los Angeles Times / MCT; Carolyn Cole, Los Angeles Times / MCT; Pete Souza, The White House / MCT

Page 5: Clockwise from L, Red Huber, Orlando Sentinel / MCT; Al Seib, Los Angeles Times / MCT; Joe Burbank, Orlando Sentinel / MCT; Rick Loomis, Los Angeles Times / MCT

Pages 7-8: Courtesy of candidates

Page 9: Oliver Douliery, Abaca Press / MCT; Christopher Gannon / MCT

Pages 10-13: Oliver Douliery, Abaca Press / MCT

Page 14: Dan Honda, Contra Costa Times / MCT

Page 15: L-R, National Archives / MCT; Ronald Reagan Library, National Archives / MCT

Page 16: Architect of the Capitol, Library of Congress / MCT

Page 17: L-R, Joe Burbank, Orlando Sentinel / MCT; Olivier Douliery, Abaca Press / MCT

Page 18: Mark Cornelison, Lexington Herald-Leader / MCT

Page 19: Jason Getz, Atlanta Journal-Constitution / MCT

Page 20: Oliver Douliery, Abaca Press / MCT

Page 23: Brittany Gil / Valencia Voice

Page 24: Top L-R: Courtesy of 20th Century Fox; Courtesy of Columbia Pictures; Courtesy of 20th Century Fox; Courtesy of Paramount Pictures; Courtesy of Lakshore Entertainment. Bottom L-R: Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures; Courtesy of Paramount Pictures; Courtesy of Touchstone Pictures; Courtesy of Universal Pictures; Courtesy of 20th Century Fox.

Page 25: Courtesy of record labels

Page 27: L-R, Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice; Courtesy of Adam Trumbly

Page 28: Sebastian Arbelaez / Valencia Voice

Page 29: Rick Wood, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel / MCT

Valencia's talent showcased

Semester's variety show, 'Freak Flag' embraces uniqueness

By Felicia Roopchand
froopchand@valenciamvoice.com

Valencia College presented its Opera Theatre Workshop on Dec. 9 and 10 at Valencia's East Campus Black Box Theater. The event, which has been done every semester for the past ten semesters, showcased various talents of the musical theatre and opera genres. This semester's theme and title of the event was "Freak Flag."

"[Freak flag] is about embodying the thing that makes you different," said John Clayton, the director of the musical theatre portion of the show and Valencia alumnus. "We have a lot of talent here at Valencia."

The musical theatre portion of the show featured various numbers from different musicals such as "A Very Potter Musical," "Dreamgirls," "La Cage Aux Folles," "Legally Blonde," "Memphis," "Company," "RENT," and "Shrek: The Musical."

"We worked really hard this week," said performer Jordan Smith who played Albin, a gay man who has to try to pretend to be straight during the performance of "Masculinity" from the musical "La Cage Aux Folles." This is Smith's second semester in the Opera Theatre Workshop.

The most powerful performance of the musical theatre portion comes from Paul Hambidge, who sang "I'll Cover You (Reprise)" as the character, Collins, from the musical "RENT".

"It was so powerful," said Smith. This is Hambidge's third semester in the Opera Theatre Workshop.

The other portion of the event was the opera "Dido and Aeneas" by Henry Purcell. The heart-breaking story was directed by Alan Gerber, part of the Music Department at Valencia. "I'm a fan of Baroque opera," Gerber said.

Dido, the main character, was played by guest artist and Valencia faculty member, Cheryse McLeod Lewis. She is a classically-trained singer and has performed professionally across the United States. "It was so wonderful to have her do that for us," Gerber said.

The night showcased much of Valencia's talent ranging from theatre to opera and even the tech crew. "We're lucky to have the tech classes and light classes collaborate with us," Gerber said.

The Opera Theatre Workshop is a fantastic opportunity for Valencia to showcase some of its brightest stars. If you missed this semester's shows, have no fear, there will be more to come.



The cast of 'Freak Flag' performing La Vie Boheme from the musical RENT, Friday night at Valencia's East Campus.

