

ValenciaVoice

February 23rd, 2011
VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 6
VALENCIAVOICE.COM

Official Student Media of Valencia College

‘The Crucible’ casts a spell on East campus

Valencia Character Company puts on dramatic interpretation and sells out theater

By James Tutten
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Valencia Character Company is currently presenting Arthur Miller’s play ‘The Crucible’ at Valencia’s East campus. The powerful Tony award-winning story, a canon of American theatre, is portrayed with intense emotions and new innovations not typically seen in this production in the past.

John DiDonna, the play’s director, said, “We’re doing a very visceral production with dynamic subject matter based on true events. It’s fast-paced. The emotions run high. We even had a few audience members actually crying out in the hallways.”

The most notable addition are the “Afflicted Girls of Salem” who act as a Greek chorus to the bewitched actresses’ performances. Though

often laying quietly next to the stage, they become loud and interactive during key scenes, such as the girl’s confessions of her devotion to God and accusations of witchcraft.

Kristin Abel, the production’s technical director, said, “I’ve been getting a lot of positive feedback. Audience members are amazed at the staging and fresh interpretation of the script.”

There is a captivating, strongly

dedicated, emotional involvement with every member of the cast, and certain scenes can be very loud and intense. There are several impassioned and highly charged scenes involving the forbidden love affair between the two lead characters: Abigail Williams and John Proctor.

Shannon McGough, the lead actress playing Abigail Williams, is a theater major at Valencia. McGough said, “People have been getting very emotional during the show. I’ve seen a women with tissues, and last night a girl sitting in front of me was grabbing onto her boyfriend’s arm.”

Lead actor Cory Boughton, who plays the conflicted John Proctor, is a UCF student who performs with several other theater groups in the area. Boughton said, “People use the word intense. I like to think of the play as being visceral, with the added emotional level not typically seen in this play.”

Laura Mejia, who studies theater at Valencia’s Osceola campus, said, “I love the intensity of this play, and the afflicted girls



VCC alumni Penny Middleton as Tituba professes devotion to god.

and other actors help me feel very connected to the performance.”

More than 50 students put in over 500 man-hours building the stage which fills a majority of the relatively small Black Box Theater. This is done to create a strong connection between the audience and the action taking place on stage.

Ambient sounds and dynamic

Continued On Page 2



Photos courtesy of Kevin Abel

With fierce energy and intense emotion audiences have been deeply moved by the Valencia Character Company.

Rock the hunger hits East campus

Valencia Volunteers host 'Lunch 'n' Learn' to reach to students

By Maraya Figueroa
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Oprah does it, Lance Armstrong does it, and Angelina Jolie and Brad Pitt do it too. What do they do? Donate their time and money for charity. You don't need to be rich or famous to do it. You can raise awareness, invest your own time or collect donations for any cause. Homelessness is a big problem that affects the United States more than people realize.

Rock for Hunger is a non-profit organization that strives to feed the homeless by outreaches and annual concerts. The organization originated from the first Rock for Hunger concert in 2006, it was started by Chris Goyzueta and a group of UCF students. Now, Valencia students have a chance to get involved and make a difference.

The Valencia Volunteers had a "Lunch 'n' Learn" hosting Rock for Hunger on Wednesday, Feb. 16, at 12:00 p.m. on the East campus. Chris Goyzueta, the Executive Director of Rock for Hunger, was the speaker for the "Lunch 'n' Learn."

He explained how students can help and how necessary it is to get involved. The volunteers



Sharon Gekoski-Kimmel, Philadelphia Inquirer / MCT
Children wait patiently not knowing when their next meal will come.

go out every Monday night and feed the homeless, but "It's not only about that, but also about communicating and finding out their passions as well as your own," said Goyzueta. "I changed my major three times. I didn't learn what I wanted to do until I learned what I didn't want to do."

He went on to explain that he loves music, was good with numbers and wanted to help people anyway he could. So he took the power of music and used it to raise money for a good cause, he hadn't realized how prevalent homelessness was in America; even in central Florida. "There are 8,500 people in central Florida that are homeless and a quarter of those are children," said Goyzueta.

What do the students of Valencia think of this? "I think it's something very interesting and

something I'd like to do. I came here not to just learn but I plan on going," said Crystal Barbosa. Jayce Victor also plans on getting involved and attending the Monday night outreach, "I will definitely take part in it. I enjoyed it and will definitely be going on Monday."

Rock for Hunger has grown greatly in the last couple of years. Last year they gave their "first scholarship worth 4,000 dollars to a youth center for a boy who wanted to become a chef," said Goyzueta. "The annual concert happens every fall and national bands attend; it ranges from 8-15 bands. Art vendors and food vendors pay to come and advertise."

To get involved, contact the Valencia Volunteers at 407-582-2622 or visit www.rockforhunger.org to find out more info.

'The Crucible' opens at Valencia's Black Box theater



Photo by Kevin Abel
Two forbidden lovers John Proctor and Abigail Williams, played by Cory Boughton and Shannon McGough, share an unwise romantic moment together.

Continued from Page 1
lighting enhance the emotional atmosphere. The subject matter dealing with mass hysteria, infidelities, government intrusion on personal liberties, and false accusations are brilliantly portrayed with incredible authentication. These aspects of human nature are a factor in modern society, and can teach valuable lessons for the future.

"The Crucible" will run Feb. 23-27 in the Black Box Theater, at Valencia's East campus. Performances have been selling out, so to ensure seats contact the Box Office at (407)-582-2900, and information about other shows can be found at <http://www.valenciacc.edu/artsandentertainment/Theater>.

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Valencia delegate named Florida Honor Representative

Second year VCC student is sole Community College rep

By Collin Dever
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Members of Valencia's Honors program traveled to Jacksonville to attend the Florida Collegiate Honors Conference. The two-day conference, held this past weekend, was filled with student presentations on a wide variety of topics of research.

The Honors students of 22 Florida colleges voted Valencia student Anne Dowdell as the two-year community college representative for the 2011-12 year. Dowdell is the sole representative for all two-year institutions, and will have voting position on the executive board of the Florida Collegiate Honor Council (FCHC).

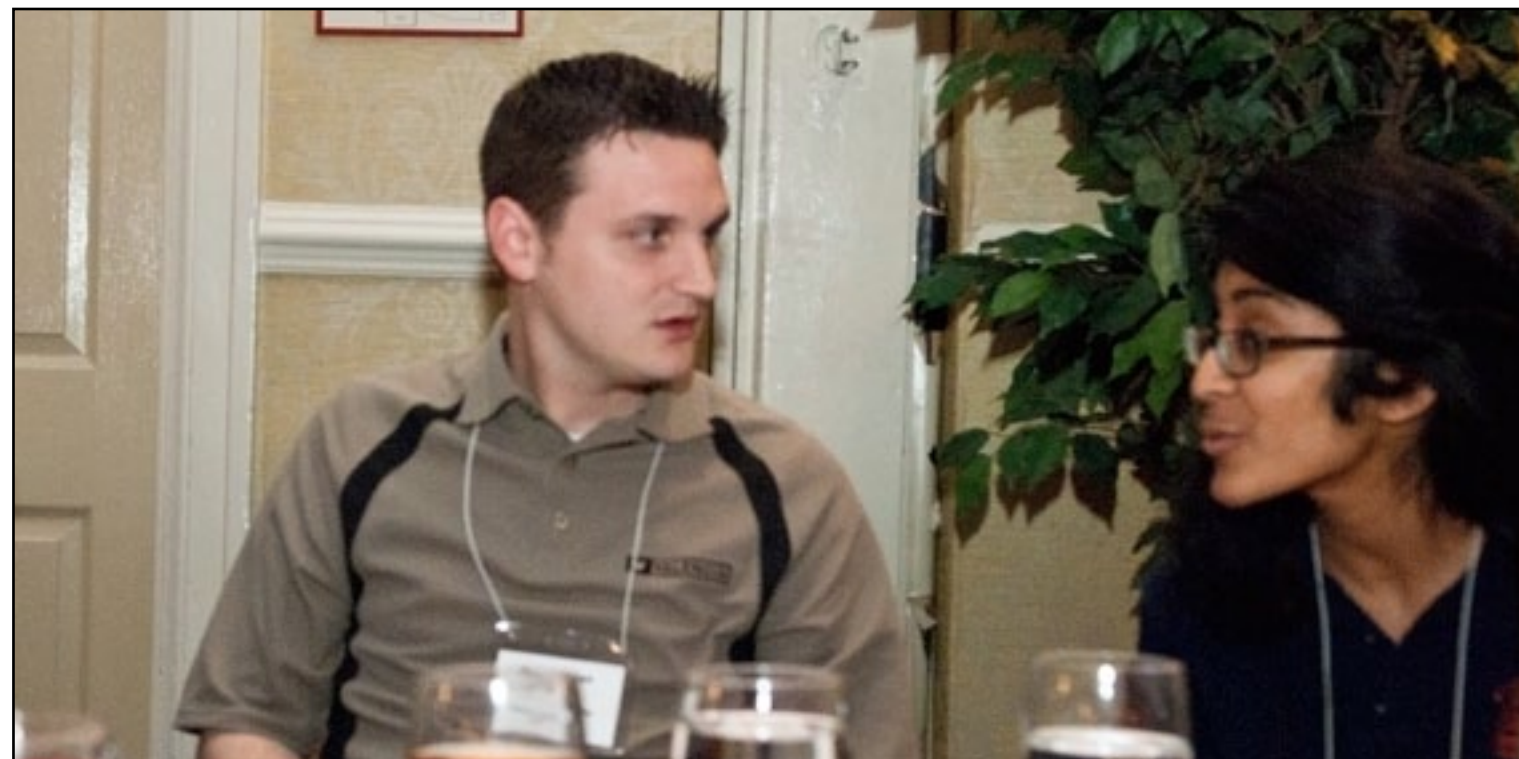
"I feel honored, I don't know how else to say it," said Dowdell. "It's great to take input from other students and make sure their voices are heard."

