

ValenciaVoice

April 13, 2011
VOLUME 15 • ISSUE 12
VALENCIAVOICE.COM

Official Student Media of Valencia College

Valencia elects new SGA presidents

After a week of online polling, election results have been announced

By James Tutton
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Valencia's Student Government elections were held through an online email survey last week. This online election method is designed to be user friendly and encourage voting among students.

In past elections, the voter turnout has been in the low hundreds. This year's election saw a total of 2,355 votes from all three campuses. There were no closely contested races on any campus and only the west campus had more than one candidate for president.

The campus president leads each individual SGA group on campus. They reside over meetings; organize activities, and coordinate other important actions with all other SGA members.

Each new president was asked what their main goal is for their campus this term.

Andres Abreu, from East campus said "To establish a Student Government that exceeds the expectations most are accustomed to seeing, while always representing and serving our students."

David Rosado Jr., new president for Osceola said, "It's time for big changes, better organization, better advertising, better events, and a better name for SGA."

Scott Schaare, the returning president from the Winter Park campus said "My goal will be

improving the student involvement for my campus; I would like to see more students participating in activities that take place."

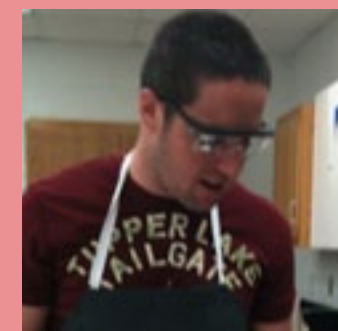
Patrick O'Connor, who won the contested election at West campus, said "I would like to propose to create a link that when students are registering for classes, once they click the link they will get information on the professor such as the course syllabus, class schedule and information on their teaching style."

Chanda Torres oversaw the election results, and is the head of student development for all of Valencia's campuses. She stressed the importance of student involvement in the SGA elections. "The SGA serves as the voice for the student body."

Torres said, "It is important to vote because these candidates will be able to make positive changes at the college that affect you as a student."

With new financial budget cutbacks in the Florida House and Senate, state tuition hikes are going into effect. The actions of our Student Government are more important now than ever before. It's imperative that students work together to ensure everyone is successful in achieving their goals on Valencia campuses.

For more information on all Student Government groups, or to contact a specific campus President visit <http://www.valenciacc.edu/studentdev/sga.cfm>



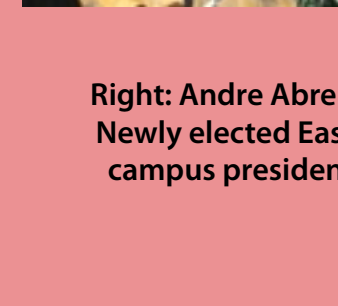
Left: Scott Shaare
Re-elected Winter Park
campus president.



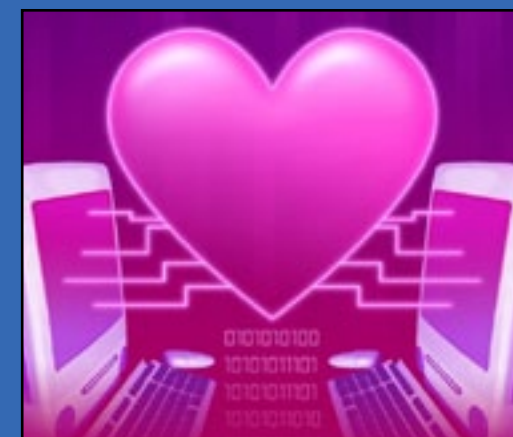
Right: David Rosado Jr
Newly elected Osceola
campus president



Left: Patrick O'Connor
Newly elected West
campus president



Right: Andre Abreu
Newly elected East
campus president



Online Dating

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Valencia 5K

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Shutdown averted, government makes last minute deal

Democrats and Republicans meet midnight deadline after intense battle about the nation's budget

By Lisa Mascaro

Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON -- As Capitol Hill negotiators fleshed out details of last week's epic budget deal, Democrats and Republicans prepared for the next set of confrontations over federal spending, including the future of Medicare and Medicaid.

The \$38 billion agreement that kept the government from shutting down at midnight Friday preserves Head Start preschool funds and the Pell Grant program for college students, but will reduce housing assistance and other programs in the Labor, Education and Health departments.

Congress is set to vote this week on the package of \$38 billion in budget cuts.

The series of stopgap spending measures included \$12.5 billion in cuts, which count toward the total. Those came mainly from programs Obama had

planned to terminate this year, as well as earmarked requests from lawmakers for home-state projects.

Of the remaining reductions, nearly \$18 billion is expected to come from one-time cuts or accounts with unspent money, a strategy Democrats employed to save domestic programs from deep reductions that would be difficult to undo in future years.

According to the White House website, Obama saved his signature education program, Race to the Top. The administration characterized cuts at the State Department and Foreign Operations as "significant."

Congressional sources cautioned, however, that final details were in flux as negotiators searched line-by-line to reach the \$38 billion reduction. The package covers the remainder of the 2011 fiscal year, which ends Sept. 30.

Now, the battle moves to 2012 and whether to raise the federal debt ceiling. The spending debate is expected to dominate Washington in the months ahead and spill into the presidential campaign, with competing outlooks on the appropriate role of the federal government.

"It's going to be a tough fight. How are we going to reduce the deficit, get on a more sustainable fiscal trajectory but in a way that doesn't compromise economic progress?" White House adviser David Plouffe said on NBC's "Meet the Press" Sunday.

A detailed blueprint from the GOP's chief budget guru, Rep. Paul Ryan of Wisconsin, would drastically reorder the federal government. Aside from lowering the top tax rates for corporations and individuals to 25 percent from the current 35 percent, it would fundamentally shrink the federal role in the delivery of health care to the poor, disabled and future generations of seniors.

"We want to move from talking about saving billions of dollars to going on and saving trillions of dollars," Ryan told "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

Voters are focusing on the nation's record deficits and debt, both of which grew during the economic downturn as tax revenues plummeted and Washington spent money to shore up the economy and help the jobless.

Now at nearly \$14.3 trillion, the national debt will hit its legal limit in the weeks ahead, and Congress will be asked to grant the government additional borrowing authority.

The vote has been routine, if politically unpopular,

in past years. Under former President George W. Bush, Congress voted seven times to raise the debt limit.

If Congress fails to act, the economic fallout would be severe, analysts and business leaders warn. They predict that interest rates would spike, dramatically affecting mortgages, consumer purchases and business lending.

Republicans intend to try to extract new budget restraints from the White House in exchange for voting to raise the debt limit. They may fight for statutory spending caps or a balanced-budget amendment to the Constitution.

Taxes and state budgets

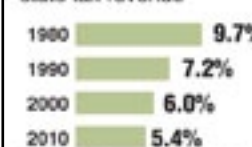
Some governors facing budget shortfalls are calling for large tax cuts that drain valuable revenue. To close budget gaps, states must either reduce spending, cut jobs or increase taxes or other revenues.



Smaller tax revenue

Falling state corporate income tax means lost revenue

As a percentage of total state tax revenue



Source: Gallup poll of 1,021 of adults, March 3-6, 2011; margin of error: +/- 4 percentage points. Center on Budget and Policy Priorities

Where to get the money

Proposals to balance state budgets

Percent favor	
Reduce/eliminate programs	65%
Reduce number of state workers	62
Limit bargaining power of state unions	49
Reduce state worker pay/benefits	43
Raise state business taxes	39
Raise state income/sales taxes	33

Graphic: Melina Yingling

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Josh Boesen '09

Master of Business Administration

Library video contest winners chosen

Best short shows off resources available to students

By Victor Ocasio
vocasio@valenciavoices.com

Providing academic resources needed to aid students in various school projects and papers has always been a staple of any college library. But at Valencia's West campus, the faculty found a way to inform the student body of all their available tools by hosting the first library video contest.

The parameters of the contest were that students who wished to participate were required to attend a Windows Movie Maker skill shop, one of 45 skill shops offered on campus, and use the program to create and edit the video.

"Students don't know of and aren't really aware of all the resources and tools we have here so we needed a way to let them know," said Access lab manager Lisa Pablos. "The whole project came out of that need."

The contest received two submissions, Aaron Arnold and a group submission by Melissa Cheng, Wendy Cheng and Sheng Y'Liu.

"It was a great opportunity for us since we had an interest in film," said contestant Melissa Cheng. "Plus we learned some new information about the library."

Through a system of online voting through the school's website, students, faculty and staff choose Arnold as the contests winner, awarding him with several Valencia branded items including a pen, water bottle, flash drive, skill shop t-shirt and a backpack donated by Victor Collazo of Student Development.

"I think it was a great opportunity for



Lisa Pablos / Valencia College
Group photo of all contestants who participated.

students to get involved," said Arnold. "It was the first contest I've entered since I've become a film student."

The videos focus on the overall experience of utilizing the many resource tools and technology available at the library and demonstrate the usefulness of them in a more creative medium.

"We are always looking for ways to engage students here," said Director of the West Campus library Karen Blondeau. "We are a place that if students know how to use this library they can

help themselves in every area of their classwork and academics."

