

‘Duality’ opens at East campus

Artist Chris Kahler displays his artwork at the Anita S. Wooten gallery

By Amanda Gonzalez
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Chris Kahler, professor of painting and drawing at Eastern Illinois University, made an appearance at Valencia’s East Campus as part of the opening reception for “Chris Kahler: Duality.”

“Chris Kahler: Duality” is an art installation, which went on display this Friday at Valencia East. Although some of Kahler’s paintings are displayed in galleries in St. Louis, Mo. and Santa Fe, N.M., this is his first installation in Florida.

Upon entering the Anita S. Wooten gallery, the title piece of the installation can be seen with a painting of Kahler’s just below it. Behind the large-scale painting is the gallery itself. Several of Kahler’s paintings are on display in the gallery. The largest of all the



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Chris Kahler (right) discusses his works with graphic design student Alex Smith.

paintings, which happens to be 20 feet wide, is displayed in a separate hallway of the

same building.

“I’ve always loved drawing,” Kahler said. “My

mom was a painter and my dad was an architect, so it runs in the family.” Run in the family

it does. Even though Kahler’s study of architecture came to an early end, the inspiration of architecture is apparent in many of his paintings, as well as the inspiration of biotechnology and anatomy.

Jackie Otto Miller, curator of the Anita S. Wooten gallery and a teacher of Design at Valencia, said, “Our dean, Wendy Givoglu, and our provost, Ruth Prather, went to a conference and they met him, and they saw his work, and they suggested to me that we post an exhibition of his work.”

The gallery is open to the public, as could be seen at the opening reception Friday night. Students, teachers, and outside visitors came with friends and family to see Kahler’s work as well as to hear his lecture.

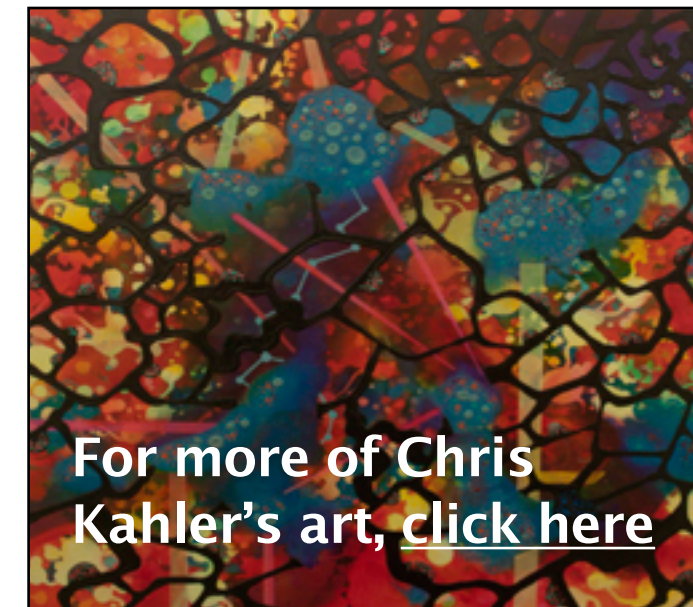
“I’m here with my friend,” said Gabriela Cruz, a student

at Valencia. “She likes art and wants to maybe take some painting classes here, and she didn’t want to come alone. I liked it. It was really pretty and interesting to know how he does his work.”

“Chris Kahler: Duality” began on Friday and will run until March 4, 2011. Hours of operation are Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The Anita S. Wooten gallery can be found in building 3 of the Valencia East Campus.

Aside from visiting the “Chris Kahler: Duality” art installation at the East Campus, you can see other works by Kahler at <http://www.brunodavidgallery.com> and also at <http://www.davidrichardcontemporary.com>. Kahler’s work can be found under the artists tab on both pages.

For more of Chris Kahler’s art, [click here](#)



Bomb capable of lethal impact

Police safely remove explosives from MLK parade route

By Thomas Clouse
The Spokesman-Review

As Lindsey Reiswig and her co-workers at Auntie's Bookstore in Spokane Washington snapped photos of a police robot examining a backpack outside of their store, the Spokane bomb squad was coming to a frightening realization. The backpack in question was equipped with a powerful bomb, positioned to inflict maximum blast damage

toward the intended route of Spokane's annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day Unity March through downtown.

When the Auntie's employees saw an officer in a bomb suit, "we decided that maybe we should back away from the windows," Reiswig said.

The FBI confirmed Tuesday that the Swiss Army brand backpack contained a bomb that could have caused "multiple casualties" and credited Spokane city employees

who noticed the suspicious bag and alerted authorities in time to reroute the parade. A \$20,000 reward is being offered for information leading to the arrest and conviction of those responsible.

"It definitely was, by all early analysis, a viable device that was very lethal and had the potential to inflict multiple casualties," said Frank Harrill, the special agent in charge of the Spokane FBI office. "Clearly, the timing and placement of a device, secreted in a backpack, with the Martin Luther King parade is not coincidental. We are doing everything humanly possible to identify the individuals or individual who constructed and placed this device."

Harrill wouldn't disclose specific details about the bomb.

"I think the link to the Martin Luther King celebration and march is inescapable," Harrill said. "At that point, it falls directly in the realm and sphere of domestic terrorism. Clearly, there was some political or social agenda here."

"Man, that's a sad testament," said Ivan Bush, who

works in human resources for Spokane Public Schools. "Here we are in the 21st century and these types of things are still happening. It just hurts."

Harrill said agents have conducted interviews and gathered surveillance of the area but said he could not discuss any potential suspects.

"We don't know, at this point, of any linkage to any other incident," Harrill said of the Monday discovery. "We are not aware of any other events that prefaced this event or threats associated with this device. Nor does it appear to be linked to any other incidents in Spokane or anywhere else in the country. But, that certainly is a focus for us."

The city workers who discovered the backpack "were the heroes of the day. They did what we all should do. They brought it to the attention of police," Harrill said. "They took quick action, rerouted the parade and immediately called for the bomb disposal unit."

Mayor Mary Verner said city officials are doing all they can to cooperate with the fed-



Police dressed in special body armor designed to protect personnel during bomb disarming.

eral investigation.

"I was struck that on a day when we celebrate Dr. King, a champion of nonviolence, we were faced with a significant violent threat," Verner said in a news release. "This is unacceptable in our community, or any community."

"It would be nice to think that all this kind of activity was in the past, but obviously, it's not," City Council President Joe Shogan said. "Too often, there's that attitude that it can't happen here. Well, it is happening."

-MCT Campus

Hector Gabino, Miami Herald / MCT

Swordoftruth / Youtube.com
Leader of the Aryan Brotherhood Morris Gullett denied any involvement my his organization in the MLK parade bomb.



Don Burlinson / Valencia College
Michael Maguire and Rey Ortega, created the code for viewing video on mobile devices.