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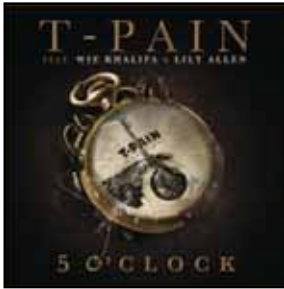






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Dec. 16	Dec. 21	Dec. 23/25	Jan. 6/13	Jan. 20
<p>‘Chipwrecked’</p>  <p>Director: Mike Mitchell Starring: Jason Lee, David Cross, Jenny Slate, Justin Long, Matthew Gray Gubler Rated: G Running time: 1 hour 27 minutes Genre: Comedy, Romance</p>	<p>‘The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo’</p>  <p>Director: David Fincher Starring: Daniel Craig, Rooney Mara, Christopher Plummer, Stellan Skarsgard Rated: R Running time: 2 hour 38 minutes Genre: Drama, Thriller</p>	<p>‘We Bought a Zoo’</p>  <p>Director: Cameron Crowe Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Matt Damon, Elle Fanning, Carla Gallo Rated: PG Running time: 2 hour 4 minutes Genre: Comedy, Drama, Family</p>	<p>‘The Devil Inside’</p>  <p>Director: William Brent Bell Starring: Fenanda Andrede, Simon Quarterman, Evan Helmuth Rated: N/A Running time: N/A Genre: Horror, Thriller</p>	<p>‘Underworld Awakening’</p>  <p>Director: Mans Marling, Bjorn Stein Starring: Kate Beckinsale, Charles Dance, Michael Ealy, India Eisley Rated: R Running time: N/A Genre: Action, Fantasy, Horror</p>
<p>‘A Game of Shadows’</p>  <p>Director: Guy Ritchie Starring: Robert Downey Jr., Jude Law, Noomi Rapace, Rachel McAdams Rated: PG-13 Running time: 2 hour 9 minutes Genre: Action, Adventure, Crime</p>	<p>‘The Adventures of Tintin’</p>  <p>Director: Steven Spielberg Starring: Daniel Craig, Jamie Bell, Simon Pegg, Andy Serkis, Cary Elwes Rated: PG Running time: 107 minutes Genre: Animation, Action, Adventure</p>	<p>‘War Horse’</p>  <p>Director: Steven Spielberg Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Tom Hiddleston, Emily Watson, David Thewlis Rated: PG-13 Running time: 2 hour 26 minutes Genre: Drama, War</p>	<p>‘Contraband’</p>  <p>Director: Baltasar Kormakur Starring: Kate Beckinsale, Mark Wahlberg, Ben Foster, Giovanni Ribisi, Diego Luna Rated: R Running time: 1 hour 50 minutes Genre: Crime, Thriller</p>	<p>‘Red Tails’</p>  <p>Director: Anthony Hemingway Starring: Bryan Cranston, Josh Dallas, Daniela Ruah, Cuba Gooding Jr. Rated: PG-13 Running time: N/A Genre: Action, Adventure, Drama</p>

Top 20 Songs of 2011

<p>1 - We Found Love by Rihanna ft. Calvin Harris</p> 	<p>5 - Good Feeling by Flo Rida</p> 	<p>9 - The One That Got Away by Katy Perry</p> 	<p>13 - Headlines by Drake</p> 	<p>17 - Pumped Up Kicks by Foster The People</p> 
<p>2 - Sexy and I Know It by LMFAO</p> 	<p>6 - Someone Like You by Adele</p> 	<p>10 - Stereo Hearts by Gym Class Heroes ft. Adam Levine</p> 	<p>14 - Work Out by J. Cole</p> 	<p>18 - Mr. Know It All by Kelly Clarkson</p> 
<p>3 - It Will Rain by Bruno Mars</p> 	<p>7 - Without You by David Guetta ft. Usher</p> 	<p>11 - 5 O'Clock by T-Pain ft. Wiz Khalifa & Lily Allen</p> 	<p>15 - You Make Me Feel... by Cobra Starship ft. Sabi</p> 	<p>19 - You Da One by Rihanna</p> 
<p>4 - Moves Like Jagger by Maroon 5 ft. Christina Aguilera</p> 	<p>8 - Ni**as in Paris by Jay Z & Kanye West</p> 	<p>12 - Party Rock Anthem by LMFAO ft. Lauren Bennett & GoonRock</p> 	<p>16 - Dance by Big Sean ft Nicki Minaj</p> 	<p>20 - Give Me Everything by Pitbull ft. Ne-Yo, Afrojack & Nayer</p> 