Arnold, a film student at Valencia will have his video placed on the Library's Webpage for one month in addition to the other prizes.

"We are planning on another contest possibly in the fall," said Pablos. "This time around we are thinking about hosting a photoshop contest focused around the skill shop that covers it."

Both videos for this semester's library video contest can be seen at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-5ZlHe8sF54>.

Ralph Nader speaks to Valencia

Humanitarian speaker series brings famed consumer advocate

By Rofkens Petit-Homme
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Another brilliant appearance has been established for Valencia's East Campus Humanities Guest Speaker Series. The guest was Ralph Nader, a presidential candidate of the 1996, 2000, 2004, and 2008 elections, Harvard Graduate, lecturer, author, and a multitude of important achievements too large to assimilate.

"This series is to bring important people from many fields of Humanities to engage directly with our students," explained Dr. George Brooks, professor of Medieval Studies.

The series has presented a Pulitzer-prize winning journalist, archaeologists, a Marine Colonel who has tracked down looted items from the Iraqi Museum, and a number of musicians.

With the Performing Arts Center packed with a number of students, faculty and members of the public present, the 'Nader Music Playlist' blasted across the auditorium with anticipation in the air.

Apart of the crowd was loyal supporter Sebastian McGarigle donning a Nad-

er '08 election pin, visiting from Bradington, Fla. "I've seen him speak many times and I've helped him out on the campaigns. I know Ralph and his assistant personally, they've followed my car a couple of times when in Florida because I have a GPS."

When introduced to the waiting audience, a standing applause ensued.

Nader touched on a multitude of topics during his lecture including some memories from his childhood.

"I came home from school one day and my father asked me if I learned how to believe or learned how to think?"

Although Nader did talk about his life in Western Connecticut, he also proportioned his lecture on activism in college.

"When engaged in civic activity the government does their job," said Nader.

Explaining the story of how he and several others fought to obtain legislation on unsafe and dangerous vehicles he placed a sincere thought into the mind of the audience, "Pioneer in anything you are going to be a minority of one"

"What is the evidence?" and "By what legal author-

ity?" are two questions any pioneer should ask their government and elected officials.

He finished the lecture with three words, concentration, curiosity, and imagination. Three words that all students should live by.

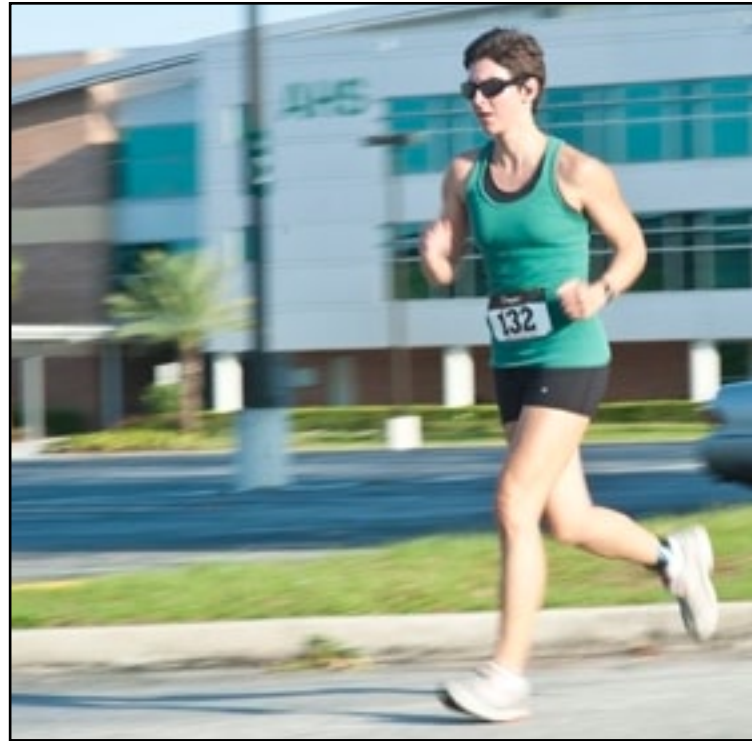
With a Q&A session at hand, Nader took topics ranging from student athletes getting paid, immigration laws, class action law suits, soldiers not getting paid, and the appointment of Elizabeth Warren, who at the time was not the head of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau up until Friday, April 8, 2011.

During Nader's 'Seven Traditions' book signing, student Max Correa said that "It was inspiring, and he was a powerful speaker."

When asked if he would run for the 2012 election year Nader replied, "Too many people get cold feet, and feel pressured in the booth on election day." Nader in 2008 actually visited every single state in the union, including Hawaii and Alaska.

All that said and done he did not say he would 'not' be running in the 2012 elections.

‘Run, Walk and Roll’ Annual 5k



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Runner Iris Appenrodt passes in front of the AHS building at about the half way point for Valencia's 5k.

West campus raises money in honor of former graduate

By James Tutton
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The 6th annual 5K fund-raising event “Run, Walk, and Roll” was held last Saturday at Valencia’s west campus. Nearly 250 participants paid to race and raise money for all of Valencia’s scholarship programs. The event was in honor of former Valencia graduate and Valencia alumni board member Justin Harvey whose story inspires and helps students six years after his tragic death.

As a student in the sports medicine department at UCF, Justin worked with the Valencia alumni board to organize the first 5K race as a partnership between the two campuses. Sadly he suddenly became

hospitalized and passed away before he could see his idea come to fruition.

Sharon Skoloski, Justin’s mother, is a professor of education at Valencia’s West campus. Recalling her son Skoloski said, “He did a lot of great things with and for Valencia. He was never able to finish school, but this fund-raising event, in his memory, helps other students to realize their own dreams.”

Mary Myers, a Valencia alumni board member, was a friend of Justin Harvey’s when he attended Valencia. Myers said, “He had dreams of graduating from UCF and never realized that dream, which is why this is such a great partnership between the two campuses to raise money to help other students. Valencia hosts the event and UCF sends members of their sports medicine department to help runners warm up before the race”.

Ralf Jenne, a Professor of Philosophy and Humanities at Valencia’s West campus, has participated in the past four races. Jenne said, “I always try to win my age group, last time I came in second and would love to win this year.” Professor Jenne finished 10th overall with a time of 23:03.3 and winning first place for his age group of males 40-44.

The 5K race is open for all runners and speed walkers to compete, with medals awarded to the top three male and female racers divided into groups based on age and affiliations. Trophies were awarded to the top place and first masters for male and female participants.

This event was successful in raising money, and keeping the legacy of Justin Harvey alive. Justin’s mom, Professor Skoloski said, “My family and I want to thank everyone for all their hard work and participation and remind everyone of Justin’s motto ‘May you all shine out loud.’”

For additional details concerning the race continue onto the sports section on page and for more information on the Alpha Gamma Omega Justin Harvey Scholarship for Phi Theta Kappa visit their web site at <http://www.scholarships.ptk.org/>



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No taxation for labor of information

Students should receive tax returns for school expenses and effort

While many are unaware of the importance of tax season, all would be in favor of a student refund tax

Every year businesses, organizations, and individuals gear up for tax season. Getting receipts, expenses, donations, and all other necessary paperwork in order is just the preliminary steps to making sure money is returned, instead of owed.

Annual income tax returns are a part of American culture. Once one begins employment, filling out W-4 forms and adhering to information regarding annual wages becomes a part of life.

However, just because one is able to work, does not mean they are equipped with the knowledge needed to do taxes. In fact, most Americans do not know how to properly fill out their tax forms. Which is why there are so many companies available to perform the work for them.

The extent of knowledge the average person possesses include claiming all major expenses, donations are tax-deductible, and never report exact amounts, if possible.

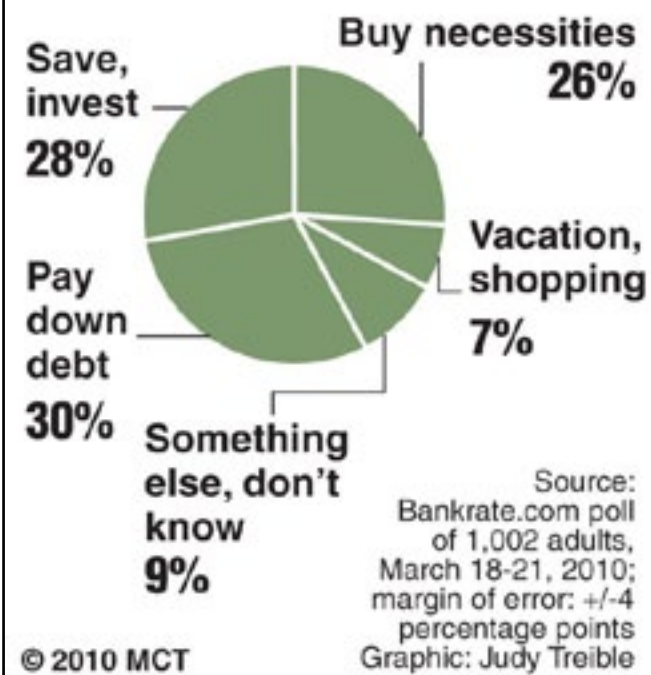
Though this may be the knowledge of an average person, some college students may not even know these things. It's a sad truth but the largest portion in the workforce are not aware of some of the money they deserve. Or conversely some of the trouble they could get into from taxes.