Phones now support videos for learning

Technology updates server for mobile viewing

By Collin Dever
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With the approaching switch to the Blackboard education platform, students will begin seeing new ways of accessing their online class con-

tent. Built into the new online learning environment is access through certain mobile devices. Valencia's Learning Technology Alternative Delivery (LTAD) department, who oversees Blackboard, has an inter-

esting tag-team duo. Rey Ortega and Michael Maguire are responsible for overseeing all of Valencia's learning videos. Learning videos encompass all videos accessed through the WebCT platform. "It would be unfair for the

students if Blackboard showed you all the class content, except video," said Ortega. "The video is an integral part of the learning process." Not an easy feat for the two-man team who cover everything from shooting, editing, posting, and managing the server that hosts all the videos. With the approaching switch from WebCT, it was time to update the video server again. As of this week, all videos accessed through WebCT, soon to be Blackboard, are available for viewing on mobile devices. Mobile devices that have been definitively tested are the iPhone and iPad, Blackberry

Curve, Edge, and the Android platform. This update to Valencia's LTAD video server reflects a long list of changes Maguire and Ortega have been working on since 2006. First, the server was upgraded to run on flash. Then a hulu player was added which allows for content to be streamed instantly upon loading the page. In 2008 all the LTAD videos were updated to high-definition at considerable discount to the school because the LTAD team did most of the work themselves. "I'm always on the move and my phone is always with

me," said Kathy Batista a West Campus student. "I have a better chance of passing." Smart phones serve as a constant form of contact, across many different channels of communication, such as Facebook, email messaging, Twitter, and now class content. Most carry their phones at all times and are used as the primary form of on the go communication.



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School is bully-proof for one week



By James Austin
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Sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me. This oft repeated mantra is heard in elementary school classrooms all around the nation. However, the truth we all learn is that words do have power.

Mean spirited taunts and hurtful comments can cut to the heart of intended victims, causing low self-esteem, depression, and, in some extreme cases, have driven people to end their own lives.

The nation has recently been debating the consequences of negative rhetoric after the tragic shooting in Arizona. Some believe that the heated language during the fiercely contested campaign season may have contributed to driving the disturbed alleged shooter over the edge. This has led to many in the media to re-examine the way debate is broadcast in this country, and has led others to increase the intensity of their messages.

A group of students at Valencia aim to stop the mudslinging and hateful speech, by creating no-name-calling week. The newly formed Gay Straight Alliance (GSA) organized the week of civility to try to take the tone down and create an understanding and accepting environment for Valencia’s lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) students.

The GSA is new to Valencia, preventing them from organizing too many events specifically for the week. The group held it’s first meeting one week ago. Justin Wilder, the GSA West campus president, says the first meeting was a success. “We haven’t been able to organize a lot of events yet,” said Wilder, “but for our first meeting it went well.”

The GSA is working on organizing events including a food and clothing drive for the Covenant House, a non-denominational shelter for LGBT youth who have been forced to leave their homes. The group is also trying to organize a gay, straight prom because as Wilder puts it, “Everybody likes to get dressed up every now and then.”

Osceola campus goes green

Students play environment friendly games

By Victor Ocasio
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To start the semester off with a new eco-friendly agenda, the Student Government Association (SGA) of Valencia’s Osceola campus organized their first Green Kick-Off, a celebration of conservation and student participation, this Thursday.

Open and free to students, the premiere event of the SGA’s newest ecological campaign provided opportunities for “green” activities including areas specialized for designing pots for planting indigenous non-invasive Florida plants.

“There are a lot of things we take for granted especially when it comes to the environment,” said SGA president Vilma Rivera. “We are not doing our part taking care of it after everything it does for us.”

Meant to make the event more fun and interactive for students there were different activity areas including an inflatable rock climbing wall, an eco-friendly bracelet-making table, photo green screen and an oversized bowling lane where students were able to use their friends as bowling balls.

“I think the whole event is a great idea,” said student Kayla Seward. “It’s a great stress reliever to come out of class and hang out with your friends and meet new students while doing something good for the environment.”

SGA made it a point for students to fill out surveys that encouraged feedback on campus conditions and to make requests about any needed changes. Those who participated were given items made from recycled materials including key chains made from tires and eco-friendly pens made of corn.



Christopher Ortega / Valencia Voice
Students aim to raise awareness.

“Everything here is environmentally friendly,” said student Zuhaib Hasan. “This is one of the first events of the semester and I think they really had a great turnout.”

Plans to steer the campus in a new “green” direction have already been set in motion by the SGA who is working on doing a promotional campaign focusing on the top five greenest countries in the world later this semester, in order to give students ideas on how the U.S can do its part better.

Also in the works are the possibilities of reduced bus fare for students at Osceola to encourage carpooling and lower gas emissions.

“We are just trying to ignite a flame and a passion for the environment in the students here,” said Rivera.

Public policy in 140 characters or less

Politicians use new media to interact with their constituents

By James Austin
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Twitter, the popular micro-blogging website, has revolutionized modern communication. It provides a platform from which anyone with Web access can broadcast thoughts, opinions, political views, jokes, or even location updates to an unlimited number of ‘followers.’ Many have adopted Twitter as a way to reach out to potential fans, customers, friends, and now constituents.

Newly elected Florida Governor Rick Scott hosted a ‘Twitter town hall meeting’ on his feed, the Twitter home site where messages, or tweets, are posted. He invited all of his followers, people who were subscribed to receive his tweets, to post any questions they had to his feed and he would post his answers as they were received.

The meeting happened this past Thursday, Jan. 20. The Governor fielded questions ranging from how he’s enjoying living in Tallahassee to his thoughts on offshore drilling.

Twitter user Floridavoters asked, “@FLGovScott what are your thoughts around off shore drilling?” Scott responded by saying, “@Floridavoters need to make sure we do it when it is safe, not before.”

Scott also discussed the proposed high-speed rail project. OrlPolPress asked, “@FLGovScott Will u meet with FLA, grassroots leaders before making your high speed rail decision?” Scott responded, “@OrlPolPress plan to look at ridership studies and get input from as many people as possible.”

Due to Twitter’s 140 character limit the Governor had to be brief and pointed in his responses, while still providing an answer that satisfied the person asking. This made the conversation hard to follow at times, but the open format and the public’s access to Twitter provided some of Scott’s constituents with an opportunity to voice concerns and questions that might not have been answered otherwise.

Scott began his four-year term Jan. 3rd but despite his short tenure he has already come under fire from local papers for being to closed off from the media. The Orlando Sentinel wrote Jan. 21 that several reporters were kicked out of Scott’s inaugural reception and that at his first press conference his staff put up an actual velvet rope between the Governor and the press, limiting their ability to ask follow-up questions after the conference.

Governor Scott isn’t the only politician utilizing new media like Twitter to communicate with voters. This past Tuesday President Barack Obama gave his State of the Union address. Directly after the address a panel of advisors were available on Twitter to answer questions in very much the same manner as Governor Scotts ‘town hall.’

In addition to the Twitter panel, the President will be answering questions submitted during the



Screenshot / twitter.com

Rick Scott hosts a ‘Twitter town hall’ to reach out and respond to voters.

week by users of the popular video sharing site YouTube. On Thursday the President will post a video addressing some of the most popular questions.