Valencia has held the the two-year representative spot for the last two years. Valencia Honors Council President Steve Crist was last year's FCHC representative. Having Valencia retain the position gives the school a lot of opportunity to influence the council according to Crist.

"It's natural," said Crist. "We have the largest delegation out of anybody."

The FCHC held their executive board meeting at the conference, to discuss a location for next year's conference, and to more importantly, the budget. "The student issue we came up with is finding corporate sponsors for scholarships," said Dowdell.

Students shared independent research projects with their peers on topics of science, math, and the humanities. "I'd like to see more Valencia presenters in the future," said Crist. No Valencia student presented at the FCHC.



Steve Crist and Raksha Ravikumar last year's two and four year public Honor's Council representatives after abdicating their role to the incoming representatives.



Photos by Collin Dever / Valencia Voice
Anne Dowdell, the new two year public institution representative for the Florida Collegiate Honors Council

The trip to the conference was organized through the Valencia Honors program. The conference is funded by the student activity budget for the students' dues, as well as the FCHC contributing some funds for the conference.

Valerie Burkes is the Director of Valencia's Honors Program, and attended the FCHC conference. "I think for Anne to win the election this year really shows the prominence of Valencia in the statewide honors community," said Burkes. "More importantly, it shows how important student opinion is to the program at Valencia."

Burkes hoped the conference would helped the honors students share ideas to bring back and improve the honors program here at Valencia.

UC judges people not test scores

By Larry Gordon
Los Angeles Times

The University of California regents on Wednesday moved to expand the use of an undergraduate admissions practice in which applicants' grades and test scores are considered in the context of their educational opportunities and life experiences.

The University of California, Los Angeles and the University of California, Berkeley already use the admissions process, known as holistic review, in which an applicant's entire file, including essays, are read and scored as a whole, rather than in pieces.

At least two other UC campuses, San Diego and Irvine, are adopting the method this year, officials said. As the university's governing board met at UC San Diego, a regents' committee approved the resolution that urges, but does not require, all nine undergraduate UC campuses to use holistic review in admissions decisions.

Admissions officials said the admissions method, in use at UC Berkeley since 2001 and UCLA since 2007, is the best and fairest way to pick a freshman class from a competitive applicant pool.

"The goal of holistic review is to give students more thorough and fair evaluations," said Susan Wilbur, UC's director of undergraduate admissions. Under the system, at least two readers review each application and give it an overall score, a process she acknowledged takes more time and staffing.

Adoption by the full board is expected Thursday. No date has been set for its implementation. Some regents said they feared broader use of holistic review might introduce too much subjectivity to the process of choosing students and could be seen as an attempt to get around the state's ban on affirmative action.

— MCT Campus

Scott dismisses high-speed rail

The long awaited rail between Orlando and Tampa is a no go

By Dan Tracy and Mark K. Matthews
The Orlando Sentinel

Gov. Rick Scott Monday waved off efforts by supporters of high-speed rail to assure him that the \$2.7-billion project would not cost Florida taxpayers any money, dismissing as "all these hypotheticals" promises that either private companies or the federal government would pay for any cost overruns.

"I am not convinced there is any plan that will get the taxpayers off the hook," Scott told reporters after meeting briefly with U.S. Sen. Bill Nelson, D-Fla., at a new Embraer aircraft plant that will assemble executive jets here.

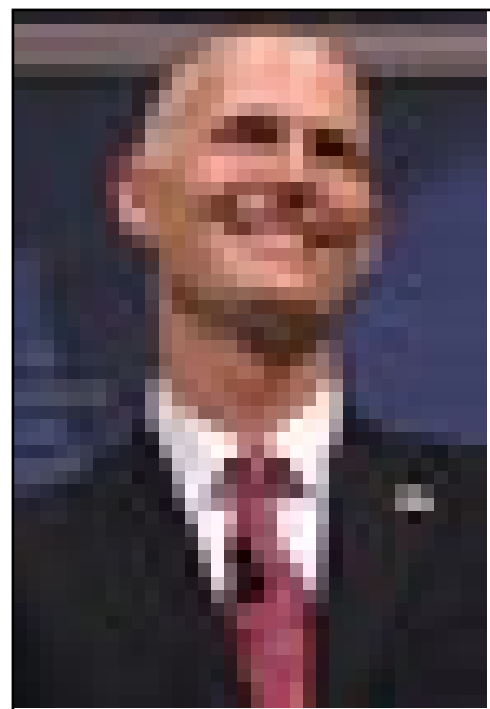
The governor also said he had still not decided on whether the state should go ahead with construction of the \$1.2-billion SunRail commuter train in Central Florida. The project, which was approved in 2009, is still "under review," he said, adding he had no timetable on when he might decide.

Nelson said he has arranged for attorneys from the U.S. Department of Transportation to meet with Scott to draw up an agreement that would hold the state harmless from any cost overruns on the Orlando-to-Tampa rail line. It would also protect the state if a private com-

pany -- chosen to build and operate the train -- should walk away from the project, he said.

Backers of the train expected to issue bid proposals in March to the eight consortia of international companies that have expressed interest in the train, making clear that the winner would have to pay the state's \$300 million share of the project, absorb any construction cost overruns and operate the rail line for 20 years with no state subsidy. So far, Scott has dismissed these assurances.

Speaking to reporters after Scott had left, Nelson said he had "a good



Joe Burbank, Orlando Sentinel/MCT
Rick Scott believes tax payers will end up paying out of pocket for rail.

conversation" with the governor on Monday and also Sunday at the Daytona 500, adding that he was "confident" that an arrangement could be worked out that would meet all of Scott's conditions.

"It is clearly worth it for us to continue to try," Nelson said, adding he'd be working on the project all week. U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood has given train backers until Friday to come up with a new plan or see him give the \$2.4 billion promised to Florida to another state that's willing to build a high-speed train.

Nelson also said he was optimistic that a "non-recourse facility" could be created to oversee construction of the 84-mile train line in place of the state. Earlier Monday, a team of city and federal officials announced that they were close to completing a proposal to set up such an entity.

Democratic U.S. Reps. Kathy Castor of Tampa and Corrine Brown of Jacksonville said this new entity would require the participation of at least two local governments -- presumably Tampa and Orlando. Castor said she hoped to have an agreement ready in the next day or two. "We are working together to keep high-speed rail plans alive in Florida," she said.

But even if the cities were able to come together, federal and city

officials said they still would need Scott's approval because the state owns the right-of-way and any project of this magnitude would require assistance from the state transportation department. "We must have a willing partner in the state," said Brown.

In his meeting with reporters, Scott did not refer specifically to this proposal, instead emphasizing that his concern is that the state couldn't afford to come to the rescue if the train's operators should decide to walk away.