In the State of Florida, there is no individual income tax, but businesses are taxed. On that note, many businesses receive tax breaks, or reimbursements because of some deals they make, or actions taken during the year.

While some might not see anything wrong with that, the fact that students, whether working or attending school full-time, receive no official tax breaks or reimbursements. Sometimes, the federal gov-

What to do with a tax refund

Almost half of all Americans expect to receive a tax refund this year. What they plan to do with it:



ernment will award grants and funds to be distributed through a third party, school, or otherwise. But most of the time, when a student has an outstanding loan, no one is there to foot the bill.

Student loans, lab fees, books, scholastic accessories, all are within the realm of not only being non-tax-exempt, but to add to the sting, even contain a sales tax. This is a hardship many students must deal with, and only discourage the desire to continue with higher studies.

Without directly stating that students should receive tax refunds, some system should be in place to award investment into America's colleges. This would mean any donations, or spending to support schools would also receive these benefits (in fact, many already do). So why then could this not apply to the investment made by students. Whether it be via loans, scholarships, or just hard-earned income, a way to encourage all students should be in place.

It would require a tiered system so that those with already some assistance would

get different amounts different times, and those with none might be in the top tier, but all would receive a proportionate amount of return on their investment. Only by viewing help for students as returns, not aid, can a serious discussion of reinforcing the decision to spend thousands of dollars on statistical better job placement make any sense.

While understanding all of the intricacies of completing tax forms, is an entire graduate class all its own, simply making the same effort to support college attendance as much as running a business fairly, is not that hard to see. While most students might not even make that much money on a tax return, if at all, that doesn't reflect the amount of hard work and man-hours put into getting good grades. After all, whoever said an 'easy A' was ever easy on the wallet?

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Relationships go digital

By Victor Ocasio

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With a world that has quickly become so dominated by technology and wireless communication, the frame in which human interaction can occur has shifted and changed dramatically with these many advancements.

In the past if you needed to get a hold of someone in a hurry, one would simply call the number of the person they were trying to reach. Now multiple people and multiple conversations are only one group text message away.

And while this and many other communication options offer a wide variety of services and trouble-shooting in the business and educational field, things that are much more personal, like finding out someone's marital status are only one Facebook info check away as well.

Keep going down this track and it is easy to see how in our modern world online dating has become a common alternative to the randomness and uncertainty of a local bar or club scene.

With so many of the popular dating sites laying claim to "perfect matches" and accurate personality surveys, the idea that meeting that special someone is only a few web pages away can be quite alluring, especially to a demographic that is having to work harder and longer in these tough economic times.

There is something that is a bit awkward though about talking to complete strangers over the Internet with the hope of a possible spark or eventual relationship. Consider for instance that the only reason you are even talking to this person is based on the statistical data gathered from the survey or questionnaire they filled out.

People tend to be less honest with themselves when it could mean the difference between finding that special someone or checking an empty inbox.

On the other hand, these sites do offer something that a bar or club cannot; the certainty that the people on the site are looking for someone whether it be for a long term relationship or something more playful.

The real question presented is can there be a guarantee that you will find the love of your life on one of these web sites? According to many, if not all of these services, your statistical odds are greater. But in the opinion of this writer, I would say your odds are just as good as they would be anywhere else given that love truly has an erratic and unpredictable nature.

Whatever your method, be it online or in person, always remember that the shock of new love is blinding and true compatibility comes with the tests of time.

Why has online dating gained popularity recently?



"It's because it is on the internet. Like Facebook or Twitter, everything is on the internet now."

— Brienna Campos



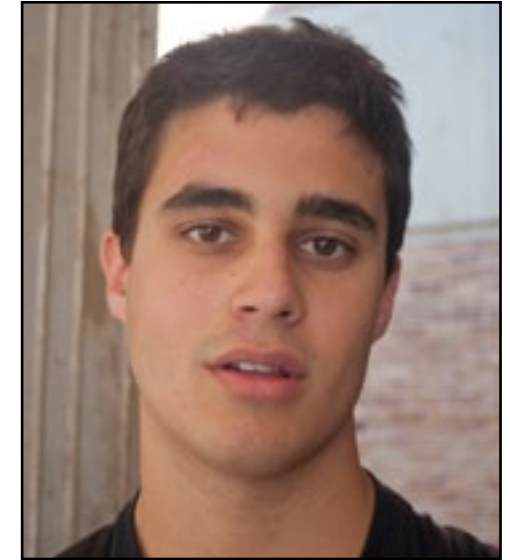
"A lot more females are online now. People in general are just doing the online thing."

— Sagar Verma



"Because it is hard to interact with people now. It's not as safe to go club or bars as it used to be"

— Tyler Walker



"People just become used to talking online. No one talks in person anymore."

— Kyle Vidair



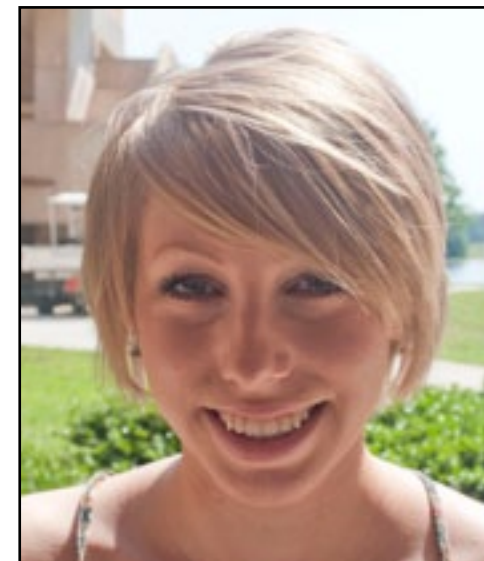
"It is so easy. It is not difficult to type info in and compare."

— Dominique Thomas



"There are a lot more people to meet online from all over the world."

— Tre Dowdell



"It is so easy. I personally don't like it, but I've heard a lot of success stories from others."

— Ingrid Woessner



"Facebook sort of paved the way for it. Plus people who do online date probably don't get out as much "

— Sagar Verma

Photos by Sebastian Arbelaez, Reporting by Victor Ocasio

Online dating leads to lies

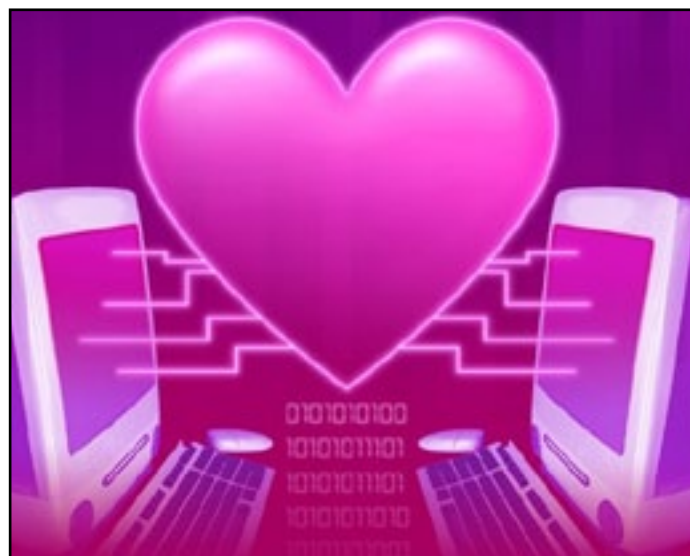
Too many are looking for love in all the wrong places

By Camilo Echeverri Bernal
cecheverribernal@valenciavoices.com

When it comes to dating, most people like it to the point. We do not like phone numbers unless it is for texting. Seeing one another face to face waits until we have exchanged a few messages, added one another on MSN or Skype. Only as a last resort do we go on a coffee or movie outing when we feel comfortable enough and are certain that something will come out of it.

This is a recent development which may have surfaced in the 1990s, from chats to Websites that cater to particular sections of the population.

Online Dating Magazine estimated that 20,000 people a day visit online dating sites. In the last year 17 percent of couples who married met on a dating site according to <http://www.datingsitesreviews.com>. Also, one in five singles are "currently in a committed relationship with someone they met on a dating site." In 2010 according to mobile research group Ground Truth, mobile dating saw



Kurt Strazdins / MCT

Eharmony and Match.com are a few examples of online dating sites that have grown in popularity.

"a 92 percent increase in users since the summer began." Online dating nationwide increased 15 percent from May 2009 to May 2010. In the Bay area (San Francisco, San Jose, and Oakland) it increased 22 percent in the same period of time.

This gives us a rather clear idea of how popular this trend is. But it also means that there are men and women who will fabricate information and make up lies on their profiles to "tap that ass."

According to another study by Online Dating Magazine, it was determined that "about 52.6 percent of the men in the study [lie] about their height, as [do] 39 percent of the women." When it came to age, "24.3 percent of the men were untruthful, compared with 13.1 percent of the women." When people say that they are 6 ft. tall, they are most likely 5 ft. 9 in."

When it comes to income, people are "20 percent poorer than they say they are," based on numbers given by <http://www.blog.okcupid.com>. This same number could be applied to any other Website, but OkCupid seems to be growing in popularity and thus could be used as the standard. Another factor are photographs, more accurately, recent pictures in which the person is younger are more likely to be out of date. So, watch out.