The media environment is changing rapidly. New techonlogy is being produced everyday that lessens the space between us. Platforms like Twitter and YouTube are providing citizens direct access to their representatives like never before. A picture may be worth a thousand words, but when you only need 140 characters maybe a tweet is just as good.



Joe Burbank, Orlando Sentinel / MCT

Fla. Gov. Rick Scott talks to a crowd on the steps of the capitol building during his inaguration.



Don't just sit together, work together

The president gives hope to unsure Americans, so long as Congress is willing to work with each other

President Barack Obama presented his 2011 State of the Union speech to Congress and the country Tuesday night at 9:00 p.m. Though his words were strong and inspiring, the actions he and Congress take in the coming months will be the true measure of his speech.

There was several opposing party members sitting together during the State of the Union speech to show unity and bipartisanship. Though it is a lovely gesture inspired by the recent violence in Arizona, it will mean nothing if government goes back to politics as usual in the coming months. What's more important is that the congressional members actually start working together to do what's best for the country, as stated by the president himself.

The key issues to be faced include: reckless government spending, unbalanced systems of financial regulation, job creation in alternative energy production and other fields, plus investment in infrastructure revitalization, public education, and security.

Goals addressed in the speech for the political agenda include one million electric vehicles on the road by 2015, and 80 percent of power in America generated by green energy plans by 2035. This is a great idea to get people back to work and investing in a sustainable future.

Educational policies were also addressed like replacing no child left behind with a better system, and making the tax credit for college tuition permanent, providing 10,000 dollars over four years. This is no doubt important, but should be smartly debated as to how the programs will be paid for.

Job creation and economic issues were the central focus of his speech, and rightly so. Issues such as unemployment, trade deficits, and the increasing national debt are all important issues on the minds

of Americans.

Even issues that have been very difficult politically were addressed by the president. The president promised that illegal immigration will finally be discussed and tackled by Congress, along with the repeal of Don't Ask Don't Tell. The resolution of such large issues completely depends on the willingness of Congress to work together.

The approval ratings for Congress have been low for several years according to Gallup polls. There was a shift in power during the last election cycle with voters choosing to get rid of many incumbent members. This needs to serve as a wake-up call to everyone elected and remind them that they are not guaranteed another term if they do not act responsibly.

More big government regulation is not the answer, but neither is deregulation. Economists have found that countries thrive with a balance of keeping businesses open and continued growth, while also looking for what is best for the population as a whole. Just throwing money at the problem will not make it go away but in fact make it worse.

It is not an issue of who is right and who is wrong, but what is best for the country as a whole and for future generations. For this to truly be our "Sputnik moment" we need to work hard and reign in the problems that brought us into the economic mess we are in now.

With the recession symbolically over, now comes the truly hard work, to get the country back together again economically. The State of the Union address, though more of a formal gesture, helps to focus our elected officials to work with, instead of against, each other in the coming year. A government by the people should always do what is best for the people.

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Religion and society

By Victor Ocasio
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Religion is one of those few topics that can be brought up in any conversation at anytime and is sure to stir up discussion with any group of people. But why is it that we are encouraged to stay far away from talks of ideology and more to the point theology?

We have come far from the days of intense brutality over religious disagreements and dissonance, yet in the modern age, without fail and like clock work, religion guides many of the actions and decisions mankind makes.

It is always imperative to keep an open mind when talking about beliefs especially when you are dealing with individuals who are not of the same background or religion. But that does not necessarily mean that you have to avoid the topic all together.

Over looked in the discussion of religion is the fact that not everyone has a belief or ideology related to the subject at all, and in many cases it is on purpose, and those thoughts, as alien as they might seem to you and to the world of organized religion, are valid because they have the ultimate right to believe so.

But, in a society with such a culturally reinforced stance against an open forum for reasonable religious discussion, how can we ever hope to reach a point of complete religious freedom and tolerance. Perhaps it's time for a new policy when it comes to these discussions.

A world defined by a generation open to the prospect of breaking old traditions and taboos in order to create a new and accepting world dominated by intriguing thought provoking conversation without fear of persecution is something so attainable by our age bracket that it would almost be a shame to waste such a precious time in our history.

As time passes and our generation begin aging it is becoming strikingly more evident that we will soon become those in charge one day. Now is only the training ground and preparation period for eventual assent to bigger and better things. Perhaps now is the time to start thinking about how this new world, our world will work.

Do you think religion is necessary?



“It is not that important. As long as people have morals, it doesn’t matter if they have religion or not.”

— Natalie Gonzales



“I think it is. With religion, people behave differently and non-violently. We need a supreme being in order to get along.”

— Junior Jeanpierre



“I think it isn’t. It can be detrimental sometimes, when people use it in the wrong way.”

— Virginia Deoliveira



“People tend to be happier with religion. So, I think we need it.”

— Lameka Adams



“Religion helps build culture, ethics, and obedience. So, my answer would be a definite yes.”

— John Watson



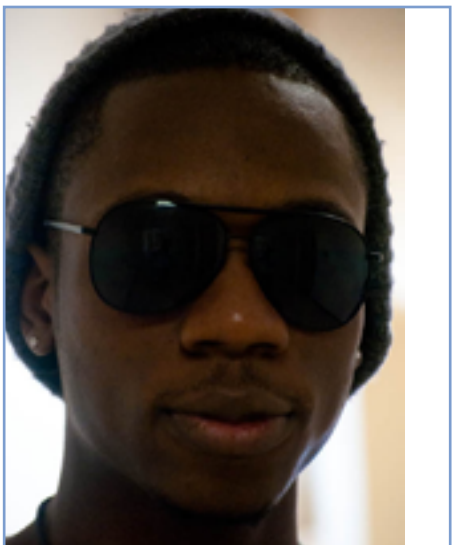
“Without it there would be no diversity. It would be boring. Everyone would be like robots.”

— Ashley Carson



“I say yes, but it actually depends on the person, their beliefs and how they connect with them.”

— Stefanie Campbell



“Definitely. Because it helps you have faith in a higher power. People need the belief in something higher.”

— Elson Hilaire

Is religion the foundation for a working society?

Secularists say not the case

By Camilo Echeverri Bernal
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Religion seems to be the ground for many debates as well as questions of what humans base their morality on. Atheists and agnostics alike feel and argue that there is no need for it, that human beings innately know right from wrong. They do not require a system of punishments and rewards to be functional members of society.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution speaks about freedom of religion, known as the separation of Church and State, as originally wished by the Founding Fathers themselves. While that was written to protect against persecution of one's beliefs, it does not always seem to be carried out. This can be seen in the Pledge of Allegiance, where "One nation, under God," should be, "One nation, indivisible."