Backers of the new proposal said their intent is that private companies, rather than the government, would be responsible in case of financial problems. "Essentially we are privatizing the high-speed rail project with no risk to Florida taxpayers," said Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio.

But Scott's reluctance had one ardent supporter of the Orlando-Tampa line raising doubts as to whether this new proposal could succeed.

"I don't want to be the negative person in the room, but I don't know if this is going to work," said Brown, the top Democrat on the House subcommittee that oversees U.S. railways. "The state needs to be a real strong partner. And if the state is not a willing partner, then I



Michael Mally, Philadelphia Inquirer / MCT

Although many are in favor of building the rail, officials say that Scott's approval is still necessary in order to go through with the construction.

don't know if it works," she said in an interview.

Meanwhile, there were also reports that LaHood has rejected a proposal by U.S. Rep. John Mica, R-Winter Park, to start the high-

speed line with a 21-mile segment between Orlando International Airport and Walt Disney World, with a stop at the Orange County convention center.

—MCT Campus

Progress doesn't apply to being nice

The issue of civil liberties and social injustice still affect many today

It's hard to think that in this day in age, the 21st century, there are still issues that have plagued humanity since even before organized civilizations. Many of the most successful kingdoms and empires saw their demise due to these issues. Unfortunately, human rights and discrimination still plague our society today.

The only way to ever progress as a race and overcome such cancerous issues is to break down the symptoms which cause them, and understand why it is they occur. This is already being done today as tests and studies are constantly being carried out to learn about such things.

When one examines the characteristics of those who suppress others, some clear trends arise. First, an inherent human fear exists of being outcast and ostracized. Because of this, preemptive moves are often taken as a form of protection. If everyone else is oppressed, then you can't be.

Another important facet is the phenomena where humans fear the unknown. So when a group of people don't directly identify with one's own characteristics or beliefs, and have practices unfamiliar to them, then they become quite defensive as a response.

Finally, the simple, yet disturbing truth that humans constantly want more has much to do with the poor treatment of others. After all, in order for one person to obtain great power and wealth, it must come from somewhere/someone.

While these points may be rather unremarkable and obvi-



ous to most, only by pointing them out can actual progress be made and changes necessary to become a healthy society. As of this moment, as a society we have much to do before we can be considered healthy.

Looking far back will reveal many dark times in our history, from the Salem Witch trials, to the harsh laws against certain acts that went against the church, to the almost legalization of murder for certain reasons.

Even within the last century the horrors of the Holocaust reflect our lack of progression. But even here in the U.S. slavery and racial cruelty heightened political and social activity. Many misunderstand racism and segregation as an issue of skin color or denomination. Instead it is

again the fear of the unknown, along with the fallacy of humans to project assumed differences upon others they meet.

While it can be argued that progress has indeed been made in regards to racism, many ethnic groups still have their rights and lives hindered to this day. More than that though, the greatest civil threat we face as a society today is that of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) community.

Not only are marriage and living rights withheld, but just to be able to serve in our military and defend against those who would have our freedoms taken away...is a problem for those of the LGBT community. But don't fear, the more we grow, the smarter we get, and the more understanding we show, the fewer people will be oppressed.

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We are all the same

By Jenn Stripling

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"You fail to recognize that it matters not what someone is born, but what they grow to be." Albus Dumbledore spoke these words and he could not have put it any better. In the world today, we still face the judgment of others.

To write 'mudblood' on her arms was an event started on Facebook that took place on Feb. 15 to "spread the magic of love, acceptance, and equality."

Whether it is due to the color of your skin, your gender, the language that you speak, the clique you belong to, your sexual orientation, or the blood that runs through your veins, no one is safe and that is why Harry Potter fans have come together to protest that intolerance will not be tolerated.

When it comes down to standing up for what you believe, many shy away from being themselves, afraid of the consequences they will receive. I personally don't blame them. I wouldn't want to deal with the bullying, the name-calling, the harassing, and the overall problems that come with being different.

On another note, I have been raised in an environment where my individuality was never hindered in any way and I think every human should have that right.

The message that founders Travis Peter Kuntz and Erika Bingham wanted to spread was that, "We write 'mudblood' on our arms this day not only to remember the pain inflicted on Hermione Granger by Bellatrix Lestrange for being born to Muggles, but also to acknowledge the hardships people have faced for being perceived as different."

With over 34,000 people who participated in this event, including my friends and myself, the inaugural annual event was off to a fantastic start.

Even though, as always, there were those posting negative comments and being flatout rude, but those who believe in magic stood their ground and backed what they believe.

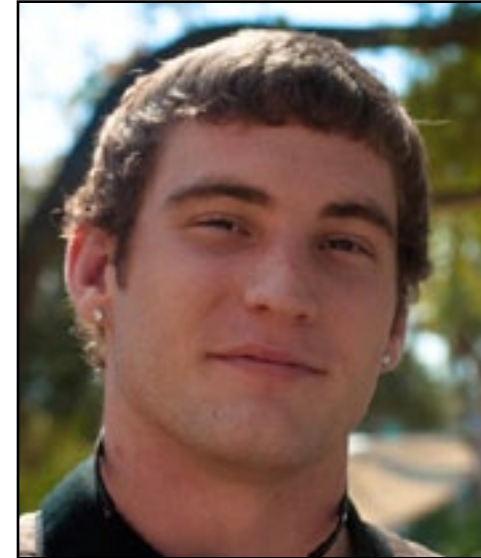
One faithful Facebook follower, Prudence Yic Moselakgomo posted, "[I] wrote Mudblood on her Hands! Not just for Hermione Granger but for everyone who's ever been discriminated against just because they didn't fit 'The Perfect Image.' I am a Mudblood, today, tomorrow, and for eternity!"

What's the biggest issue concerning civil rights?



"Just the conflict of minorities getting jobs, i.e. Doctors, Lawyers; basically getting paid well for their services."

— Simone Waxman



"We need change..."

— Rob Given



"Budget negotiations, the government insures our civil rights they are getting ready to look the other way."

— Tony Mellone



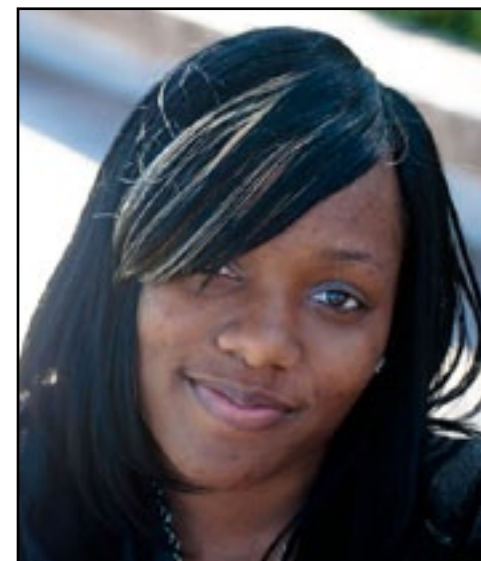
"Social prejudice is another form of ignorance."

— Ben Chase



"Freedom of speech every thing you say has a price."

— Charles Hammond



"Freedom to do what you please."

— JaQuisha Dallas



"Immigration. The U.S needs to be more open-minded to different cultures."

— Carmayne Jackson



"I think that its great that their handing out pell grant money for education."

— Ebony Mcarther

Photos by Sebastian Arbelaez, Reporting by Rofkens Petit-Homme

Gay civil rights gain support

Members of LGBT alliance spread message of truth

By Camilo Echeverri Bernal
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Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) rights have come a long way since Stonewall. The community has seen its ups and its downs. From coast to coast in the U.S. and around the world. Lesbians and gays, as well as transgender individuals have experienced their fair share of discrimination, ostracism, and name-calling.

Harvey Milk is perhaps the most renowned figure in LGBT rights in the U.S., his campaign against Anita Bryant and her proposition to stop mainly gay teachers from working in schools made him a target of much hate-speech, and his death was by the hands of a co-worker, Dan White.

His story, along with the stories of many, such as Matthew Sheppard, Gwen Araujo, and less known individuals who have died for being who they are, are the ones who have inspired movements and days of remembrance as well as the nationwide Day of Silence.

The LGBT rights movement has been compared to those of racial minorities--not in the sense that they are discriminated against because of their ethnicity and so forth, but because they are gender deviants in many ways. Lesbians are seen as inadequately feminine in most cases, and gays as inadequately masculine. It is an affront to society to be gender nonconformists.