<div>Thursday 15</div> <div>Stress Relief East Campus 9 A.M.</div> <div>The Chariot The Social 6 P.M.</div>	<div>Friday 16</div> <div>Fat Gold Chain Chronicles The Social 9 P.M.</div>	<div>Saturday 17</div> <div>DEFY, The Danny Harf Project The Beacham 7 P.M.</div>	<div>Sunday 18</div> <div>The Nutcracker Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre 11 A.M.</div>	<div>Monday 19</div> <div>Orlando aLive: A Live Music & Art Sport The Social 8 P.M.</div>	<div>Tuesday 20</div> <div>Blood on the Dance Floor JJ Demon The Social 7 P.M.</div>	<div>Wednesday 21</div> <div>The Roast of Santa Claus The Social 6 P.M.</div>
<div>Thursday 22</div> <div>Matt Mackelcan McRaney’s Tavern 8 P.M.</div>	<div>Friday 23</div> <div>Hor!Zen Holiday Party The Social 9 A.M.</div>	<div>Saturday 24</div> <div>CHRISTMAS EVE</div>	<div>Sunday 25</div> <div>CHRISTMAS DAY</div>	<div>Monday 26</div> <div>Orlando Magic vs. Houston Rockets Amway Center 7 P.M.</div>	<div>Tuesday 27</div> <div>There For Tomorrow The Social 6 P.M.</div>	<div>Wednesday 28</div> <div>Owen The Social 8 P.M.</div>
<div>Thursday 29</div> <div>The Supervillans The Beacham 8 P.M.</div>	<div>Friday 30</div> <div>FX Orlando presents TEEN NEW YEAR 2012 House of Blues 8 P.M.</div>	<div>Saturday 31</div> <div>NEW YEARS EVE Slightly Stoopid & The Expendables Hard Rock Live 8:30 P.M.</div> <div>Exclusive 102 Jamz NYE 2011 The Beacham 9 P.M.</div>	<div>Sunday 1</div> <div>NEW YEARS DAY B.B. King Hard Rock Live 8 P.M.</div>	<div>Monday 2</div> <div>Capital One Bowl Florida Citrus Bowl 1 P.M.</div> <div>Line Dance Lessons University Club 7 P.M.</div>	<div>Tuesday 3</div> <div>Winter in the Park Central Park, Winter Park 3 P.M.</div> <div>Knotty Knitters Club Winter Park Public Library 6 P.M.</div>	<div>Wednesday 4</div> <div>Orlando Magic vs. Washington Wizards Amway Center 7 P.M.</div>
<div>Thursday 5</div> <div>A Few of Our Favorite Things: Pop Culture Art & Sneaker Show CityArts Factory 6 P.M.</div>	<div>Friday 6</div> <div>Midsummers Fire The Social 8 P.M.</div> <div>Orlando Rocks! House of Blues 8 P.M.</div>	<div>Saturday 7</div> <div>TWLOHA Heavy and Light: An Evening of Songs, Conversation & Hope House of Blues 6:30 PM.</div>	<div>Sunday 8</div> <div>Sweet Bird of Youth Lowndes Shakespeare Center 7 P.M.</div>	<div>Monday 9</div> <div>Ballroom Dancing Lessons University Club 7 P.M.</div>	<div>Tuesday 10</div> <div>The Serious Art of Make-Believe Orange Country Regional History Center 10 A.M.</div>	<div>Wednesday 11</div> <div>Writing Workshop Winter Park Public Library 7 P.M.</div>



VALENCIA



CONCERTS



ON GOING



COMMUNITY



SPORTS

UCF pulls off late-game victory on Sykes' last second free throws

Knights win their 15th consecutive non-conference home game

By Bethany Schuster
bschuster@valenciavoice.com

University of Central Florida's Isaiah Sykes successfully landed two free throws with three and half seconds left in the game, to give the Knights a two point lead, and eventually the win.

With a final score of 53-51, Bethune-Cookman University (3-6) walked away Saturday from the UCF Arena only seconds away from a win.



Sykes led the Knights throughout the game bringing them more than just their sixth win, but also their 15th-straight non-conference home victory.

The Detroit native has been improving rapidly throughout the season. Last week he achieved the first double-double of his career, against Hartford, and finished against B-CU with 15 points. More than the points, he also made seven of his nine free throws; "I wasn't nervous at all" said Sykes.