This does not mean you cannot be happy with someone you meet online, it only means that the chances are really quite sly...not like eHarmony.com wants you to believe. I found my current boyfriend online -- and so can you.

If you can get past the deceit and the lying that goes on daily that is. It is like sorting through a box of doughnuts and sampling which flavor you like, some will be sweet, others will come with a filling that makes you cringe. But eventually you may find the one that makes you smile.

No merit pay for 'Scooter'!

Governor Rick Scott threatens teacher salaries

By John Sclararo

Scooter is the name I use for that guy in Tallahassee, who was elected to the highest political office in the State of Florida last November. I refuse to call him by his proper name in either a public or private context. He does not deserve such respect from me or from any other registered voter in Florida!

It's a shame that we now have to wait three years and nine months before Scooter makes his exit from Florida's version of Comedy Central's stage. In other words, Scooter is a joke, which some Republicans and many Democrats regret.

Scooter's honeymoon with the citizens of Florida is over. In fact, according to a recent survey conducted by Public Policy Polling, Scooter's disapproval rating is now at 55 percent. Even the boos hurled at him by the crowd, just before and after he threw that ceremonial pitch to kick-off the Tampa Bay Rays opening game of their new season at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg last Friday evening, were loud and clear. It's no surprise, then, that Scooter may be the most unpopular governor in America...ever!

To put it mildly, he deserves such a title! His support of merit pay for public school teachers, tied to their students' test results, is just one example of Scooter's inane initiatives. I would be 'dead in the water' if the poor grades earned by a high percentage of my students, as reflected in their recent Mid-Term Essay Exam, were tied to



Joe Burbank / MCT

Scott has proposed \$4.6 billion in budget cuts.

my income. And this is only the 'tip of the iceberg.'

Scooter also supports the abolition of tenure for public community college and university professors. So the teaching career of that young woman-colleague of mine, who occupies the office next to me and who was recently selected as a tenure candidate, may be in jeopardy. What a shame, especially since her skills in mathematics are impressive and her work with students is commendable. I know, but Scooter doesn't.

Scooter's agenda also includes requiring public employees to contribute 5 percent of their annual income toward their own retirement pension; substantially cutting, or should I say 'gutting,' public school and social services budgets; and maintaining or reducing, rather than increasing, the percentage of corporate taxes paid by the wealthiest Floridians.

I wish there was a way to recall Scooter from public office, but there isn't. So I guess I'll just have to live with his stupidity for the next three years and nine months. You can be assured, however, that I will, as many others have done in Wisconsin and elsewhere, 'take to the streets' if Scooter remains on his dead-end course. Forget about merit pay! Scooter does not deserve merit in any form! I've had it with him and his cronies in Tallahassee!

— John Sclararo is a tenured professor of humanities at Valencia Community College.

Florida Film Festival turns 20

Winter Park's Enzian Theatre hosts a week of movies with some celebrity visits

By Collin Dever

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The 20th Annual Florida Film Festival kicked off this past Friday getting the ball rolling on this year's line-up of "freshly squeezed Indies."

The festival is put on by the Enzian Theatre with Full Sail as their primary sponsors. This year the festival will screen 160 films from 25 countries.

The festival opened with "Project Nim" a documentary by Academy award winner James Marsh. "We're excited to launch our 20th edition of the Festival with this sensational documentary," said Henry Maldonado, President of Enzian and the Festival. "We opened the first Florida Film Festival with the documentary, 'A Brief History of Time,' and it's meaningful for us to salute that moment 20 years later."

The Movies will be showed at the Enzian theatre as well as the Regal Cinema in Winter Park. Many of the films have never been aired before and the festival boasts 21 world, four North American, and seven United

States premieres.

"The incredible scope of cinematic expression in this year's Festival is found not simply in terms of the volume of submissions, or its demographics but in the variety of types of filmmakers and the issues they explore," said Matthew Curtis, Florida Film Festival Programming Director. "This year we are screening films that embody risk-taking, diversity, and aesthetic innovation, and we are hopeful that audiences will find them as engaging and entertaining as we did."

For a little free fun, the festival includes a free movie showing in the park. 'The Yearling' nominated for seven Oscars will screen in Central Park on April 12 at 8:00 p.m. Central park is located in Winter Park on Park Ave.

The Florida Film Festival will also host Edward James Olmos for an evening at the Enzian on April 15 at 7:30 p.m. Originally, the evening's guest was to be Alan Arkin, but after a recent car accident Arkin had to cancel his appearance.

The event will include a screening of "Stand and Deliver," one of Olmos' most famous roles based on the true story of an inner-city teacher struggling to teach his students Calculus.

"We're thrilled to host Mr. Olmos and his extraordinary film for our 20th anniversary," said Maldonado. "'Stand and Deliver' sits proudly and comfortably on that shelf of independent movies that burst upon the scene and now live forever."

Since the Festival started in 1992 it has served 1.5 million movie goers. The festival is a hallmark of the Orlando area, which has built quite a reputation for film through scholastic programs at both Valencia, and Full Sail.

The festival will run until Sun. April 17. Individual tickets cost \$10 but the festival also offers discounts for

buying multiple tickets. To order tickets or for more information including film synopses and a full schedule go to, <http://www.floridafilmfestival.com>



Project Nim / Florida Film Festival
"Project Nim," directed by James Marsh, was the 93 minute film showcased on opening night at the Florida Film Festival.



Orlando's new team is 'getting down'

'Team Prolific' goes outside the boundaries of today's music market

By Rofkens Petit-Homme
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In today's diverse musical market much has been repeated, but that is not the case for Orlando's own Team Prolific.

With a constructed studio space, dripping with wall-to-wall sound proofing and paintings of esteemed musical icons like Jimi Hendrix, Team Prolific spoke of how they produce their music.

"We all sharpen our blade together; it's the same sword that is swung by everybody," Zin "O.D." McDade expressed.

McDade is the youngest of Team Prolific. The other members are Neme Saddler and James "Mr. Flamez" Collier, and producer Izaiah "Daywalker" Demarco.

Demarco explained his task for the group: "I kind of come up with all of these crazy creations, blending all the sounds that they really like."

The group began while attending classes at Lake Brantley High School. Officially they noticed each other during the passing periods exchanging rhymes during hip hop freestyle cyphers.

They began to have sessions in recording studios while in high school. In the beginning Saddler



Sebastian Arbelaez / Valencia Voice

Orlando's Team Prolific consists of MC's Neme Saddler, James Collier and Zin McDade.

was the producer of the music. Collier recounts the story, "He used to skip school, go in his room to sample and listen to records."

Team Prolific is focused on creating music and not just a foundation for entertainment. They want listeners to relate and gravitate towards their sound, which is influenced by their lives.

"Everything is a good time even when it is not, we can turn a bowl of pennies into gold," McDade said.

An established sense of energy emits from Team Prolific when listening to their single "Getting Down" which was released in November of last year.

"We live out our name in our music, everything we do is prolific," Saddler said, reciting the group stamp, "It is an abundance of classic works, and we own that nobody else is bringing this sound so we have to do it."

Heavy marketing is also a key aspect for these artists: social media, blog sites, mix tape CDs; staying on the musical circuit they refuse to stick to one

platform and wait for results.

57 West, Winter Haven, UCF, UF, and Miami are a few of the places that the group has preformed.

"We pretty much did a whirlwind through the city from the amount of years we've been doing this," Collier said.

A little talk from the producer Demarco always keeps the gentlemen effective and efficient, "My records are not 'beats,' they are compositions, and they are rapping towards them."

A question that comes to mind is, what category can Team Prolific be placed under?

"You can't classify it. This is that new golden era hip hop, it only fits in our lane," McDade said. "When people start duplicating it then you can duplicate it."

The Team has dropped a music video to the single 'Getting Down' which can be seen on YouTube.com, with more information at their website teamprolific.com.

Playing a god

By Maraya Figueroa
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They are small, vulnerable and can be controlled by just your finger tips.

What is it? It's one of the most downloaded Apple game apps for iPod, iPhone, iPad and is now available on Facebook. It's the first of its kind to become a comic book and now a new release is set to be on sale for April 12.

"Pocket God" has an app for its new comic series that began last year. It now has 6 issues and is ready to reveal a volume one containing 100 pages of pure pygmy madness. For those who don't know what "Pocket God" is about, it's a game that features 6 character pygmies that you can control.

"The game is really fun and a great waste of time" said Kevin Lipowski.

The comic book explores the background stories on each pygmy and get to hear what they think about the world they are living in.

You are basically their creator, destroyer and giver. You can choose to kill them off, play mini games, or see what happens when you put them in various situations.

The app graphics are clear, crisp and easy on the eyes. It would be best to view the comic on an iPad because the comic book is shown in one entire page as opposed to one scene at a time.

"It would be better if I had an iPad because I bought issues for my iPod and it's a bit of a hassle to zoom in and see every time. I was able to find a few paperbacks on Amazon and I love them!" said Christy Gunderson.

You can visit your local book store or comic book store to obtain a copy. Online releases may vary.