In Orlando alone, the LGBT community has received a relatively warm welcome. It is true that we have the LGBT community center, as well as our pride parades and Gay week

at Disney. But civil unions are still not legal. In a state that hosts a great number of LGBT-oriented events and raises such consciousness pertaining to equality and so forth, its legislators seem to be bent on making life harder for this segment of the population.

It is still a highly controversial debate as to whether gay couples should be allowed to adopt children -- although in some cities, such as Orlando, things are different.

Gays, lesbians and bisexuals as well as transgender people face words of hate, loathing and contempt because in the eyes of many, their lifestyle is morally wrong and "evil." Their misery is perpetuated by Bible passages, just as slavery was, the curse of Ham and the stigma of the homosexual.

"People use religion and the tyranny of the majority to suppress the LGBT community," adds Justiss Wilder, GSA president at the West Campus

It is a human rights issue because it affects us all, LGBT identified and their families, their friends, their children and their loved ones. To be ostracized, exiled and cast out from the company of their fellow human beings leaves not only physical but emotional and psychological scarring.

Fathers who shoot their children, mothers who place their daughters in psychiatric wards, teens who lose their friends and teachers who lose their jobs over loving who they love. It is something that is skin deep and cannot be changed.

"Once GLBT rights are equal to those of the rest of the population, everything else will follow," predicts Wilder, pertaining to the future of the community.



By Shannon Metherell
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As technology advances, computers often control much of our lives. Starting with the simple monitor and bulky tower to store memory, to an advanced machine invented by IBM Research called Deep Blue that could compete against human beings in a game of chess.

Well, IBM is back and their team has teamed up with Jeopardy, a well-known trivia show to introduce a human-like machine named Watson, to compete against the top two human contestants in the game thus far, Ken Jennings and Brad Rutter.

"I usually never watch Jeopardy, it's a little boring to me," said Kristie D'Agostino, "but when I heard about this from my friend, I kind of wanted to see it." Just like Kristie, I also have no interest in watching Jeopardy, but hearing the talk about a computer competing against humans got me curious.

At first I thought that this

Jeopardy proves too elementary for Watson

Publicity stunt or not, IBM's new computer beats human contestants and wins \$1,000,000

had to be a joke and was staged, watching Watson get the majority of the questions right I stopped watching and focused on something else. When I heard Watson answering questions wrong, my mind tuned back into the show. The idea of IBM working on a machine this advanced made me realize how computers are quickly contributing to the majority of people's lives. It has now about your capability to create the next big thing, like Watson.

Watson is made up of 90 IBM 750 servers that help break down the information presented to it into data that Watson can read, understand, and learn without the help of the Internet. The computer is programmed using advanced algorithms that allowed Watson to scan through the stored data to pick out the best answer needed for the question on Jeopardy.

Dealing with computers as his hobby, Chris Panton commented on his amazement with IBM's challenge, "It would prove something to the world and would be a significant advancement in how we

and computers interact." Students like myself may feel excited about the latest Jeopardy challenge, but just like most do not watch it, most students did not care to see it.

There has been talk about whether or not Jeopardy only included Watson on it's show just as a publicity stunt instead of something real they wanted to show the world.

"It's obviously a publicity stunt to gain more viewers for the show since their ratings have been dropping recently. Someone is backstage with all the questions and answers in hand, then sends it to the 'computer'," said Mark Gerdy.

Although this could be a possible accusation, the beginning of the episodes clearly explains how IBM has created Watson. Sorry Mark, guess you were wrong!

Publicity stunt or not, IBM's Watson has accomplished being the center of attention fairly well. To learn more about the complexity of Watson, visit <http://www.pbs.org/wgbh/nova/tech/smartest-machine-on-earth.html>.

Marriage requires hard work

Just over half of nuptial unions will reach “till death do us part”

By Emmanuel Colon
ecolon@valenciavoices.com

My grandfather once told me that marriage is the ultimate sacrifice a person can make. If one is not willing to sacrifice everything to be part of this union, one does not have any business getting into it.

Two issues ago the subject matter of long-term relationships was discussed by students and staff. “I have a problem with the term long-term relationship. It’s dodgy,” said Valencia professor Cornelius Sebacher.

Professor Sebacher teaches English Composition and World Literature, and he incorporates in his teachings works about human nature, including marriage.

“Marriage has to have a sacramental sense,” said Sebacher. “Not many people are aware of its sacramental value. Lacking such foundation, marriage can be difficult to sustain.”

Having that in mind, the question arises: How does one prepare for marriage?

I haven’t married yet, but I do know for sure that people change often throughout

different periods of their lives. What a person likes or who he or she was 10 years ago isn’t necessarily an emulation of the present or the future. This includes different tastes, goals, lifestyles, etc. Before the person searches for the one to offer a hand in marriage, one must get to know oneself.

Then again there are the ones who have been married for 50 years back from their high school days. These are the kinds of people that have the temperance to change together no matter how difficult it may seem.

A couple’s ability to adapt may be the most important attribute in keeping a marriage together. Marriage can only go as far as the couple’s ability to acclimate quickly to change. Change can make or break a relationship. As long the couple goes with the flow of change and maintains a balance in each person’s needs, one can expect a union full of blessing and bliss.

Now it all comes back to holding a sacramental value to such an institution. As Mr. Sebacher said, it is not an easy task to hold afloat a marriage.

A study done by TIME Magazine in 2006 said that,



Adam Fuller / Flickr.com

“An average couple now has a 57% chance of seeing their 15th wedding anniversary.”

As Florence L. Barclay wrote: “Marriage is not a mere question of sentiment. It has to wear. It has to last. It must have a solid and dependable foundation, to stand the test and strain of daily life together.”

As with everything in life, there will be frustration in marriage, and it takes temperance, understanding and caring to sustain a long-lasting marriage, but sometimes all it takes is simply to go with the flow.

The Adventures of Johnny Ganjaseed and the Blazin’ Cajun



Written by Emmanuel Colon and Illustrated by Carl Theramond



Sebastian Arbelaez / Valencia Voice

Workshop teaches computer skills free of charge

Valencia students learn how to use valuable programs to help in their educational pursuits

By Evelyn Ortega
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Adobe Photoshop was the skill ready to be taught to any student who showed up ready to learn last Friday. This particular workshop was held in Building 6-118 inside the first floor of the Library, where all of the Tutorial & Training workshops are held.

UCF student and Valencia skillshop instructor, Ruth Joseph explained to the class of about ten students, consisting of one veteran PhotoShop user, and many knowing no more

than the name of the program, that the skillshop consists of

"It all depends what program students prefer, each semester is different"

— Daphca Joseph

two tutorials, making this skillshop a hands-on course.

The first tutorial was a guided, step-by-step look on how to use each tool to improve a picture of a model by removing blemishes and pimples, and

softening the tone and color of skin. The second tutorial was also of a model, however this time students learned how to enhance her makeup, add highlights to her hair, and change her eye color, making her look just like a fashion magazine front cover.

Joseph, having taught a few skillshops already, has chosen 'Adobe Photoshop' as her favorite to teach. However, Valencia students seem to have chosen 'Microsoft Word Documents: Quick, Easy, and Dazzling' as the most popular, probably because it is the one program that

all students are required to use at least once in each course.

"It all depends what program students prefer, each semester is going to be different," Joseph said.

Still, many students have yet to jump on this opportunity to learn a new skill like first time attendee, Daphca Joseph, did that afternoon. When asked what was the one thing she learned in the skillshop, she jokingly responded, "I learned what PhotoShop actually is."

Many of these skillshops are offered multiple times per semester all at different times of

the day and at all the campuses in order to be more available to all Valencia students.

"Brochures are given to students in the SSB building in the beginning of each semester with the dates and times," Ruth Joseph said.

Besides Word, and PhotoShop, Valencia offers mini-courses on a variety of programs like Microsoft Excel, Google Earth, and Windows Movie Maker. What programs will students show preference to this semester?

"It depends what program fits my schedule," Daphca Joseph said in reply.

As for any student that is willing to learn or practice the computer programs offered, dates and times of skillshops for this semester can be found at <http://valenciacc.edu/library/west/cal/classes.cfm>.

Remember that they are free, range from only an hour to an hour and half, and that, in today's job market, you can't really have too many skills.