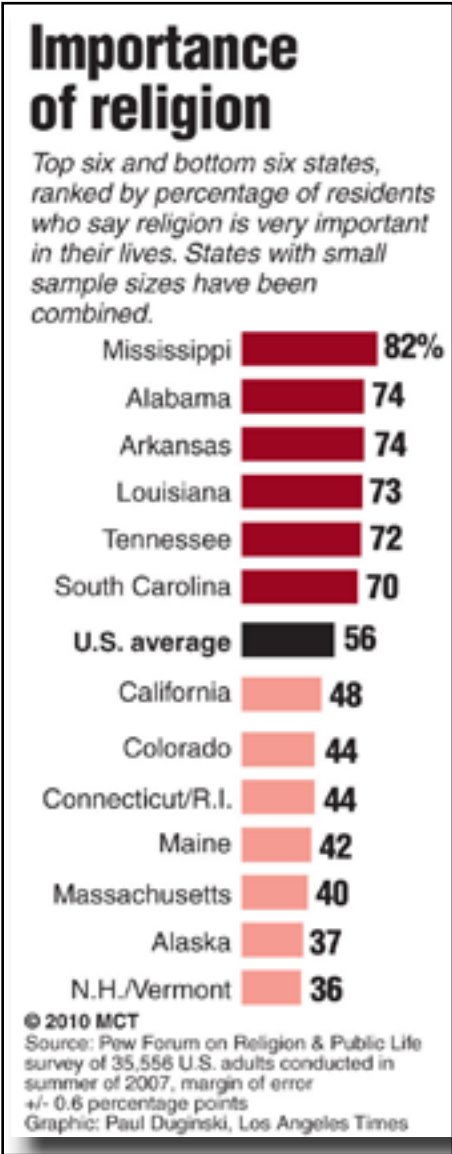
The Bible as well as the Qu'ran provide moral bases as well as several mandates pertaining to what is acceptable in the eyes of their particular deity. Often times, the violation of these tenets may lead to executions and persecutions.

In the opinion of secularists at large, religion has no place in government. It is clear, however, that a large chunk of officials claim some affiliation with a church/temple/synagogue and are propelled by their notions in accordance with their particular faith. When objectivity and fairness are so vital to one's occupation, is it okay to allow this level of bias?

What happens to those students around the country who are forced to recite this pledge when they themselves do not feel comfortable doing so? Some send letters to the schools, others are forced to quit due to bullying and being called names such as "Satan worshipper." If race was once

an issue to discriminate our fellow human beings, is now the lack of faith grounds to ostracize others and treat them like dangerous beasts and unwanted members of society?

Non-religious nations tend to have the lowest index of infant mortality, according to the council of secular humanism. More and more individuals rally up against secularists. Is this out of fear? Is it because of a break in tradition or accepted morals that have been around for so many centuries?



Should judgement be left to the hands of the creator?

Many religious cultures spread the same message

By Verónica Figueroa
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The Bible and every other 'holy' book from various religions have rules and morals written in them. Those rules are meant to be followed by believers of that faith in order for them to have a good and happy 'afterlife,' not for them to be functional members of society or to live in happiness and peace. Being a functional member of society pretty much entails not running around with a gun and I'm pretty sure most of us can handle that.

Christianity, for example, has the official Ten Commandments in the book of Exodus, which include "Thou shall not kill, steal, commit adultery, covet" and so on. In the following of those ten commandments, all the other teachings mentioned in the Bible, and of course, believing that Jesus is Lord, you are pretty much guaranteed a one way ticket to the pearly white gates of heaven.

According to Christianity, the only being that is allowed to judge is God Himself. Yes, there are always the extremists in every religion that point their fingers at their neighbor, call them "Satan worshippers" and ostracize them, but even the Bible says:

"Judge not, that you be not judged. For with the judgment you pronounce you will be judged, and with the measure you use it will be measured to you. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? [...] You hypo-

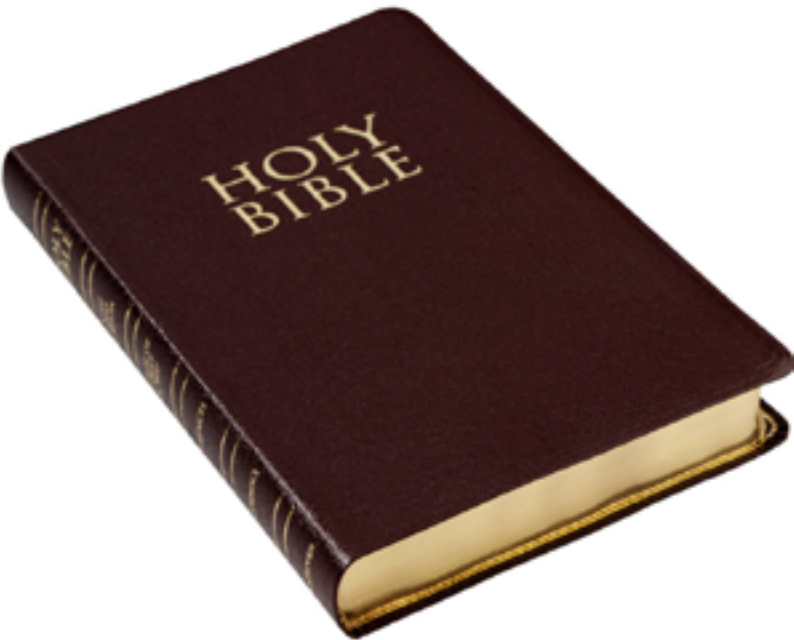
crite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take the speck out of your brother's eye." Matthew 7:1-5.

Funny enough, Allah and the Quran come to the same agreement:

"I am no bringer of new-fangled doctrine among the apostles, nor do I know what will be done with me or with you. God is the ONLY one who can judge humans." Quran 46:9.

Who are they to judge whether their neighbor lives the life of a Christian or not? They should look at themselves before looking at the rest of the world.

In a time when people need something to give them joy and when morals and positive influences can mean so much, it is important to have religion and something higher to believe and have faith in.



West campus ‘Roc the Mike’ was a success

Event informed students and ‘gave a taste of culture’

Shay Castle
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Valencia students got a taste of the island life at a “Roc the Mike” event held by the Valencia Haitian Student Association (VAHSA) Saturday evening on West campus.

Members of VAHSA stopped their set-up to chat with arriving friends and community members, giving the event a familial tone.

J.C. Walker, advisor to VAHSA, acknowledged the relaxed style of the organization as part of the cultural differences between Haiti and the United States.

“Have you ever heard of island time?” he asked, referring to the traditional absence of time pressure found in island cultures. Part of Walker’s role as advisor is to help students transition from Haitian culture to that of the States.

“The two cultures don’t gel very well. In the United States, we are very busy, very driven,” Walker said. “The Haitian culture is about fun. It doesn’t always translate well when you’re trying to put on a function.”

Plenty of fun was to be had during the main events. The talent show featured singers and poets, along with a skit put on by members of VAHSA.

Roosevelt Desravines, vice president of VAHSA, modeled casual and island wear in the fashion show. Desravines said the main purpose of the event was “to inform students about Haiti” and give them a “taste of the culture.”

Performed in Haitian Creole (a translation

was given afterward), the comedic sketch had audience members laughing and jumping out of their seats. “Our goal is to get Florida to recognize Caribbean culture and to celebrate it,” said Aeryel Williams, vice president of the Central Florida Caribbean Student Association. “We want to keep students educated on their culture to sustain their history.”