Florida Music Festival returns with 10th Annual celebration

Orlando welcomes back all musical walks of life

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175 emerging artists, 10 stages, three days, for any one with music in their hearts this past weekend was nothing short of epic. Orlando welcomed the annual Florida Music Festival (FMF) where the 'top unsigned bands in the world converge,' along with music industry personal, including key-note speaker Melvin Benn. How was this possible? With sponsor's Miller Lite and Pennacle Vodkas support, of course.



Manny Colon / Valencia Voice
Of Valleys putting on their 2nd show ever at Cafe Annie's at the FMF.

This year the festival celebrated it's decade anniversary by filling its stages with the sounds of Rock, Hip Hop, Jazz, Acoustic, Indie, Punk, Alternative, Metal, Country, Roots Rock, Reggae, Blues, and whatever other genre can be thought up.

From Full Sail, engineering student, Cody Serago said, "I live and work locally. It's great that they put this together."

With stages set up across the Social, the Beacham, 57 West, Cafe Annie's, Orlando Tastings, Back Booth (BB), BB FedEx stage, and Wall Street having 2 stages, the party started when the sun went down and bands began to take the stage.

Attendees were influenced to chill and throw one back with sponsors, Miller Lite, promoting specials. After grabbing a cold one and getting settled in with the aid of Axis Magazine's official FMF guide, you could let loose; only criteria is to view artists in their 30 minute sets as they give it their all.

FMF is a place of culture and the place to network and promote.

The Music

Of Valleys swept the crowd at Cafe Annie's for the 7th Annual Indie Film Jam. With the crowd star struck by their performance the day before, their acoustic show was highly anticipated. Not bad for it was the band's second live show.

Joe Loffredo (vocalist, *Of Valleys*) said "The crowd's response justifies all we've done to get here," of being given the opportunity.

Of Valleys members are Joe, Mike, Rob, Mikey and Andy, who formed this group for one reason, which was to creatively express themselves while maintaining a career in music. With influences ranging from 90's alternative rock, to today's hip/hop [*Of Valleys*] prides itself on being true to themselves.

The crowd went wild as *The Supervillains* walked on stage to close the Fedex Underground Music Series at the BB Fedex Stage



Manny Colon / Valencia Voice

The crowd settling in before the music begins at Wall Streets 2nd stage.

Saturday. Native to Orlando, the band emerged into the reggae scene, becoming one of the top bands of their genre in the nation. With security being light (at the gate to ID) and no railing, the show felt very intimate between the band and the audience. Their set-list included popular songs like "Little Girl," and songs from their latest album including the cover of "Careless Whisper." Drummer and vocalist Dominic Maresco thanked all inspiring artists for coming out and giving it their all.

Continued on page 11

Music Festival calls all musicians



Photo courtesy of aXis magazine

Ending the last evening of the FMF were reggae phenomons The Super Villains.

Continued from page 10

The Easy Star All-Stars performed at the Wall Street Plaza's main stage on Friday. The jam-packed crowd went wild as they started to jam out to some easy, smooth reggae beats. It's safe to say that they can put on a great show. "I'm freaking psyched!" said Matt Harmon, an audience member and Easy Star fan. "They have the sickest beats out here."

Other bands that made headline appearances were Better than

Ezra, Cas Haley, The Green and the reggae group Passafire.

The Access

The beginning of the last day started with Breakfast at the Gibson, where every walk of life in music just mingled and enjoyed the company, as well as the live music, of course. Following was a string of Q and A's held at the Beacham with; Key-note speaker Melvin Benn interviewed by media personality Allison Hagendorf of FUSE TV, producers such as Dave Siegel, Brett Hestla, David Kahnem and Paul Trust interviewed by Tom Player with Player Ent Law, music business elites Aaron Ford, Alex Ewen, David McKenna, Dirk Hemsath, and Colleen Flynn with moderator David Beame with Beame and Mencher.

Before the evenings music began pumping, there was a demo happy hour where artist could have their music played before the ears of Stevo Robertson, Kent Marcus, Robert Carter, Jeff Hanson, Kevin Griffin with moderator David Melillo with aXis promotions.

Starting things off on a personal note, Key note speaker Melvin Benn recalled his 'moment' that he knew music was for him. "It was Reading Festival, I had hitch-hiked when I was 16 and it was there. Forever there." Many in the audience could relate and hung into every word spoken by Benn.

With the producers and music business elite, such topics as to how to promote oneself in today's time came up and they all agreed, you are your best promoter. Simply put, there is no excuse for not getting out there and putting yourself out there.

As the Festival was winding down to an end, the Voice caught up with aXis magazine producer, Sean Perry to get his over all verdict of FME, "It was amazing, by far the biggest music weekend." Those who were there, would agree.



Photo courtesy of aXis magazine

An interesting stage prop for Of Valleys, symbolizing that humans can often take the form of robots.



Manny Colon / Valencia Voice

Wrapping up the 2nd night of FMF was The Easy Star All-Stars.

Raveonettes return with 5th album

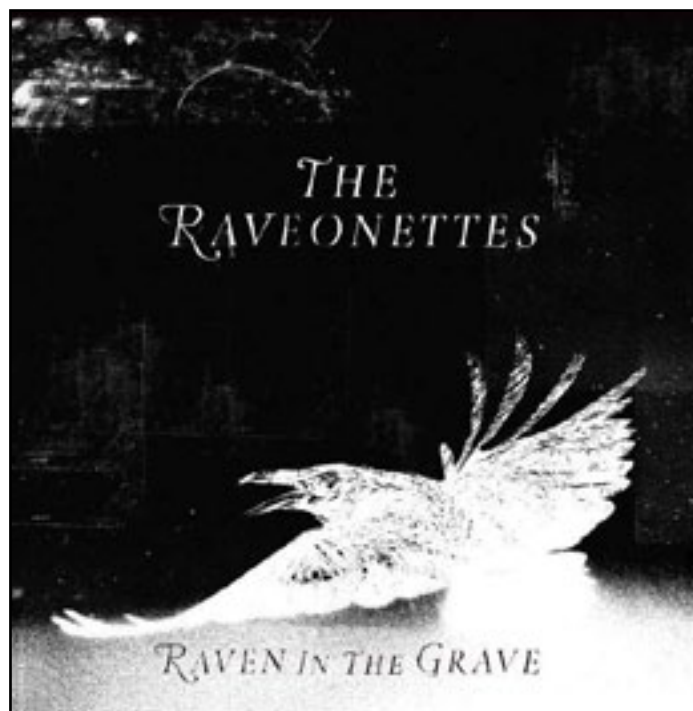
'Raven in the grave' delivers

By Christine Saraceno
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If you've been suffering from a lack of droning '50s inspired indie rock, then you're in luck. Danish darlings The Raveonettes are back with their fifth album, "Raven in the Grave".

With the exception of the 2005 song "Pretty in Black" and its creatively hindered retro vibe, The Raveonettes have spent the last decade making some of the most tasteful, throwback rock you're likely to hear anywhere.

Opening with a classic '60s pop drum beat



"Recharge and Revolt" gently explodes into a rush of electric guitar driven riffs for a full minute before vocalist Sharin Foo's airy voice breaks into the mix.

The song "Apparitions" features a host of synth effects courtesy of a dreamy keyboard over an airy drum loop reminiscent of JoyDivision. It's not all gloomy atmospherics though. "Summer Moon" and "My Time's Up" perfectly embody the classic innocence of '50s music's elegance and "Ignite" rides a forceful bass line down memory lane.

"More emotional and raw than their previous releases, the new Raveonettes release is a beautiful collection of nine songs."

"Evil Seeds" differs from the rest of the album in that its sound is more similar to that of fellow Scandinavian bands' industrial goth rock (think HIM). It displays distorted guitars with ambient breakdowns while Foo and Sune Rose Wagner trade off vocal duties about death and despair in true Raveonettes fashion.

While Valencia student Ryan Sanderson had never heard of the Raveonettes he admitted "I'm always interested in finding new music so they might be something I'd listen to. I like some classic music."

More emotional and raw than their previous releases, the new Raveonettes release is a beautiful collection of nine songs. While nine tracks may sound like a small number for a full length album, "Raven in the Grave" sounds anything but short. They beautifully layer these songs with elements of modern post rock and retro harmonies that capture the spirit of classic groups such as The Raveonettes. Although the album will be released to little fan fare, it deserves to be heard by a much larger audience.

Not so new, The Kills triumph the air-waves

For over 11 years, this band has been rising up

By Christine Saraceno
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The release of their new album "Blood Pressures" has surrounded The Kills with a lot of "best new artist" buzz from mainstream media. The only trouble with this is that they aren't new at all. On the contrary, The Kills (singer Alison Mosshart and guitarist Jamie Hince) have been together for 11 years, put out four albums, and had their music featured in a variety of movies. Basically they are the band that you've probably heard at some point but never knew them by name. By the end of "Blood Pressures," however, you should never forget it.

Mosshart and Hince come through with a CD that triumphs as a natural follow up to their back catalog, and a smart alternative to

Mosshart's two albums with the Jack White fronted band, "The Dead Weather."