Skillshops coming in March

Located in the West Campus Library, Room 6-118

Workshop	Date and time
Word	1st — 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.
Excel	2nd — 7:00 - 8:30 p.m.
Online Courses	3rd — 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.
Cyber Security and you	14th — 3:30 - 5:00 p.m.
Powerpoint	15th — 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Photoshop	16th — 3:00 - 4:30 p.m.
Live@EDU	18th — 2:30 - 3:30 p.m.
Google Earth	21st — 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
Word	23rd — 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.
Movie Maker	25th — 10:00 - 11:30 a.m.
Live@EDU	30th — 2:00 - 3:00 p.m.

Unlucky Number Seven

After 16 years, Mogwai comes off as washed up and unoriginal

By Christine Saraceno
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Since they released their debut album, "Young Team," Scottish post-hardcore band Mogwai have put together an impressive discography of powerful, progressive, guitar-based rock music. However, after 16 years together their trademark musical formula could be more than a bit overused.

With producer Paul Savage (Franz Ferdinand) at the helm of their new release, "Hardcore Will Never Die, But You Will," the album boasts an intricate arrangement of complicated dual guitar riffs and ripping drums, with the exception of the unusually beautiful piano-based ballad "Letters To The Metro."

They revisit familiar territory with the songs "How To Be A Werewolf" and "White Noise" which both, in classic Mogwai fashion, start out at a slow, deliberate pace until reaching the roaring peak of musical tension, and then relenting

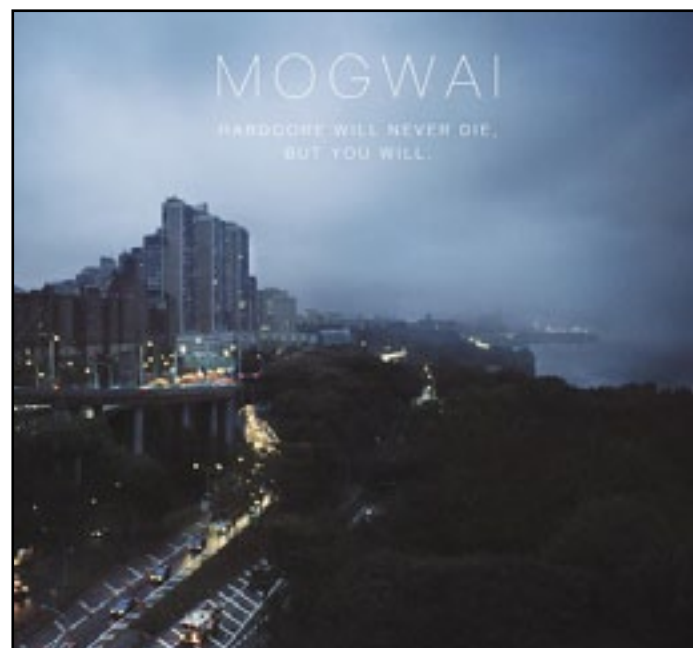
into a mellow ending.

"Mexican Grand Prix" is a no nonsense auditory assault that kicks off with drummer Martin Bulloch's violent cymbal smashing and is rounded out by Stuart Braithwaite's surprisingly melodic wail.

When asked for his take on "Hardcore Will Never Die..." Mogwai fan David Holloway said, "I'm loving the new album. It sounds very solid and complete. I think 'Too Raging to Cheers' would be my standout song from it.

While "Hardcore Will Never Die..." will please fans, it should be acknowledged that the band is not showing any sense of advancement in musicianship. Some would say that since they are veterans of the modern prog-rock movement they are entitled to stick to the tired sound they helped to pioneer.

There comes a point though when experimentation proves to be vital in giving listeners something different to listen to. If Mogwai aren't willing to tweak their style, listeners will be better off saving their money and instead listening to their previous releases since they are all musically interchangeable.



Born This Way is long awaited hit

New Lady Gaga song is all about self-acceptance

By Christine Saraceno
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Worldwide, Lady Gaga fans have been on edge for months anticipating new music from the pop megastar. After taking a short break, Gaga came back with a bang. On Feb. 11, they got their wish with the release of the song "Born This Way," which upon hours of its release, broke iTunes' record for fastest selling single in U.S. history.

Within seconds, the song gives listeners the feeling they are hearing a modern spin on an electro-club anthem of the early 1990s. The persistent pounding bass framing the retro synth-pop create a sound that will render people defenseless against the urge to dance.

But the heart of "Born This Way" is the subject matter. With many reports in recent months of homosexual teen suicides and bullying directed at those perceived to be gay, kids who identify with the LGBT (lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender) community needed a reassuring voice to let them know that who they are is acceptable. It

is no surprise that Gaga, who is very outspoken in her support of equal rights for same sex couples, was the one to lend a helping hand.

She shows people who often feel conflicted that they don't have to choose between their religious beliefs and their sexual orientation. One of multiple instances



where she conveys this is in the spoken word beginning of the song when she says "It doesn't matter if you love him or capital H-I-M."

Public opinion of the song has been generally positive, particularly among many Valencia students.

Natasha Cordova, a student at Valencia's West campus, says, "It had a really nice 80's-synth and of course I loved the message. Every-

one needs that one song and I think that's it for a lot of people."

One Valencia student, Parker Crumpler, was not as thrilled about the song, "She was very repetitive," he said.

Brianna Large, also a student, shared a similar sentiment. "I listened to it for one minute last night and it was bad. I don't really like Lady Gaga. She sounds too much like Madonna."

And indeed the Madonna comparisons have been abundant lately. Can't arguments be made though that everyone sounds like someone else?

With "Born This Way" Lady Gaga shows her mature, culturally conscious side and in doing so has created the new "gay anthem" of the 21st century. But more so than that, the song will gain the appreciation of all her diversity solely because of its universal message of accepting yourself.

Whether you are a die-hard Lady Gaga fan or just need a new feel-good dance track to add to your iPod, "Born This Way" is completely a must listen for everyone.

A decade late and twenty characters short

Capcom's new entry to the fighting scene is a ton of fun, but ultimately disappoints

By Jonathan Terbeche
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Ask anyone what their favorite fighting game of all time is and there's a good chance they'll say, "Marvel vs. Capcom 2." After over a decade, many fans are still playing the definitive combo-inducing fighter, whether it be the original, or the re-releases on Xbox Live and the PlayStation Network.

With 56 characters, vibrant sprite-based graphics, and arguably the best fighting mechanics of any fighter, it is no wonder why even used copies of the original game still go for upwards of 50 dollars.

When Capcom announced they had plans to release the sequel to one of gaming's greatest, excitement and elation were abundant. The question on everyone's minds, "How do you improve on something so great?"

It's easiest to first note the differences from the previous title. Instead of the tradi-

tional sprite-based, 2-D graphics, "Marvel vs. Capcom 3" uses fully rendered, polygonal 3-D for characters and backgrounds. Combat, however, remains on a static, 2-D plane. The graphics are beautiful and have a unique, cell-shaded, comic book aesthetic.

Another notable difference is perhaps the most disappointing, certainly for long-time fans. While all of the characters are unique and varied, and careful attention was paid to balancing, the overall character roster is rather unremarkable. With only 36 characters, not only are fan favorites like Cable and Venom gone, but even some no-brainers like MegaMan and Stryder failed to make an appearance.

The issue of new characters can easily be mended through downloadable content (DLC), but this only further angers fans who expect full character roster at the time of the game's release. This trend of DLC is one Capcom is very familiar with,



Screenshot
Hsien-Ko and Iron man clash head-on in "Marvel vs. Capcom 3."

but one which could alienate customers as well.

The last major difference is where the game loses major points. For being a next-gen console game it has a serious lack of modes and features that even older fighting games are known for. The modes and options it does have are great, but without a survival mode, score attack mode, or something else unique they could've done, not taking advantage of such high expectations seems like huge oversight.

While the game certainly has its share of disappointments, mostly when compared to the previous entry in the series, it also has a lot of great things going for it. Despite the small roster, some of the characters it does include are great, and even the quirky, fan-pleasers feel vi-

able for tournaments. Another thing that needs commending is the ease of access included in online play. Whether you want to invite a friend to fight, look for a random person in your fighting level, or just want to compare stats, it's all just a few clicks away.

"Marvel vs. Capcom 3" may not introduce any groundbreaking gameplay, innovative modes, or even an awe-inspiring set of characters. What it does bring to the table though, is a tight fighting game with beautiful visuals, fun gameplay, and crazy combo action. Whether you're upset or pleased with the game almost doesn't even matter; where else can you have the Incredible Hulk fighting Viewtiful Joe? Only in "Marvel vs. Capcom 3!"