Christopher Ortega / Valencia Voice
Nick Law sings a rendition of John Legend’s “Ordinary People.”

‘American Idol’ judges waffle in season opener

By Lynn Jacobson
The Seattle Times

Season 10 of "American Idol" is going to take some time to find its stride without the caustic, decisive British judge in the lineup.

Faced with a parade of mediocre talent in the New Jersey auditions, the three 2011 judges - Randy Jackson, Steven Tyler and Jennifer Lopez - looked unsure about when and how to dismiss unqualified contestants. Lopez had a particularly hard time saying "no."

One auditioner, Ashley Sullivan, a Broadway-style belter whose voice seemed nice enough but all wrong for "Idol," got a golden ticket to Hollywood by crying and begging until the soft-hearted Lopez broke down and relented. Tyler and Jackson went along, after a few ineffectual murmurs of protest.

Maybe what this show needs is a fourth judge. One who understands the entertainment value of the blunt truth. One who won't stand idly by when Jackson, Tyler and Lopez call a turkey a canary.

Rachel Zevita, an also-ran from Season 6, was back with a baroque rendition of "Hallelujah." Lopez said, "I'm going to be honest. This wasn't the best audition you could give." Tyler and Jackson nodded their assent and then handed her a pass to Hollywood. A straight-shooter would've told her to drop the mannerisms and get back on the bus she rode in on.

Caleb Hawley, a scruffy guy with a kind of shambling charm, sang "Hallelujah, I love her so." Steven Tyler proclaimed it "something new, something different." Really? Sounded an awful lot like an uninspired imitation of Ray Charles to us.

There was plenty of true talent on display in the two-hour premiere as well, but even then, the judges seemed occasionally reluctant to make a decision, deferring to each other awkwardly.

Tyler fired off a few zingers. He asked one hapless contestant, "Did you eat paint chips as a child?" And he lodged a legitimate critique of the soulful Devyn Rush, a singing waitress, but not until she left the audition room: "Someone's got to take her clothes shopping," he said.

'Mass Effect 2' massively affects fans on PS3

Incredible story line allows players to feel they're the lead role in big movie

By Jonathan Terbeche
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It's been one year since "Mass Effect 2" was first released on the Xbox 360. With huge commercial success, and even greater critical acclaim, it's no wonder why this previous Microsoft-exclusive franchise has finally moved to the PlayStation 3.

It is first important to recognize the differences from the Xbox 360 version. The story, in its entirety, fits nicely on one Blu-ray disc. As a bonus, all of the downloadable content released is also available on the disc, including over six hours of gameplay spread across three expansions. Also present is access to the Cerberus Network, a unique feature to the "Mass Effect" series which allows for immediate, free updates whenever they're released by the publisher, Bioware.

Another feature exclusive to the Sony version is the inclusion of a small, interactive comic which fully retells the story of the first "Mass Effect." This is Bioware's answer to not being able to release the first game on the PlayStation 3. Since "Mass Effect 2" has a feature which uses key information from the previous game, the interactive comic provides choices which affect certain story elements in the game. It's a unique feature which is both enjoyable and effective.

Finally, the visual presentation is something to note. Running on the "Mass Effect 3" engine, it's no surprise that the PS3 version is just slightly better to look at. Graphics are beautiful, animations are clear, and lighting and other effects are some of the best ever

done in gaming. Unfortunately there is the occasional hiccup in visuals which can be detrimental to the engrossing experience.

Other than the beautiful visuals, excellent sound and voice work, and extensive amount of content, what else does this game have to offer?

Perhaps most notable is the story. To say the story of "Mass Effect 2" is a thrilling, science fiction epic, with fully-developed, well-acted characters, where the fate of the entire galaxy rests on your hands would actually be an understatement.

There are so many memorable sequences, from large, grandiose space battles, to a simple conversation with a member of your crew. Every element that has to do with story is so

cinematic, it feels like you're playing the lead role in one big movie.

Another aspect which makes this game so great is its level of customization and choices. You play as Commander Shepard, returning from the events of "Mass Effect." You can choose the appearance, background, training, upbringing, personality, and even gender of Shepard. These beginning choices go a long way toward shaping the events that take place.

Choices are so prevalent in fact, that players wanting to explore their relationships with the other characters can do so fully, meaning if you wish to kill your teammates, you can, if you want to sleep with them, that's okay too. Almost no option is blocked off for you to explore. This comes, in large part from the



Screenshot / Bioware

In this sci-fi third-person shooter you decide the story line.

inclusion of the dialogue wheel, which gives players countless dialogue options.

While stories are usually the biggest focus for other entertainment media, with games they will only get you so far, for a game is nothing without good gameplay. Thankfully, the gameplay in "Mass Effect 2" is fantastic. Not only are players customizing load-outs, allotting skill points, and utilizing tactics for their party, but the gun-play and combat is just plain fun. Levels are well-designed, enemies are difficult, and pacing is smooth. It is clear that every aspect of the gameplay was carefully thought out and improved upon since the game's release for Xbox 360.

From the amazing visuals to the top-notch vocals, from the immersive storyline to the number of choices, from the tactical role-playing elements to the visceral shooting gameplay, no game has had such an impressive caliber and high production value. For those even mildly interested in science fiction, great storytelling, role-playing games, or shooter games, you owe it to yourself to play "Mass Effect 2."



Screenshot / Bioware

Commander Shepard's crew gets ready for an epic battle to determine the overall fate of the galaxy.

Band history makes for an evolution in sound

Social Distortion is still taking risks with their long time listeners after 33 years

By Christine Saraceno
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To say that the members of Social Distortion, also known as SxDx or Social D, have had their fair share of troubles would be an understatement.

With perpetual lineup changes, the unexpected death of original member Dennis Danell, and sole remaining founding member Mike Ness' destructive drug addiction, it's almost unfathomable that they're even still together.

But while other groups would have disbanded due to the adversity, Social Distortion is an unstoppable 33-year institution of the punk-rock scene straight from Fullerton, California and to quit isn't in their nature.

Their new album, "Hard Times and Nursery Rhymes," was entirely produced, composed, and written by Ness (with the exception of their cover of Hank Williams' "Alone and Forsaken.")

The end result? A fantastic, stripped down album that harkens back to their blues roots. Throughout their career Social Distortion has proven that punk music isn't about who's the loudest or most aggressive.

Instead they've shown that taking chances while risking upsetting listeners is what true musicianship is made of.