"Blood Pressures" doesn't have the natural indie hits of 2008's "Midnight Boom;" it's a solid album that displays The Kills' strong suits: fuzzed out

vocals, while the mellower "Wild Charms" and "The Last Goodbye" provide keen balance for the group.

"Satellite" is the kind of sleazy, drawn out track you would expect to hear from The Kills, particularly at one of their drugged out hipster shows.

"I saw them once on MTV. They were pretty good. I'd listen to them," said Valencia student, Stephanie Holtkamp.

While The Kills have always made an astounding amount of sound for a duo, it looks like Mosshart's time spent in The Dead Weather has pushed the band towards a more groove based indie sound. The album

guitars, stark percussion, and minimalist precision.

The first track "Future Starts Slow" shows off the beautiful interplay of Mosshart and Hince's dueling

offers head bobbing, crowd pleasing song ("Nail in My Coffin") as well as stripped down tracks that help to define them on their wave making debut eight years ago.





Film on the fringe

Midnight shorts cult following....

By Collin Dever
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The 2011 Florida Film Festival gathered a series of racy and lewd short films for their Midnight Shorts at the Enzian theatre Saturday night.

The evening of ribaldry was hosted by William Goss, one of the judges of the domestic shorts that made it into the Florida Film Festival. He has been in attendance at the film festival over the past ten years.

"It always fun especially for stuff like midnight shorts which your not going to see anything else," said Goss. "Everything is so off the wall and different kinds of bizarre that I just think it appeals to a certain audience

that comes out and make it a tradition."

The midnight show aired 15 shorts some animated and some live action. It ranged from the funny to the awkward to the just plain weird. Everything from Snot Bubble Boy about a child who float into space with his large nasal ball of mucus, to six minute fake documentary of person in a Sasquatch costume giving birth in a tree.

"I've been in previous years, I always go to midnight shorts," said Liz Perez. "They're the movies they can't show any other time."

The audience favorite of the midnight shorts was "Legend of Beaver Dam." It's a story of a nerdy camper on a canoe

trip who must save his fellow campers from Stumpy Sam, a one armed ghoul who haunts the area.

The outcast of the group after being made fun of returns to fight off the urban legend in a Tenacious D style showdown that ties together battling evil and a rock ballad.

The "Legend of Beaver Dam" has been building an audience on the film festival circuit with viewings at the Sundance Film Festival, and the Berlin International Film Festival.

If you missed the first midnight shorts viewing the will be playing all the short again Sat. April 16. For more information on "The Legend of Beaver Dam" check out stumpysam.com

From the computer onto the road

6 weeks, 27 cities, and thousands of fans. Can you handle it?

By Veronica Figueroa
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If you're still recuperating from the shock of meeting all your favorite YouTube celebs at Playlist Live two weeks ago, then look away because this article is not for the weak of heart.

The DigiTour is the first nation-wide YouTube tour. They are hitting up 27 cities this spring with everyone's favorite YouTube musicians live on stage, and Orlando is one of the last stops on the tour.

YouTube celebs like David Choi, DeStorm, Dave Days, Mystery Guitar Man and many more have been taking up the nation by storm this past week after the DigiTour's kickoff at Google's headquarters on April 8.

One of the artists coming to Orlando, Maria Zouroudis, is a Greek-American songstress, writer, and performer. She has over 27,000 subscribers and over 6 million views. She had a few minutes to talk to the Valencia Voice about her YouTube career, the future, and The DigiTour.

ValenciaVoice: "So why did you decide to start singing on YouTube?"

Zouroudis: "I like the idea of an artist taking control of their

career, kind of like DIY. You don't have to wait for someone to tell you it's your time. I've always been attracted to that."

VV: "What do you think attracts your fans to you?"

Zouroudis: "Some people like the quality of music, others like that I'm interactive with

"I like the idea of an artist taking control of their career. I've always been attracted to that."
— Maria Zouroudis on why YouTube

the fans, and others just like the song choices I make. What's cool about YouTube is that it makes the artists the fan's artists."

VV: "What is the most memorable moment you've had since starting your YouTube career?"

Zouroudis: "Oh! There're so many! When I had a show in Miami, I met fans from all over, even Australia. But another great moment was when I went to DC last year for the YouTube collaboration on 'We Are The World' and I met all the

other singers and it really gave a meaning to what YouTube really is."

VV: "What should we expect from you in the next couple of months?"

Zouroudis: "I'm actually going to be putting out original content and I will be performing a lot this year."

VV: "Is this your first tour? If so, thoughts, comments?"

Zouroudis: "It's my first tour and I am really excited! I haven't met the people I'm going on tour with in Orlando yet, but they seem really cool. I watch them on YouTube as well but I don't know what to expect! They seem like a fun group of people!"

Come by downtown Orlando's Backbooth on Saturday, May 14 to see YouTube celebs Dave Days, DeStorm, Ricky Ficarelli, Mystery Guitar Man, Kimmi Smiles and Maria Zouroudis. Advanced tickets are \$12, \$14 at the door.

Want your band to open for The DigiTour? They are seeking out artists in the different cities they're hitting up so go to their website! All genres are welcome.

For more information visit <http://www.thedigitour.com> or check them out on Facebook and Twitter @TheDigiTour.

Rape victim tells all

Stacey Lannert speaks to Valencia students on female empowerment

By Charmayne Knox
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Stacey Lannert visited Valencia's West campus this past Wednesday. Her appearance led the Women's Empowerment Event sponsored by the Victim Service Center of Orange County, Harbor House and Student Development.

Victor Collazo, Valencia's Student Development Coordinator said that he chose her to come and speak at Valencia after hearing her speak at a show in Atlanta.

"She's an incredible woman," he said. "She has a powerful message that impacts men and women."

Lannert's story isn't for the weak hearted. At the age of eight her father began molesting her which quickly escalated to forceful intercourse by the age of nine. Once she was 18, Lannert asserted her independence from her father and announced that she was taking her sister and leaving him forever. Her father responded by raping her and her little sister. That day, Lannert fatally wounded her father twice with

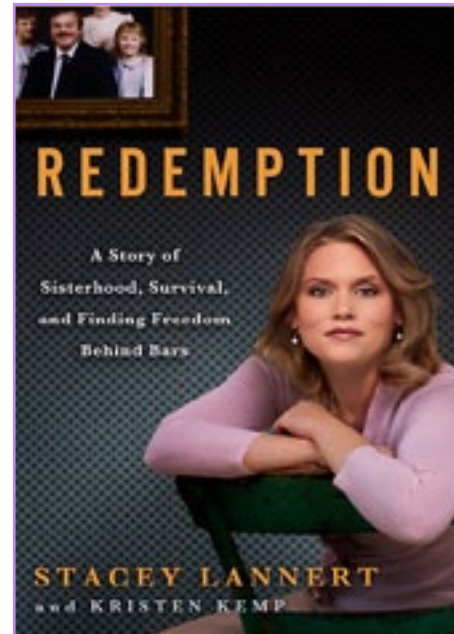
a shotgun. Lannert was then convicted to life in prison. She served eighteen years.

Despite being incarcerated, she spoke of her freedom. "Freedom is found within. Freedom is in your heart." She dismissed all else as simple geography. Her geography changed on January 10, 2009 when she was granted clemency by Missouri Governor, Matt Blunt.

Throughout her presentation, Lannert spoke of the warning signs of both domestic violence and sexual abuse. She reported that 1 in 4 women are subject to campus assaults and 1 in 4 women are subject to domestic violence. Some of the tips she suggests for staying safe are to create a safety plan and taking advantage of the free counseling services available to Valencia students such as BayCare and the Sexual Assault Hotline offered by the Victims Services Center of Central Florida.

"I found it to be a powerful story and wanted to hear from her personally," Kayla Jones said.

"It seemed pretty interest-



ing. I wanted to hear her story. I'm a Psychology major and I'm always interested in how people hurt and how they react to it," student Lovenia Kadet said.

Today, Lannert is finishing her associates degree with plans to enter law school in order to speak out for victims. She describes her non-profit agency and resource website as a "soft place for survivors to land." Lannert is optimistic about it, and her future. Copies of Lannert's book "Redemption," were raffled off at the event.

"When people are incarcerated, I hope they find three things," Lannert mentioned. "God, forgiveness, and themselves. And you can't find one without the other."

For more information about her non-profit agency, Healing Sisters visit <http://www.healingsisters.org>.

It's a hard knock life

Valencia students are given the opportunity to participate in a laser tag mission of another level

By Maraya Figueroa
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Eyes scan the room, hearts quicken, tension builds, and you focus on your mission while hoping you're not being targeted; the weight of the replicated weapon that won't fire bullets or do any harm, holds still, waiting for your next decision.

It's better than a video game because you're physically involved. It's like you have been transported into another world entirely and you've become someone else.

"It's 'Call of Duty' in real life, in a smaller room, with fake guns," said Khai Truong.

Hard Knocks takes laser tag to a whole new level. It's all indoors and is a combat-simulation arena, with many different settings. Age does not matter when it comes to Hard Knocks, the game does not discriminate; adults, teens, kids and college students battle it out.

No games are exactly alike; every game is unpredictable and every experience is different.

It's more than just a chaotic mess of people running around shooting each other. There's more depth to the game that new-comers may be unaware of.