Is 'Radiohead' evolving into a dance band?

By Ann Powers
Los Angeles Times

Thom Yorke jerks around in the video for "Lotus Flower," the first single from Radiohead's just-released eighth studio album, "The King of Limbs," like someone only just discovering that the body's job is to move. In the clip, choreographed by the British kinesics expert Wayne McGregor, Yorke shakes, wobbles and nearly drools to the song's needling dance beat, sometimes elegantly loosening up, only to shake back into awkwardness.

Yet it's new too, mostly because of the music behind Yorke, and specifically the sound coming out of him: His falsetto has never sounded this relaxed, as he sings about dancing, the joy of releasing energy, "just to see what gives." In some dark imagined disco, this song is getting people on the floor.

Well, not entirely. "The King of Limbs," which was abruptly made available for download via the band's website Friday, can be heard from several angles. Fans and critics have already been registering wildly divergent reactions: Some think it's one of the band's best efforts; others find it too low-key or similar to previous work; a few consider it awfully doomy; and others wish it were less abstract. A strong emphasis on ambient electronics connects this set to the more experimental strain of Radiohead music that emerged with the 2000 album "Kid A." Jonny Greenwood keeps the guitar grandiosity to a minimum, letting the rhythm section of Colin Greenwood and Phil Selway take the lead in the music's dances with machines. "Feral" is an up-tempo dirge, if that can exist, crumbling into dream dust; "Separator" relies on an intricate build that touches on jazz and 1970s soul.

The second half of this fairly short eight-song release includes some meditative ballads that lend the whole project a calm, wistful tone. But even in "Codex," the sensual power of these songs tempers Radiohead's frowny brainiac tendencies.

Some songs are actually quite funky too. "Morning Mr. Magpie" and "Little by Little" both bear the mark of Flea, whose bass contributions got Yorke dancing madly in the solo sets he performed in Los Angeles last fall, and a hint of Timbaland's influence sneaks in on a few tracks.

— MCT Campus

Remake of a Tati screenplay captures audiences

‘The Illusionist’ becomes a masterpiece second time around

By Shannon Scheidell
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Sylvain Chomet must have spent the past eight years, since his last film was released, honing his artistic skills in both music and animation direction, because “The Illusionist” is a cultural masterpiece.

Originally written years before by Jacques Tatischeff, famous for his work in “Mon Oncle” (1958) and “Play Time” (1967,) Chomet took over the reins and breathed new life into the creation, utilizing the technology of today while playing on the characteristics of older foreign titles.

The main character is an older man, working his way through the dwindling market magicians faced during 1959. He seems contented enough to travel the world, from act to measly act, until he stays in an inn one day in Scotland. Here a young girl, Alice, becomes immediately taken by his performance.

During his stay, she scurries around the cozy little cottage in torn and creaky boots. Her innocence and hospitality soon charm him into buying her a new pair of red clogs that fit her perfectly.

Soon, it’s time for the Illusionist to leave, so Alice surprises him in boarding the train a seat across from him, with a telling glance in his direction. He surprises her, in exchange, with a flick of the wrist to produce a ticket for her to tag along. From then on, the two are as in-



separable as a father and daughter under constrained circumstances.

On the topic of production, “The Illusionist” blends 2-D hand-drawn animations while using a computer to render some scenes scanned in 3-D. In one scene, wavering flowers are bobbing along gracefully to the rhythm of the wind, strung about a hill where Alice picks a bouquet, all while rolling clouds overhead bring interchanging views of darkness and light to play on the countryside.

One devout Tati fan, Richard Stracke of examiner.com, felt the film was a disgrace to the screenwriter’s name, however.

“That the film came to fruition at all is justification for any artist to consider burning their manuscripts on their deathbed,” he writes.

More glamorous live-action movies have failed to drag fans into a story, as much as they were sure that they had walked the city streets with Alice on those long nights and sat in an otherwise empty theater, watching the Illusionist work his magic.

Another novel turned film

‘I Am Number Four’ is a must see for all

By Charmayne Knox
cknox@valenciamoice.com

Alex Pettyfer and Dianna Agron (Glee’s Quinn Fabre) starred in the latest action movie “I Am Number Four.” Released this past Friday, it was based on a young adult science fiction novel by Pittacus Lore.

John Smith, also known as Number Four, (Pettyfer) plays a teenager forced to lay low because of his secret identity. At the beginning of the movie one of the symbols tattooed on his leg start to burn and he sees a vision of a young boy being murdered by a tall, fanged “man” with gill like openings on either side of his nose.

As a result, his handler, Henri (Timothy

Olyphant) demands that he packs his things in order to relocate. Henri and John relocate from Florida to Pleasant, Ohio. He is revealed to be the fourth of a group of nine youths from the planet Lorien. The symbols on his leg represent the other eight members.

Their pursuers, another alien race called the “Mogodors” who colonized the planet Lorien and destroyed its people have made it their mission to find and destroy each “number,” one by one, in sequential order, until their entire race is gone. He is Number Four.

John starts at a school in the area of the house that they move to. He meets a jock named Mark who seems to go out of his way to make fun of a nerdy guy named Sam. Sam’s dad came up missing a few years prior; supposedly being abducted by aliens.

John’s own powers manifest themselves while he is sitting in class. His hands light up, burning his skin and causing him to sweat. He learns of his agility and strength not long after. Mark and his bully friends attack John, causing him to use his powers in the sight of Sam.

Sam then realizes that John is an alien and demands to know where his father is. John tells him that the Mogs probably have him. Henri comes up missing from their home causing John and Sam to go after him.

“I thought it was really good,” Jay Perez, moviegoer, said. He mentioned that he “wouldn’t mind seeing a sequel.”

Another moviegoer, Jeff Baugh said, “It was predictable,” but when asked if he would be interested in the sequel he said he would go to see it nonetheless.



Homerun for UCF Knights opening game

11-1 victory over Siena Saints

By Bryan Levine
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Following their best season since 2005, the University of Central Florida Knights baseball team wasted no time getting back into mid-season form as they crushed the Siena Saints 11-1 in this season's home opener on Friday.

Backed by dominating pitching the new National Collegiate Athletic Association, NCAA, regulated bats seemed to pop just as well as the old bats for the Knights.

First baseman Jonathon Griffin went 1-for-5 in the game with 2 RBIs both of which came off of a first inning big fly to put the Knights up 3-0. With a 4-1 lead heading into the eighth inning, the Knights exploded with a seven run inning putting the game out of reach.

The most impressive part of the game might have been how well members of the 2010 top-20 recruiting class, Coach Terry Rooney put together over the off-season, adjusted to their new surroundings. Straight out of junior college, second baseman, Travis Shreve didn't seem phased at all by his first game in Division-I.

Shreve went 2-for-4 with 2 RBIs, 2 runs scored, and 2 stolen bases. Also making his first Division-I appearance was Junior starting pitcher Danny Winkler. Winkler threw 6 strong innings, striking

out 6 Saints, walking none and only allowing 1 run on 5 hits.

"I love him [Travis Shreve]" said Winkler after the game. "I told a guy Shreve is a guy you hate to play against, but you love to have on your team. He's the scrappiest player I've ever played with."

The Knights finished up the weekend series just as strong as they started, beating the Saints 10-1 on Saturday and 15-4 on Sunday.

Saturday's game, just like Friday's game featured shut down performances by the Knights relief pitchers. In 3 innings of work Friday night, Nick Cicio only allowed one hit and struck out 5. While on Saturday it was Johnny Sedlock shutting down the saints in the late innings with 4 K's and 1 hit in 4 innings of work.

"I'm pleased where our pitching is, obviously those four guys have done a great job," said Coach Rooney after the game.

"But the thing I like so much about our offense is we're balanced. We have speed at the top of our lineup, and We've got some guys in the middle of the line up who can drive the ball."

Following the clean sweep of Siena, the Knights will travel to Bethune-Cookman for one game, then to South Alabama for the South Alabama Classic. During the Classic they will face South Alabama, Southeastern Louisiana, and Alabama.



Russell Griner / Valencia Voice
UCF Baseball Associate Head Coach, Cliff Goodwin, right, slaps hands with First Baseman, Jonathon Griffin, after the first homerun of the season.