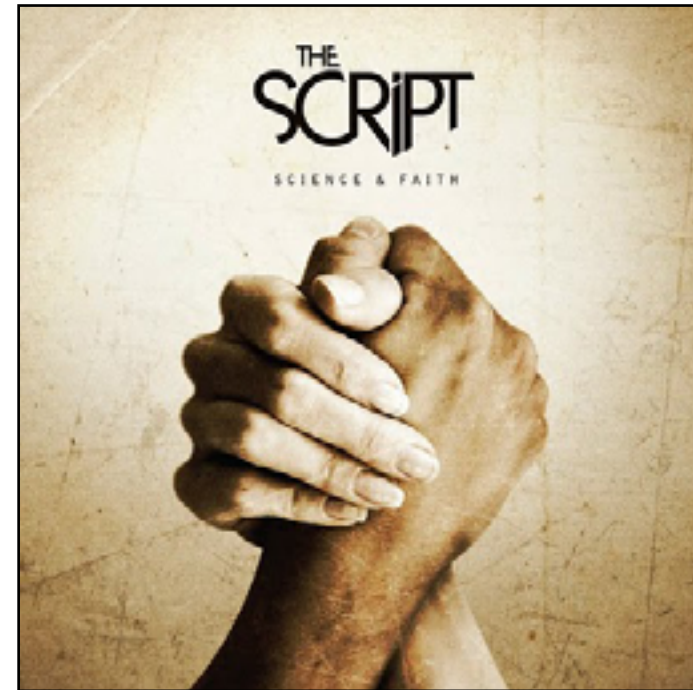
Many fans like Paul Trudel, a student at Valencia, aren't too thrilled with the album's new direction.

"I'm not going to buy it. I heard a couple of

the songs on YouTube and I wasn't that into it really," said Trudel. "It doesn't even really sound like them anymore."

The band toned the heavy guitars and ripping drums down slightly in favor of a more soulful, country groove as shown on the tracks "California," "Diamond in the Rough," and the aforementioned "Alone and Forsaken."

When recording, bands always face the tough challenge of either letting their sound evolve too much or not at all. If they really go for it in such an unapologetic fashion like Social Distortion though, you can't help but respect them. This album certainly isn't going to please everyone but it definitely deserves to be listened to.



Sophomore album by The Script plays it safe

Album pales in comparison to their self-titled debut

By Christine Saraceno
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Still riding high on the wave of success that their 2008 self-titled debut brought, The Script are out to prove that they are anything but one-hit wonders.

That's quite a formidable task since their 2009 smash single "Breakeven" went double platinum in the United States.

But with their new release titled "Science & Faith," the band seems more than willing to take on the challenge even if the Billboard chart positions aren't exactly reflecting that.

The lead single off the album called "For the First Time" is a heartfelt song about perseverance through the tough times of today.

Written by lead singer Danny O'Donoghue and guitarist Mark Sheehan after returning home from touring and seeing the effects of the recession, the song debuted at number one in their native Ireland but only peaked at number 80 on the Billboard Hot 100.

The album is full of the pop-rock ballads that they're notorious for, but it lacks versatility. The songs individually are well-written pieces of poetry of a man with a broken heart that contain catchy hooks and pleasant melodies.

The listener, however, might tend to become bored of O'Donoghue's monotonous moaning about how much he longs for the girlfriend who left him.

Songs such as "Nothing" and "If You Ever Come Back" shine on their own, but get lost in the arrangement of others with similar messages.

When asked if she planned to buy the new album, Valencia student Yvette Plaza said "No. Rather than buying it I'll probably just check it out at the library or download a couple songs off of iTunes."

"I bought the new album," Valencia student Stephen Jimenez said, "but I like their first one better."

Hopefully, with their next release The Script will evolve with their lyrical subject matter, else their popularity, while burning bright all over Europe, could flicker out in the United States.

First romantic comedy of year scores big with fans

Another big screen success for Natalie Portman

By Anna Gerrol
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Sure to be called the first romantic comedy of the year, “No Strings Attached” will no doubt fulfill that “dirty little secret chick flick” craving you fight so hard to deny. From the opening scene, the witty remarks and humor grab you in and don’t let up throughout the entire film.

The script, written by Elizabeth Meriwether, tells the story of two young people stuck in a friends-with-benefits rut. After attending summer camp together as teenagers and having a short tryst, MIT student Emma (Natalie Portman) and goofy amateur writer Adam (Ashton Kutcher) reconnect after 15 years, and so begins their romance, or at least the physical aspects of it.

“Typically, the guy is the one who wants to keep things purely physical and never get emotionally attached, but this movie puts a really neat twist on that and shows it from a female’s perspective,” says Valencia Community College student Dawn D’Alessandro.

The rest of the movie consists of Adam (Kutcher) vying for Emma’s (Portman’s) affection. It seems the more she pushes him away, the more he fought to win her over. He does everything in the book, from making her a mix tape for “that time of the month,” to cooking her soup, to taking her on a date and treating her like a queen. But even through all of his adorable actions, Emma still resists his attempts to make their relationship official.

Following her Golden Globe winning performance in “Black Swan,” Portman delivers another stunning and sexy execution in this film. But she’s not the only one who deserves some credit. Kutcher does a wonderful job playing that lovable, sensitive guy every girl would kill to have.

“He’s definitely easy on the eyes, especially when he wakes up with no clothes on!” says Jayni Patel, a student at Valencia.

With all of the hilarious banter and awkward sexual innuendos, “No Strings Attached” will keep you laughing from start to finish.



Dale Robinette, AllMoviePhoto.com / MCT

Emma (Portman) and Adam (Kutcher) share an intimate moment on “No Strings Attached.”

Supernatural drama craze has hit the Syfy channel

‘Being Human’ premieres leaving viewers with a thirst for answers in the storyline

By Maraya Figueroa
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Monday night a new series premiered that audiences can really sink their teeth into. Called “Being Human” on the Syfy channel, it is scheduled to air Monday nights.

In the premiere of “Being Human” one might wonder if the topic of werewolves, vampires, or even ghosts is overdone and overrated. Another show among the last decade of supernatural shows: “True Blood,” “Vampire Diaries,” “Buffy the Vampire Slayer,” or “Angel.”

An obsession that everyone tired of this gimmick may roll their eyes at. But don’t judge it too quickly. Those shows listed did pretty well and sometimes those trends are trends for a reason. This series is the American remake of the British series with the same name that was abruptly cancelled. Well, you may ask, if it was cancelled why try again?

You’re introduced to the first two characters right from the start and it’s obvious who the supernatural beings are. Aiden (Sam Huntington) is the goofy, self-pitying, introverted person and suffers a disease that transforms him into a werewolf when the moon is full. His character con-

trasts greatly against Josh (Sam Witwer) who is the dark, serious guy, with a mysterious past and a thirst for blood. There are many holes in the storyline but hopefully they will be answered along the way. Yet already you get a sense of each character’s personality in the first ten minutes.

“The show was good. I’m glad there was no love crap, like most stuff in today’s vampire shows. The first episode did a good job of setting everything up. But I’m still wondering how the vampires can walk in the sun,” Derek Martinez said.

Most of the time great series’ are cancelled because enough advertising wasn’t done and therefore ratings fail. Which makes spreading the word about “Being Human” that much more important. The show already has gained a couple of fan pages on Facebook and Annabelle Turski, one of those fans said, “I think it’s an amazing TV show and I just know it will get better as the series goes on.”

This is a show people can relate to because all of these characters are lost and confused in this new world of change they find themselves in. It keeps you interested up to the very last minute that you end up despising the commercial that follows.