"It's awesome, best laser tag place I've ever been to. Ordinary laser tag doesn't have set ups like office space and a warehouse. There's more places to hide," said Anthony Vu.

The player settings can range from working together in groups, free-for-all, secret missions to disarming bombs. The weapons are metal, look

and feel very real, and some of the weapons even have scopes.

"Players check in, watch training videos in the armory, learn the rules, choose which weapons they want and then divide into groups. They are then given mission briefs and must complete each mission they are given," said Lauren Supersano, an employee for Hard Knocks. It's a continuous game and doesn't stop once missions are completed.

Some Valencia students have had the chance to experience Hard Knocks already. Since it's a simulation and more than just sitting on a couch pressing buttons, you get plenty of exercise.

"Definitely wear your workout clothes," said Brian Vu.

"I saw them at 'Otronicon' and they let me hold one of their guns, it was then I knew it was love," said Jon Tilley.

Valencia students have the opportunity on April 19, to take on a mission from 6:30-7:30 p.m., for free, if they can handle it.

Prices at Hard Knocks vary. You can buy an all day gaming pass for their gaming lounge Monday-Thursday for \$18 and Friday-Saturday for \$23. Combat time costs 60 cents a minute and the average mission rate is 8 minutes. Total cost is around \$5 per mission and any unused minutes can be used during your next visit.

For information on prices, what other services they provide, and additional knowledge go to <http://www.hardknocksorlando.com> or call 407-359-9091.



Results/Standings

04/01/11 vs. Southern Miss	Orlando, Fla.	L, 6-5
04/02/11 vs. Southern Miss	Orlando, Fla.	L, 13-2
04/03/11 vs. Southern Miss	Orlando, Fla.	L, 5-2
04/05/11 at Florida	Gainesville, Fla.	W, 4-3
04/08/11 vs. Tulane	Orlando, Fla.	L, 10-8
04/09/11 vs. Tulane	Orlando, Fla.	L, 6-5
04/10/11 vs. Tulane	Orlando, Fla.	W, 8-7
04/12/11 at Florida Atlantic	Boca Raton, Fla.	6:30 p.m.
4/15/11 at East Carolina	Greenville, N.C.	6:00 p.m.
4/16/11 at East Carolina	Greenville, N.C.	5:00 p.m.
4/17/11 at East Carolina	Greenville, N.C.	11:00 p.m.
4/19/11 vs Florida Atlantic	Orlando, Fla.	6:30 p.m.
4/20/11 vs Florida	Orlando, Fla.	6:30 a.m.
4/22/11 at Memphis	Memphis, Tenn	7:30 p.m.
4/23/11 at Memphis	Memphis, Tenn	1:00 p.m.
4/24/11 at Memphis	Memphis, Tenn	5:00 p.m.



UCF vs. Tulane April 10, 2011 Score by inning

at Orlando, Fla.

Team	R	H	E
Tulane	7	10	0
UCF	8	14	0

R. Hanson 0.2 IP, 4 H, 4 R, 4 ER, 1 BB

Alex Byo 4.0 IP, 2 H, 0 R, 0 ER, 0 BB



Photo By Russell Griner / Valencia Voice

The UCF knights lost another series after Southern Miss, this time to Tulane.

By Bryan Levine
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It has been an emotional roller coaster for the University of Central Florida Knights over the last week and a half. After falling victim to the sweep by Southern Mississippi two weekends ago, the Knights traveled North to Gainesville and beat the fourth ranked Gators 4-3.

Following the much needed bounce back win, the Knights came back home to take on Tulane, where they found themselves in trouble dropping the first two games of the series.

Determined not to be swept again, the Knights

fought back Sunday and won in dramatic fashion. Designated Hitter, DJ Hicks came to the plate with the bases loaded and one out with his team down one run. Hicks, who already had a 2-run homer earlier in the game, crushed the ball as he had himself a 2-run walk off single giving the Knights an 8-7 victory.

"I was definitely a little antsy before the at-bat," said Hick. "I knew I just had to put the ball in play and good things would happen."

The Knights got into trouble early in the game as starter Ray Hanson only last through 2/3 of the first inning allowing four runs on four hits and walk. Relieving Hanson was Danny Winkler

Conference USA Standings

Teams	W-L
UAB	6-3
Houston	4-2
Southern Miss	6-3
Rice	6-3
Memphis	6-3
East carolina	3-3
Tulane	4-5
UCF	3-6
Marshall	3-6
	1-5

who gave the Knights a chance to get back in the game by going for 2/3 strong innings allowing one earned run on four hits and two walks.

Sparked by the clutch relief pitching, the Knights scored all eight runs in the final four innings, four of which came in the final frame. The three and four hitters, Hicks and Jonathon Griffin, combined for four hits, five RBIs, and they both scored two

runs as they hit a pair of long balls.

"The word 'clutch' is a word we use around here often," said Head Coach Terry Rooney after the game. "I've never questioned the heart of these kids."

The Knights are going to hit the road for a four game road trip, first they'll head down south to play the FAU Owls. Then, this weekend, they travel up to East Carolina for a three game set. The Knights have struggled since beginning conference play. They are 3-6 in against C-USA teams and 20-11 overall.

6th Annual 5k run heats up

This year's race is the first to be certified by U.S.A. Track and Field



Photo by Don Burlinson/Valencia College
Carlos Romeo a design student at Valencia, as he crosses the finish line with a time of 19:23.5.

By James Tutten
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The 6th annual 5K "Run, Walk, and Roll" was a successful event held by the Valencia Alumni Association and is their biggest fund-raising event of the year. Major changes were made to this event compared to years past to raise more funds and get a larger student turnout.

This year's race throughout Valencia's West campus was the first to be officially certified by the U.S.A. Track and Field tracking standard for proper 5K distance (3.1 miles). Front Running Sports was also hired for the first time to track runner's times with optional electronic ankle monitors for races.

The race in the past was held on Sunday morning, but was changed to Saturday evening to encourage larger numbers of students to participate. This was adversely affected by the higher than normal

temperature of nearly 90 degrees during the start of the race.

Carlos Romero (#28) is a drafting and design student at Valencia, and finished the race first overall with a time of 19:23.5. Romero said "Today's race was a hot one, and I was in third place and felt like I was going to give out around mile one and a half. The guy in first place then fell off the race due to a major cramp and I was inspired to catch my second wind."

Romero then made his move with a quarter mile left to surpass the second place finisher, Roque Nunez, by a time of 11.8 seconds.

Roque Nunez (#50) came in third place overall at this race last year, and is a long-time distance runner that has participated in the New York Marathon, and is racing in the Boston Marathon next week. Nunez said "I got third place last year and second place this year, but more important than winning and losing is raising money to help the students with this great cause."

Julia Logan (#31) finished 7th overall, with a time of 22:41.2, to become the first place female finisher. A special kids "fun run" was held following the primary race to encourage young children to be active and participate.

This entire event could not have been possible without the support from volunteers, helping to feed and hydrate runners on such an abnormally warm race day. If you would like more information on this event and other fund-raising opportunities in the future, visit the Valencia Alumni Association web page at <http://www.valenciacc.edu/alumni/>

For detailed statistics on the race results, visit "Front Running Sports" website at <http://www.frontrunningsports.com/2009/03/11/race-results/>

Ramirez retires from baseball

MLB Says the left fielder's Drug 'Issue,' may be the cause

By Mason Levinson
Bloomberg News

Manny Ramirez has retired from Major League Baseball rather than face an unspecified "issue" tied to the sport's anti-doping rules.

Ramirez, 38, who joined the Tampa Bay Rays this season, was suspended for 50 games in May 2009 while playing for the Los Angeles Dodgers for violating baseball's drug rules. This year, Ramirez again tested positive for a performance-enhancing drug during spring training and was recently told of the positive result, the New York Times reported, citing two people briefed on the matter.

"We are obviously surprised and disappointed by this news," the Rays said in an e-mailed statement. "We will have no further comment on this matter, and our fans and organization will carry on."

In 2009, Ramirez said in a statement that the violation wasn't a steroid and declined to challenge the suspension. ESPN cited two unidentified people as saying Ramirez failed a test for human chorionic gonadotropin, or HCG, a female fertility drug that also can be taken by steroid users to help with testosterone production.

If Ramirez had tested positive this year for a performance-enhancing drug, it would have resulted in a 100-game ban for a second violation, while a third positive results in a lifetime suspension from baseball. MLB said it would continue its process under the drug program if Ramirez decides to return to baseball.