Ig-knighted players

Junior athletes indicate a good season

Bryan Levine
blevine@valenciavoices.com

After outscoring the Siena Saints 36-6 last weekend, the University of Central Florida Knights look to stay hot the rest of the season. Despite the departure of Chris Duffy and Shane Brown, key players on last season's roster, the Knights wasted no time starting the season undefeated opening weekend for the second consecutive year.

Backed by great pitching and even better hitting the Knights dominated the Saints in every aspect of the game mostly by players fresh off the

Junior College circuit. With pitchers such as Danny Winkler and Matt Collins in addition to infielders Erik Hempe and Travis Shreve these newcomers were part of head coach Terry Rooney's second straight top-20 recruiting class.

The Knights received some votes on multiple polls, but not enough to earn them a preseason ranking. While rival Conference-USA teams Rice and Tulane did make the rankings. The Knights play both of those ranked foes three times this season.

With 32 home games this season the Knights hope as they improve so will their attendance. With only 1100 in attendance for the home opener,



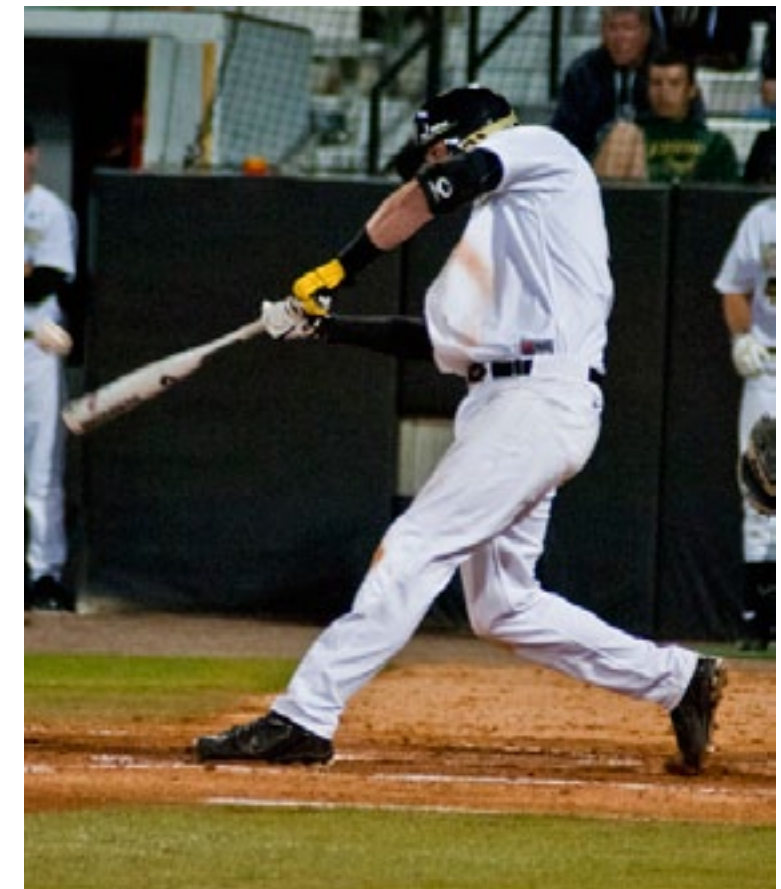
UCF Knights Right Handed Pitcher, Danny Winkler, pitched for six innings, with five hits and one run allowed.

Coach Rooney says he would like to see more fans come out as the season goes on.

There are a few veteran players to look out for this season on the Knights. Junior catcher Beau Taylor Currently rides a 23 game hit streak which is only three hits shy of a UCF record. Senior first baseman Jonathon Griffin, who hit a homer in the first game will try to improve his numbers from last season when he hit .299 while crushing 13 home runs and driving in 44 runs as he is now the main threat in the heart of the UCF lineup.

Following the South Alabama Classic, the Knights will head home for a 13 game home stand which includes key games against Boston College and USF.

Only time will tell if the Knights can finally right ship and get back to being the Knights of the early decade where they managed to make NCAA appearances a few times, but have failed every year since 2005.



UCF Knights have had undeafed opening weekends for the past two consecutive years.

Clipper's rookie win's dunk contest

Blake Griffin is the talk of the hood he hurdled

By Bob Cooney
Philadelphia Daily News

The collective sigh of relief could be felt throughout Staples Center last night when All-Star Weekend came to a conclusion.

One of the premier, upcoming superstars, Blake Griffin of the Los Angeles Clippers, was asked to

compete in Friday night's rookie-sophomore game, Saturday's dunk contest (which he won) and yesterday's main event.

Griffin is not only the toast of LA, but is the talk of the whole league. Having him on the floor so much the last 3 days couldn't have been an ideal situation for Clippers fans or higher-ups.

Early in Friday's game, Griffin was hit with an

elbow from San Antonio's DeJuan Blair. Early in the dunk contest on Saturday Griffin appeared to bang one of his right fingers hard on the rim while missing a dunk attempt. Later, after a dunk in which he swung from the rim by his elbow, Griffin showed off a nasty bruise on the inside of his arm.

He, of course, electrified the home crowd in one of the best dunk contests ever when he won it jumping over a car and throwing home a pass from teammate Baron Davis, who was seated inside the car and threw the ball through the moon roof to a leaping Griffin. Sick stuff. And a little bit scary for Clippers fans, who have seen their share of bad breaks through the years.

"I could have clipped my foot, I guess, that's what I was afraid of," said Griffin, "just clip my foot on the side and smash my face into the car. Fortunately, it worked out. I don't know, I don't really think about it like that. It's one of those things where I knew I could get over it so I just did it."

Though Jrue Holiday was the only current player to represent the Sixers during the weekend, as he scored 10 points in the rookie-sophomore game on Friday, there were many familiar faces around.

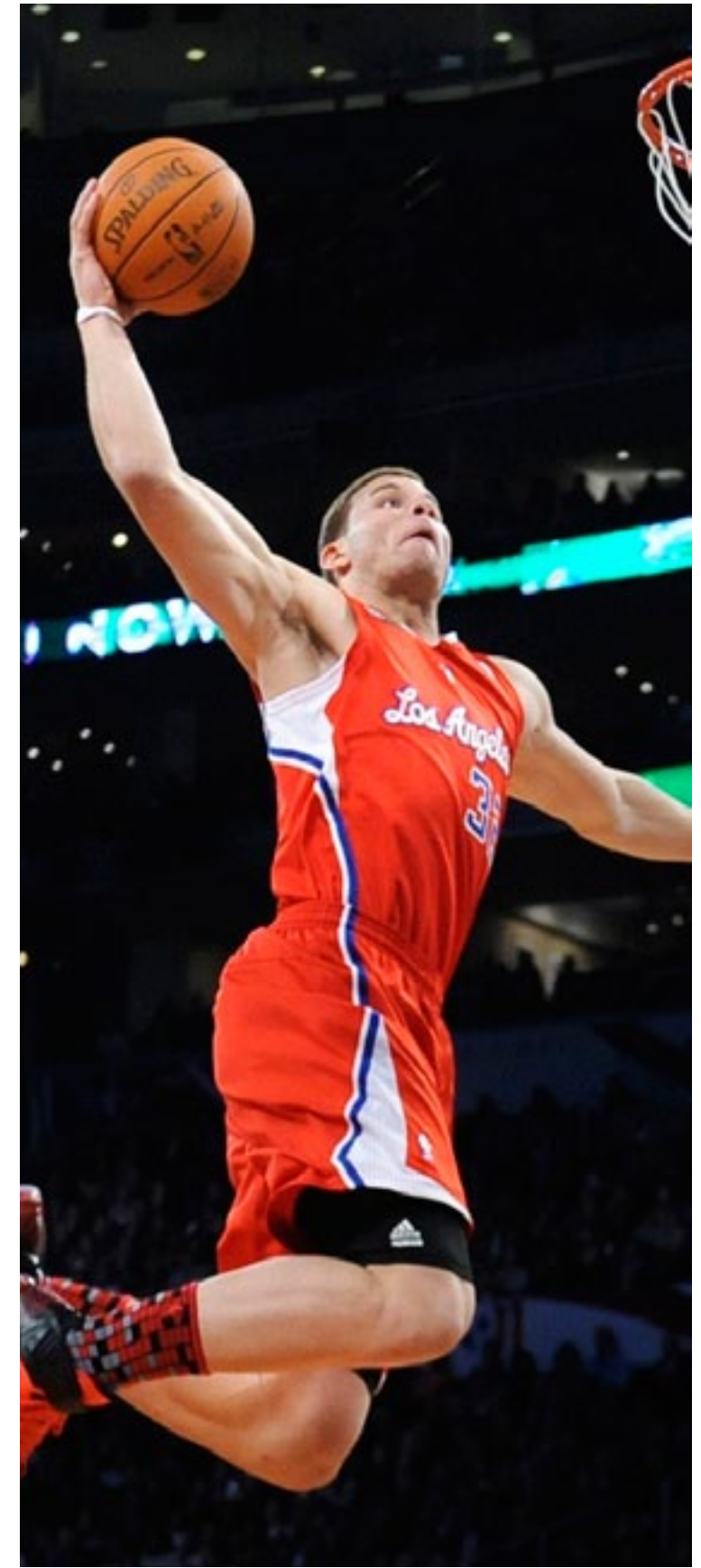
Julius Erving was one of the judges of the dunk contest and Darryl Dawkins was the coach for DeMar DeRozan of the Toronto Raptors. Also, former Sixers guard and current Oklahoma City assistant coach Maurice Cheeks was named one of 12 finalists for the Hall of Fame.