UCF Knights vs Rice Owls

Rice beat Knights

By Karlvyn Louis-Charles
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The University of Central Florida Knights entered the game with a shooting percentage of 47.3 percent. On Saturday night, the 45th best shooting team in the country shot a season low 30.4 percent from the field, worst of their current four game losing



Russell Griner / Valencia Voice
UCF Knights center, Tom Herzog, attempts to score a jump shot.

streak, and their lowest shooting percentage since the win over the University of Florida in early December.

Marcus Rice shot 34.7 percent from the floor, enough to beat the Knights in a low scoring 57-50 win at the UCF arena. "We had a chance to win the game, but for some reason we're not even scoring," said UCF coach Donnie Jones.

Isaac Sosa's early three point shooting helped spark an early Knights run, leading 21-12 with six minutes, 52 seconds left in the second half. With an early nine point lead and the 9,347 screaming fans cheering them on (the third largest attendance in Knight basketball history), it looked as though UCF would pull away and win big. Missed shots and turnovers helped the Owls respond quickly with an 8-2 run to cut the Knights lead to 23-20 with two minutes, 40 seconds left in the first half.

Heading into the second half the Knights led 27-25 with only two points and two assists from the leading scorer, guard Mar-



Russell Griner / Valencia Voice
Marcus Jordan, guard for UCF Knights, tries to make a jump shot over Rice player Suleiman Braimoh.

cus Jordan. "He is very heavy-legged for some reason, emotionally, physically and mentally. He's getting himself back," replied coach Donnie Jones about Marcus' recent ankle injury.

Rice started the second half with a 15-3 run and led 40-30 with 11 minutes, two seconds left in the game.

A combination of the efforts of point guard A.J Rompza on the defensive end of the court,

Jordan's more aggressive drive to the paint, and the sudden strong inside presence of Clanton, kept the game close. Down 50-51 with 28 seconds left in the game, Rompza, while defending an inbound pass, touched the ball, drawing a very crucial technical shot for Rice.

The loss to Rice puts the Knights at 14-4 for the season and currently on a four game losing streak.

Knights lose to Pirates

By Bryan Levine
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The University of Central Florida Knights (14-3) lost to the East Carolina Pirates (10-8) 74-62 on Wednesday. This was the Knights' third loss in as many games. They were previously undefeated going into this current losing streak. All three losses have been in conference play. The Knights are 1-3 this season in Conference-USA.

They were led by Isaac Sosa who scored 16 points off the bench in 27 minutes of play.

The Pirates top scorer was Jontae Sherrod who had 21 points and was one rebound shy of a double-double. The Pirates led the Knights by five at half time but with the momentum swinging into the Knights' favor as they made two clutch three's going into half.

"This team hasn't dealt with adversity, and by adversity i mean losing," said UCF coach Donnie Jones after the game. "Usually a team deals with that in the beginning of the season, not in January." The Knights have been struggling in part due to the injuries of A.J Rompza and Tom Herzog. Rompza is battling a foot injury according to Jones. He only had five points in 26 minutes on the court.

Marcus Jordan, who has been hot for the Knights this season, has cooled off considerably the last few games scoring under his 18.7 ppg average two of the last three games. After spending four weeks as a ranked team, ranked as high as 17th in some polls, the Knights have dropped out of the polls but have still received some votes.

Next up for the Knights is Rice. They are 8-3 all time against the Owls and won both match-ups last season. The next win for the Knights would be Coach Jones' 70th career win.

Super Steelers shoot for seventh Super Bowl win

Jets never take off and lose conference

By Clarence E. Hill Jr.
McClatchy Newspapers

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones dreamed that history would be made in Super Bowl XLV at Cowboys Stadium on Feb. 6. Jones will get his wish.



Doug Kapustin / MCT
Steelers cornerback Ike Taylor mauls New York Jets wide receiver Jericho Cotchery.

Instead of his Cowboys looking to become the first team to win a Super Bowl at home, it will be the hated Pittsburgh Steelers playing to christen Cowboys Stadium with their NFL-record seventh Super Bowl title.

The Steelers got there thanks to a 24-19 victory against the New York Jets before 66,662 fans at frigid Heinz Field. Pittsburgh jumped out to a 24-3 halftime lead before holding on to qualify for its third Super Bowl in the last six years. They won titles following the 2005 and 2008 seasons.

“It’s hard to rank them,” an ecstatic Steelers president Art Rooney II said. “We will take as many as we can get. It’s great to get a chance to do this. Hopefully we will finish the job.”

It was former Texas Longhorns nose tackle Casey Hampton, who grew up in Galveston hating the Cowboys, who brought it full circle for Jones and Cowboys fans, still smarting from two Super Bowl losses to the Steelers in the 1970s.

“This is a great franchise,” Hampton said. “This is my third Super Bowl since I’ve been here and it’s more special going home to Texas. I never liked the Cowboys. If (Jerry Jones) is going to be mad, that’s even better.” Adding even more mud to the eye of a Cowboys franchise and its America’s Team moniker, which is next with five rings but none since the 1995 season, is that the upcoming Super Bowl at Jones’ \$1.2 billion show palace will pit the Steelers against the Green Bay Packers.

In other words, it will be a classic matchup of the league’s greatest dynasty team against the NFL’s



Doug Kapustin / MCT
The Pittsburgh Steelers defeat the New York Jets 24-19 to win the AFC Championship game on Sunday, at Heinz Field in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

first Super Bowl dynasty team. The Packers won the first two Super Bowl titles.

Steelers coach Mike Tomlin is back in the Super Bowl for the second time in four years as a coach. He is also looking to become the first African-American coach to win two titles.

Tomlin didn’t even want to think about what lies ahead, choosing to soak up the AFC title-game victory a little while longer.

“It’s so special because it’s the here and now,” Tomlin said. “It’s a unique group in there that has had a unique journey, so it’s special. It’s awesome.”

The journey began with quarterback Ben Roethlisberger suspended for the first four games of the season for violating the league’s personal conduct policy. The Steelers weathered the storm and now Roethlisberger is back, trying to become just the fifth quarterback in league history to win three Super Bowl titles. “We’ve been through a lot as a team and personally,” Roethlisberger said. “It just feels good. Shoot, any time you get to a Super Bowl it

feels good, I don’t care what you have been going through or what is going on. We put a lot of stuff behind us early and found a way to get it done.” The Jets, led by their bombastic coach Rex Ryan, entered the game flying high after wins at Indianapolis and at New England.

For them to beat Super Bowl champion quarterbacks Peyton Manning, Brady and Roethlisberger all on the road would have arguably been the greatest run to a Super Bowl in NFL history.

But it was not to be. It was the third straight title-game loss for Ryan, who lost to the Steelers as a defensive coordinator with the Ravens in 2008 before losing to the Colts in his first year with the Jets. Though disappointed, the talkative Ryan promised to knock at the door again next year.

“Obviously there is a huge amount of disappointment for us,” Ryan said.