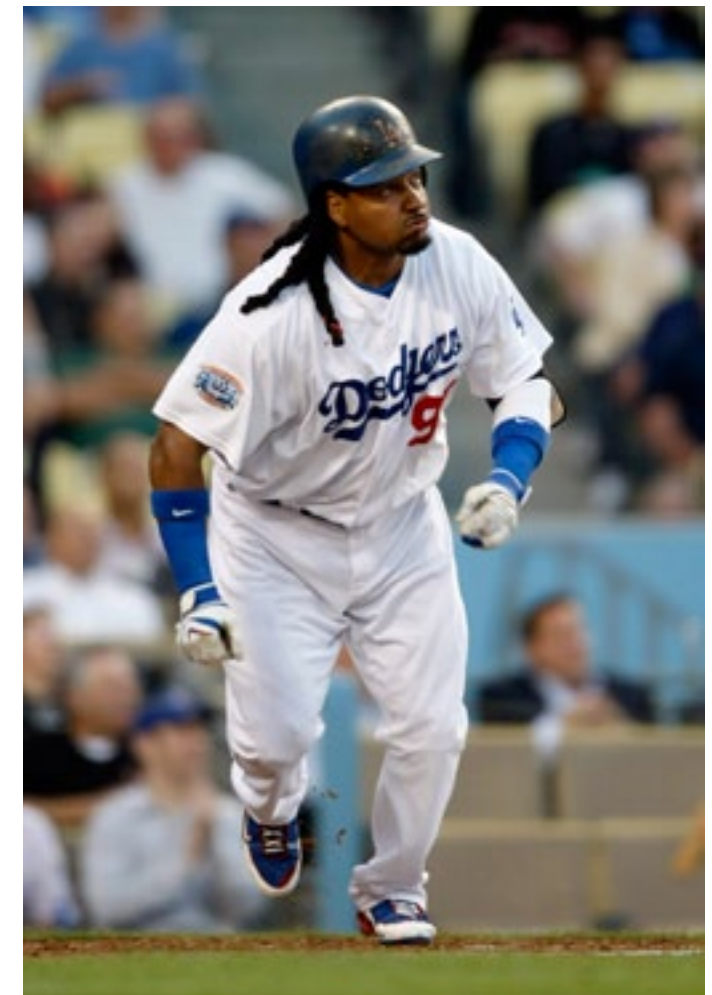
An e-mail sent to Rachel Viglietta, an assistant to Scott Boras, Ramirez's agent, wasn't immediately returned.

Ramirez, a 12-time All-Star, made his first appearance in the major leagues in 1993 with the Cleveland Indians. He joined the Boston Red Sox as a free

agent before the 2001 season and was part of World Series-winning teams in 2004 and 2007. He was traded to the Dodgers during the 2008 season, then was picked up on waivers by the Chicago White Sox in August of last year. He joined the Rays this season and was 1 for 17 at the plate before his retirement.

Ramirez finishes his career with a .312 batting average over 19 seasons, 555 home runs (14th on the career list) and 1,831 runs batted in (18th on the career list).

—WP Bloom



Jay L. Clendenin, Los Angeles Times/MCT
After only five games with the Tampa Bay Rays and facing a 100-game suspension, Ramirez opted to retire.



Orlando center Dwight Howard (12) drives against Milwaukee forward Luc Mbah a Moute (12).

Howard shoots for 4th seed

The rest of the Magic slug behind at 4th quarter

By Bryan Levine
blevine@valencivoice.com

As the regular season comes to an end, the Orlando Magic find themselves right in the thick of things for the Eastern Conference. Following the 78-72 win over the Milwaukee Bucks, the Magic clinched the fourth seed in the East and home field advantage in the first round of the playoffs.

Jumping to a 12-0 run to begin the game, the Magic coasted through the first half with ease. The Magic didn't find themselves in any real trouble until 9:23 left in the fourth quarter when the Bucks tied the game for the first time since tip-off.

Never giving up the lead, the Magic were able to hold off the Bucks who forced the fatigued Magic to turn the ball over 21 times.

"It was a very frustrating night," said Coach

Stan Van Gundy. "But they hung in there and got the win. And that's all that really matters at this point."

Dwight Howard, who lead the team with averages of 23.2 points, 14.2 boards, and 37.8 minutes per night, was the leader of the night with 18 points, 17 rebounds and over 39 minutes.

The rest of the team did not perform as well as Howard as they shot just 38% from the floor and managed to sink only 2 three's in 21 attempts.

"I've never complained about rest or anything," said Howard after the game. "I just want to do whatever I can when I get out there on the court. Just play hard for however many minutes I'm out there on the court, I'll get my rest."

As the fourth seed in the East the Magic are guaranteed to draw the Atlanta Hawks in the first round of the playoffs.

The Magic lost the season series 3-1 and two of those loses came after December 18th when they made two blockbuster trades acquiring Gilbert Arenas, Jason Richardson and returning Hedo Turkoglu back to the team.

"We've been thinking Atlanta for a while," said Van Gundy after the game.

Though some say the Magic are too small to compete with Boston or too slow to keep up with Chicago, Orlando(50-30), is 33-20 since completing the trade that involved eight different players from three teams.

Other than Boston, the Magic are the only other team in the Eastern playoff race who have had success in the playoffs over the past few years.

The Magic, just two years removed from an Eastern Conference Championship went on to lose in the Finals, 5 games to the LA Lakers.

Tonight marks the end of the regular season and the Magic will welcome the Indiana Pacers into the Amway Center. The playoffs begin on Saturday as Orlando will certainly take advantage of the extended days off and not having to travel.



Milwaukee Bucks forward Drew Gooden (0) knocks the ball out of the hands of Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard (12).

Nicklaus unwittingly helps Schwartzel

This years Masters tournament most memorable to date

By Thomas Boswell
The Washington Post

Twenty-five years ago, Jack Nicklaus won what might, ultimately, be the most remembered of all Masters. No one thought that, at 71, Nicklaus could possibly have any impact on this Masters or contribute to the sublimely complex afternoon of thrilling silliness that engulfed Augusta National on Sunday. But you never know when your best qualities, or a simple bit of generosity, may help lift someone else to the heights.

Before Charl Schwartzel of South Africa played in his first Masters last year, he was at a charity tournament for autistic children held by Ernie Els at Nicklaus's course in West Palm Beach, Fla. You never know whom you'll run into along the byways of golf. Schwartzel asked if he could meet Nicklaus.



Tim Dominick, The State/MCT
Charl Schwartzel is escorted to Butler Cabin after he winning the 75th Masters Tournament at Augusta National Golf Club

Instead, they ended up having lunch.

By Sunday night, after one of the craziest afternoons in Augusta National history, Schwartzel had birdied the last four holes, shot 66 — for 14-under-par 274 — and won the Masters by two shots over Australians Adam Scott and Jason Day. And Schwartzel was talking about that Nicklaus lunch and the confidence and gameplan it helped him build.

"I knew Mr. Nicklaus liked hunting so I started talking about that. But (a mutual friend) said, 'Give Charl a tip about how to play Augusta,'" said Schwartzel. "I expected some little vague, quick thing. But he actually took me through every hole and how he played every shot at the Masters. ... I had never seen the course, except on TV, and I was so in awe. I kept trying to remember what he said."

Luckily, that South African friend, Johan Rupert, was taking notes. "So, we got it all. ... You can't get much better advice than that," said Schwartzel, 26, who is now ranked 11th in the world. Augusta National had changed in many ways. But plenty of the "lines" into greens that Nicklaus played still applied, which pins to attack and which to shy from and subtleties like "never aim outside the bunkers" at the 12th hole because it's a sucker play.

In '86, Nicklaus shot 65 in the last round to win his sixth green jacket. On Sunday, Schwartzel nearly matched that number, stringing 10 pars before catching fire at the 15th hole. "I looked at the leader boards, but often I was not registering what I was looking at. That probably helped," he said, laughing. Since players from every continent except Antarctica were on that board all day, switching spots constantly in a confusing maze of red numbers, incomprehension was actually a good strategy.

"When I was walking down the 15th fairway, I saw (the names of) Scott and Day and (said to myself), 'It's now or never. You have to start hitting good shots.'"

Instead, he hit nothing but great ones until his final putts, of 12 and 15 feet at the last two holes, had nailed down his place in Masters history. With that amazing streak he dashed the dreams of both Aussies who admitted they'd dreamed of being the first player from their continent to win here.

"When you birdie the last four holes, you usually win the Masters. I couldn't do any more than what I just did," said Scott, the 17th-ranked player in the world, who shot 67 and never did anything to lose.

"This lived up to everything I've expected and more. My first Masters, I



Gerry Melendez, The State/MCT

Charl Schwartzel celebrates his eagle from the fairway on No. 3 during the final round of the Masters Tournament

just had a blast," said Day, 23, who birdied the 17th and 18th holes to finish two strokes ahead of a trio that included Tiger Woods (67), who had a 31 on the front nine and led very briefly on the back nine, Geoff Ogilvy and Luke Donald. "Tiger has always been my favorite golfer and still is. When he went crazy on the front nine and made eagle at the eighth hole, there was one big massive roar. That guy's a freak."

Woods, though he missed several crucial putts, may have shown that he's not far from major title form — or at least not here at Augusta National, the course that rivals think suits him better than any other.

Or, perhaps, like Nicklaus as he aged, Woods is showing a pattern of getting in the hunt in majors, but usually just too little, too late.

If you had Virginia Commonwealth and Butler in the Final Four last week, then surely you must have nailed Schwartzel as the man who'd win the Masters. And no doubt you foresaw that poor Rory McIlroy, 21, would shoot 80 to blow a four-shot lead.

The Masters prides itself on its dignity, almost amounting to a kind of golf majesty. But sometimes when things get silly and a Schwartzel comes from four shots behind to win, everybody is the better for it.

—WP Bloom