And spotted at a California Pizza Kitchen getting lunch on Saturday was old No. 24, Bobby Jones.

—MCT Campus



Wally Skalij, Los Angeles Times/MCT
The Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin dunks over a car to win the NBA Dunk Contest as part of All-Star game festivities at the Staples Center in Los Angeles, California, on Saturday, February 19, 2011.



Wally Skalij, Los Angeles Times/MCT
The Los Angeles Clippers' Blake Griffin flies through the air on his way to winning the NBA Dunk Contest as part of All-Star game festivities.

Hollywood ending as West wins NBA All-Star game

Bryant leads the West to a 148-143 win

By Joseph Goodman
McClatchy Newspapers

It's Hollywood, folks. Going in, you have got to expect everything is going to be over the top. It was.

It's Hollywood, folks. Going in, you have got to expect that Kobe Bryant is going to win the MVP of



Wally Skalij, Los Angeles Times/MCT
West's Kobe Bryant steals the ball from East's Dwyane Wade during the NBA All-Star game.

the All-Star Game. He did.

The Lakers superstar scored 37 points and had 14 rebounds Sunday night at Staples Center, helping the Western Conference All-Stars defeat the Eastern Conference All-Stars 148-143 in the NBA's 60th All-Star Game. Bryant was great in front of his hometown crowd but he was hardly the only highlight of an extravagant night of entertainment.

Singer Lenny Kravitz performed before the game. Rihanna and Kanye West did halftime. The courtside seats were filled with the usual celebrities – Lil' Wayne, Diddy, Spike Lee, etc. In other words, all the same people who have sat courtside all season when the Heat comes to town.

But the Heat didn't steal the show Sunday night like it did during the first half of the NBA season. Still the Heat's stars had their moments. James had 29 points, 12 rebounds and 10 assists, playing with his typically intense effort.

Chris Bosh had a team-high 12 points in the first half, showing off his elegant outside jump shot while also powering down a put-back dunk on a missed shot. Wade had 14 points.

Led by Bryant, the West All-Stars maintained a healthy 10-point lead throughout most of the game. The West led by 17 to begin the fourth quarter. Bryant had 21 points in the first half, taking ownership of the MVP award from the beginning.

Bryant's highlights for the time vault:

—A double-clutch, reverse dunk with 1:14 left in the first half was a fan favorite. The pro-Lakers crowd let out a collective, "Oooooohhh!" It was fol-



Wally Skalij, Los Angeles Times/MCT

Kobe Bryant dribbles past East's LeBron James, center, and Chris Bosh during the NBA All-Star game.

lowed moments later by an amazing alley-oop from Chris Paul to Kevin Durant. Paul maneuvered his body around Celtics guard Rajon Rondo in midair before tossing the assist skyward to the hard-driving Durant. The sequence gave the West a 70-58 advantage.

—With 7:29 left in the third quarter, Bryant brought the crowd out of its chairs when he outmaneuvered James in transition and dunked over the Heat's two-time reigning MVP.

—On the West's next possession, Bryant drained a three-pointer, giving him more than 30 points through three quarters. The shot all but locked up his MVP award. Bryant has won four All-Star Game MVP awards (2002, '07, '09 and '11).

While the night was definitely a Hollywood-style production, there were nods to New York that were undeniable. Lee, the director, and actor Michael Rapaport, both natives of New York, produced the

short films shown on the big screen at Staples Center throughout the game. The spots were funny and nicely done but the pronounced New York accents of Lee and Rapaport were a bit out of place for an All-Star Game in Los Angeles.

Odder still was Jack Nicholson, the actor most associated with the hometown Lakers, who wasn't seated courtside. He was three rows back.

The East All-Stars seemed a touch off all night. It was a bit surprising since more than half of the team consisted of players from the Heat and Celtics. Then again, maybe that was the reason for the clunky performances. The teams carried a thorny relationship into All-Star weekend and the rivalry didn't really take a break in Los Angeles.

The West took a 10 point lead with 4:10 left in the first quarter on a dunk by Lakers forward Paul Gasol. It was the 12th dunk of the first quarter.

—MCT Campus

Underdogs rule at Daytona 500

The no-names prevail the speedway

By Zach McCann
The Orlando Sentinel

NASCAR tweaked its rules all week in an effort to slow down speeds and discourage tandem bump-drafting, even making changes less than 24 hours before Sunday's Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway.

The "lovebug" style of racing was still prevalent on Sunday, though, and it made for an up-and-down, ugly, caution-ridden race. The racing style didn't make all of the drivers happy, and it wasn't always the prettiest to watch.

But it sure did even out the racing field, as a collection of unlikely names were at or near the front of this year's Daytona 500.

A 20-year-old making his second career start, Trevor Bayne, dominated the headlines by becoming the youngest driver to ever win the Daytona 500.

David Gilliland teamed up with Carl Edwards to push through the pack after the green-white checker finish, crossing the finish line third.

Bobby Labonte raced toward the front of the pack throughout the entire afternoon and placed fourth, his best Sprint Cup finish since 2006.

Regan Smith, 27, took seventh place, the best Sprint Cup result of his career.

Paul Menard ended up ninth and led 11 laps.

Meanwhile, NASCAR stars Kevin Harvick, Jimmie Johnson, Jeff Burton, Greg Biffle and Matt Kenseth among many others didn't finish the race.

At this year's Daytona 500, the no-names prevailed.

"It's a credit to NASCAR and their new rules with

the new cars, trying to get the rules closer, to let teams like us, Front Row Motorsports, to have a chance to come out here and be competitive on a track like this," said Gilliland, whose third-place finish is the second top-three placing of his career. "I think a lot of (our success) is the rules and credit to NASCAR making these races more competitive."

As drivers looked for a drafting partner — last week drivers found the most efficient way to drive

was drafting with just one other driver — many of the big names paired up with relative nobodies. It seemed that on Sunday a driver's success had as much to do with his own speed as it did with his buddy's speed.

"It's really close," Marcos Ambrose said of the racing style. "Everybody is trying to find partners to work with and pull away. I think everyone is just trying to work out how to do it."

As everyone figured it out, guys like Bayne and Gilliland and Smith took advantage of the disorder.

It made for an unpredictable, exciting Daytona 500.

"We really do have the most competitive racing

that I've ever been a part of, the closest battles," Edwards said. "We have races like we had today with a new winner, up-and-coming guy in the sport."

And we haven't even mentioned Brian Keselowski, the 29-year-old rookie who qualified for the Daytona 500 with a self-owned car and a pit crew consisting of himself and his father. Not totally sure a couple weeks ago if he could even make it to Daytona Beach for the qualifying races, he ended up finishing in fifth place in the second Gatorade Duel on Thursday, ahead of many seasoned Sprint Cup drivers and good enough for a spot in the big race.

Keselowski finished fifth because of a "lovebug" push from his brother, NASCAR regular Brad Keselowski. With a little push, anything was possible at this year's Daytona 500.

—MCT Campus



Jeff Siner, Charlotte Observer/MCT

NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Trevor Bayne is pushed by driver Bobby Labonte in the closing laps of the Daytona 500 at Daytona International Speedway.