--MCT Campus

Bears' rally falls short to Packers

Green Bay send Chicago packing

By Fred Mitchell
Chicago Tribune

It was Super Bowl or bust, and the Chicago Bears came up empty. On a sun-splashed, chilly Sunday afternoon at Soldier Field, the Bears and Green Bay Packers finally met in one of the most-anticipated NFC Championship Games ever.

With Jay Cutler sidelined by a knee injury after one third-quarter series, emergency quarterback Caleb Hanie led a valiant comeback that kept the Bears close. Cutler said afterward that he was unable to plant his foot and throw, and hoped the injury will not require surgery.

"I was going to keep playing," Cutler said of the team's decision to backup Todd Collins. "We taped it up (at halftime), warmed it up a little bit and gave it a shot, but couldn't do it."

Hanie entered with 57 seconds left in the third quarter. Early in the fourth, he led a scoring drive capped by a Chester Taylor 1-yard TD run to pull the Bears to within 14-7 with 12:05 left. Hanie then was intercepted by Packers linebacker B.J. Raji, who returned it 18 yards for a TD that put Green Bay ahead 21-7 with 6:12 remaining.

Hanie completed 13 of 20 passes for 153 yards, a touchdown and two interceptions for a passer rating of 65.2. Asked about Cutler's inability to return to the game and his toughness, Urlacher said, "Jay was

hurt. He's one of the toughest guys on our football team."

Matt Forte gave the Bears' offense a spark, rushing for 70 yards on 17 carries (4.1 average) and catching a team-high 10 passes for 90 yards.

Green Bay Packers had taken a 14-0 second-quarter lead on a four-yard run by James Starks at the 11:13 mark. The Packers also struck on their first drive, with quarterback Aaron Rodgers (17-of-30, 244 yards, no touchdowns, two interceptions, 55.4 rating) capping 84-yard march by scoring on a one-yard bootleg around left end for a 7-0 lead.

The Bears won the opening coin toss, but elected to defer to the second half. Robbie Gould's kickoff was taken by rookie Starks, who slipped and fell at the Green Bay 16. But Rodgers directed an 84-yard drive that included three completions over 20 yards. The drive culminated with a 1-yard TD run by Rodgers for a 7-0 lead with 10:50 left in the opening quarter.

All of the media predictions, analysis and dissecting of the Chicago Bears and Green Bay Packers finally came to an end, with the victor set to advance to face the winner of Sunday night's AFC Championship Game between the Pittsburgh Steelers and New York Jets in the Feb. 6 Super Bowl in Dallas.

—MCT Campus



Brian Cassella, Chicago Tribune / MCT
Green Bay Packers cornerback Sam Shields (37) intercepts a pass in front of Chicago Bears wide receiver Johnny Knox (13) in the second quarter of the NFC Championship game.

Florida's Janoris Jenkins arrested

By Rachel George
The Orlando Sentinel

Florida cornerback Janoris Jenkins was arrested for possession of marijuana over the weekend, Gainesville police confirmed. At 12:50 a.m. on Saturday, officers observed Jenkins, 22, attempting to roll a cannabis cigarette in the bathroom of Status, a nightclub in downtown Gainesville.

Officers issued Jenkins a notice to appear for possessing less than 20 grams of marijuana. Jenkins' court appearance is scheduled for Feb. 17 at 9 a.m. Although Jenkins was not taken to jail, the citation serves as an arrest, said Tscharna Senn, public information officer for GPD. Jenkins signed his notice to appear and was released.

"We are aware of the incident with Janoris Jenkins and will handle it internally at this time," said new Florida coach Will Muschamp. Jenkins was "in possession of a small, clear bag" of marijuana weighing approximately .6 grams, according to the notice to appear. It further says Jenkins attempted to hide the marijuana when he saw the officer.

This is not the first run-in for Jenkins. He was arrested and Tasered in May 2009 after fighting with five other people despite an officer's urging to stop.

Jenkins received deferred prosecution for the misdemeanor charge of resisting arrest without violence. Jenkins returned to school for his senior year despite being projected as a first-round NFL draft pick. One of the best cover cornerbacks in the SEC, Jenkins played much of the season with a torn labrum in his right shoulder. He underwent surgery after Florida's final regular season game and did not play in the Outback Bowl.

—MCT Campus

Who did you root for?

By Tiffany Janiczek
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Every January, the top two teams in the American and National Football Conferences meet to decide who will play in the Super Bowl on Sunday, Feb. 6.

This year, the No. 2 and No. 6 teams played in each conference championship game. My hometown football team, the Chicago Bears made it to the playoffs, and were playing in the NFC Championship game. As a true fan, I of course watched the game, decked out in my Bears t-shirt and blue and orange socks. I even have a tattoo devoted to my team. I'm a hardcore fan.

While the Bears were favored to win, the Packers rolled into Soldier Field as a force to be reckoned with.

Fresh off their surprising win last week where they defeated the No. 1 ranked NFC team, the Atlanta Falcons, the Packers scored first, and continued to outscore and outplay the Bears, causing head coach Lovie Smith to bench both the first and second-string quarterbacks. It wasn't until third-string quarterback Caleb Hanie entered the game that Chicago began scoring any points, unfortunately Hanie's entrance was too late, and the Bears were unable to come back and win.

As a Bears fan I am saddened that my team is out of the playoffs, however Green Bay played with passion and determination that Chicago couldn't match. While still in shock from the loss, I had promised a good friend that if they would pull for the Bears, I would in turn root for their team, the Pittsburgh Steelers, so I had to buck up and watch another game.

Traditionally, other than Chicago, I don't have another favorite team, but a promise is a promise, and this time the team I was rooting for actually won. Hosting the New York Jets, the Steelers quickly showed their dominance as the No. 2 team in the AFC. Quarterback Ben Roethlisberger and the Steelers offense outmatched the Jets' defense, and the first half ended with the Steelers having a commanding lead.

The Jets took advantage of halftime and regrouped, scoring 16 points in the next two quarters, however the Steelers were able to hold on to their first half lead and win.

Although I am not even sure I am going to watch the Super Bowl, I know that it should be a good game, and if nothing else the commercials will be worth watching, I hope. In any event, like the conference championship games, the No. 2 and No. 6 teams will duke it out to see who is best, and while it tastes like vinegar when I say it, Go Steelers!

What did you think of this weekends football games?



"From the start I knew it was going to be a close game but the Jets couldn't pull it off."

— Will Celestin



"My team won, your team your lost, we're going to the Super Bowl and you're not."

--- Almarie Palmer



"I'm very glad to see Mike Tomlin gets another chance to go to the Super Bowl. They played well, they played hard and out played the Jets."

— Willis Weaver



"I'm a Phili fan, so I was hoping that a Penn team would win, go Steelers. "

--Michael Rivera



"Not a huge fan of the Steelers and Jets, but I wanted the Jets to win."

—Cedrick Montana



"I was very happy with the Steelers first half, but being shut out in teh second half was very disappointing."

— Bryan Green



"They went exactly how I predicted the Jets would fall off early and not play their usual game."

— Shawn Healy



"I really don't liek the Jets, the Steelers deserved that win."

— Sam Dasilva