This is an impressive improvement for Sykes who shoots just 45 percent from the free throw line.

"Sykes took 100 free throws before the game," said Head Coach Donnie Jones. "I was really excited to see him with the free throws."

Jones wasn't the only one excited to watch Sykes play. As the Knights, who trailed most of the game, tightened up the score late in the game, the crowd of Knights became an unhindered wave of cheers and chants, which was what the players needed, according to PJ Gaynor.

Gaynor admits the crowd's energy fuels his personal energy and Gaynor is an "energy guy" according to Jones. Jones said, "We needed PJ. We needed his energy to help us from a block to a dunk." Dunk he did, Gaynor had two slam dunks that only garnered more energy from the crowd.

Senior Keith Clanton led the first half taking and making the majority of the free throws. He finished leading with 10 rebounds, five in the first and five in the second.

The win did not come without a fight, "The first half we came out and were a little careless with the ball; we turned it over 13 times trying to get the flow," said Jones.

At half time, the score stood at 28-22, B-CU. The Wildcats came out with a prepared offense and defense and dominated the majority of the half.

"You have to make every opportunity you have the ball count," said Jones. "We were either going to get blown out or get back in the game."

Jones gave B-CU credit on their well executed game plan, but was pleased to watch his players "stay focused and grind it out."

The Knights will host North Carolina A&T (4-4) Tuesday at 7:00 p.m. in an attempt to win their seventh game.



Above: PJ. Gaynor dunks the ball in the second half, after an Isaiah Sykes steal in the defensive backcourt. Left: Keith Clanton drives towards the net in the second half against B-CU. Clanton finished the game with a double-double, and helped the Knights to a 53-51 victory, their sixth of the season.

UCF gets stomped by FGCU

Lady Knights' 29 turnovers lead to 75-36 loss against Eagles

By Sarah Flores
sflores@valenciavoice.com

A leading 11 points from returning UCF senior guard Aisha Patrick and a close 10 points from junior forward Kayli Keough could not stop the Florida Gulf Coast Eagles from a 75-36 victory over the Knights at the UCF Arena on Thursday night.

The lady Knights faced off against the Eagles for the first time in three years looking for their first win in the series, but 29 turnovers from the Knights and 10 of 32 three-pointers from the field (50 percent in the second half) from the Eagles, allowed Florida Gulf Coast to

extend to a five-game winning streak.

"Our effort in terms of taking care of the ball and making decisions was poor, we knew that they were a very good team, they carried out their game plan and we didn't carry out ours defensively or in terms of taking care of the ball," said UCF head coach Joi Williams.

"The biggest story was the turnovers. It's really disappointing that we give the ball away so many more times. Between 29 turnovers you give the other team 29 more opportunities to score."

The end of the first half seemed promising for the Knights as sopho-

more forward/center Erika Jones gained four points from a foul in the last 30 seconds of play to bring UCF up only eight behind FGCU. Jones also helped UCF with a total of seven points and six rebounds for the night.

It was in the second half where the Eagles dominated, shooting 19 of 35 from the field. Sophomore Sarah Hansen finished with her third double-double of the season, with a game-high 20 points and ten rebounds. A combined effort from Hansen and senior Eglah Griffin produced six three-pointers for the night, with eight of 16 from the field in the second half.

The Knight's leading senior, Aisha Patrick, returned for her first game back from missing three games due to a death in the family and said she was rusty. "It was bad on my part, and I'm going to come back and practice and do what it takes, execute the coaches' game plan and come back stronger next game."

Williams agreed with Patrick and said that her conditioning was poor. "Tired or not, fatigued or not, she has to be able to take care of the ball," said Williams. "I think that's where the root of our problem is and we better find a solution pretty quickly or it will be a long year."

The Knights had been off for six days before Thursday night's match, with a loss to FIU (61-46) on Dec. 2, marking their first home loss against a Florida team since 2009 against the Florida State Seminoles. The Knights will go on to play the Savannah State Tigers on Sunday, Dec. 11 at the UCF Arena.



The UCF Knights couldn't get into a rhythm all night, as they fell to the FGCU Eagles 75-36.



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Voice staff predictions



Week 15



Bryan Levine
142-66



Mary Stevens
135-73

Thursday Night JAC @ ATL		
Saturday Night DAL @ TB		
CIN @ STL		
WAS @ NYG		
TEN @ IND		
SEA @ CHI		
GB @ KC		
CAR @ HOU		
MIA @ BUF		
NO @ MIN		
DET @ OAK		
CLE @ ARI		
NE @ DEN		
NYJ @ PHI		
BAL @ SD		
Monday Night PIT @ SF		

Packers still undefeated
Members of '72 Dolphins not worried just yet

By Linda Robertson
McClatchy Newspapers

The champagne is not on ice. Dick Anderson, Nick Buoniconti and their 1972 Miami Dolphins teammates are not itching to pop the cork. None of them owns an Aaron Rodgers voodoo doll. And they do not plan to be perched, vulture-like, in front of the TV on Sunday, waiting to see if the Green Bay Packers' winning streak dies.

Their place in history is secure. They were the first and so far only team in 90 years of pro football to complete a perfect season when they went 17-0 and beat the Washington Redskins for the Super Bowl title.

The 13-0 Packers have a chance at matching that perfection. But they've got to win six more games to do it.

If they don't, the Dolphins will continue their tradition of toasting another year of being unique.

Don Shula, the Hall of Fame coach who led the iconic Dolphins, said the Packers can go 19-0 if prolific quarterback Rodgers peaks during the playoffs.

"They got pushed to the limit by the Giants last week and figured out a way to win," Shula said. "If they keep playing at this level, I don't see anybody knocking them off."

The Packers have won 18 in a row dating to last season, when they were Super Bowl champions. They play Oakland on Sunday, then at Kansas City, against Chicago and against Detroit. After a likely first-round bye, they'd have to win two playoff games before going

to Super Bowl XLVI in Indianapolis.

"I think their chances are very good," former Dolphins running back Larry Csonka said. "But each game that 800-pound gorilla gains another 50 pounds. They're being forced to pay attention to the undefeated record more than they want to. At the end of the season, everyone is fighting for his life and for his job and things can turn on you."

The 1972 Dolphins, many of whom reunited last week to commemorate the late Jim Mandich, are keeping their eyes on the Packers.

"I'm not sitting here like an angry old guy hoping they'll lose as we have been depicted," said Shula, 81. "I don't think Joe DiMaggio was pulling for anybody to break his 56-game hitting streak record. So we'd like to keep it,

but if somebody breaks it we will call and congratulate them."

The Dolphins' goal in 1972 was not to go undefeated. It was to redeem themselves in Super Bowl VII after losing 24-3 to Dallas in Super Bowl VI.

Former Dolphins quarterback Bob Griese said the Packers need the same tunnel vision the Dolphins had, even if their motivation is different as defending Super Bowl champs.

"I don't think perfection is in the forefront of your mind when you're in the 12th, 13th, 14th game," he said. "We just didn't want to lose. The fear of losing is stronger than the will to win. It was never, 'Let's keep the streak going.' It was, 'We've got unfinished business. We've got to get back to the Super Bowl.'"

— MCT Campus



Ryan Grant high steps into the end zone, Sunday, for his first touchdown of the 2011 season.

Fantasy Update
Start

Arian Foster (RB) - HOU

There's never really a week where you wouldn't start Foster, but this week expect him to go off. The Panthers defense has given up the most fantasy points to running backs in the entire NFL.

Roddy White (WR) - ATL

White has been one of the more consistent WRs this season. Look for Matt Ryan to find White plenty as they go up against the Jaguars this week.

Sit

Cam Newton (QB) - CAR

The rookie struggled last week against the Falcons, and he has to face the tough Texans this week. If you have other options, it might be smart to go with them.

Alex Smith (QB) - SF

The 49ers have been solid this season, but they go up against a tough AFC opponent this week in Pittsburgh. Expect their defense to effectively shut down the 49ers offense.

Sleepers

Roy Helu (RB) - WAS

Helu goes up against the Giants this week, who's defense has been terrible as of late. Plus, Helu has rushed for over 100 yards in each of the last three weeks.

Matt Moore (QB) - MIA

Matt Moore - Terrible real life quarterback, decent fantasy QB. He goes up against the Bills this week, plus the Dolphins have been pretty hot as of late.

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