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baseball  
heats up,

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# ValenciaVoice

Official Student Media of Valencia College

Volume 15, Issue 7

www.ValenciaVoice.com

Feb. 29, 2012

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## Counseling a dial away

By Joy Inzitari  
jinzitari@valenciavoic.com

Do you feel pressured as if walls are closing in on you? Are you experiencing worry or stress over your classes, personal issues, or both? If your answer is yes, then you should be aware that each semester Valencia College students are eligible to get free help through three counseling sessions through BayCare Behavioral Service.

By calling BayCare at 1-800-878-5470 students may meet free of charge with a professional psychologist or mental health counselor. Students may also come to Valencia Student Services office and request free sessions with campus professional counselors.

Valencia College Counselor, Jocelyn Morales, presented a workshop last Tuesday entitled "Learning To Maintain Personal Balance In Today's Economy." She is one of the four counselors in Building 5-210 at the east campus who see students for advising and career counseling, but they also assist students who are distressed, depressed, troubled, confused or have anxiety.

"In the past few years there has been a link to the troubles in the economy to the higher incidence of students having problems with college. More students have been having issues of not passing classes. Their issues have been due to not having

— Continued on page 2



Allen J. Schaben, Los Angeles Times / MCT

## 'The Artist' speaks loud

Jean Dujardin beats George Clooney and Brad Pitt for best actor at 84th annual Academy Awards. — Continued on pages 9, 11, 14

## Latinos celebrate

By Michelle Saddic  
msaddic@valenciavoic.com

The anniversary of the Dominican Republic's Independence from Haitian rule was celebrated this past Monday, Feb. 27. The Valencia Latin American Student Organization, or LASO, at the Osceola Campus served food and drinks to students going to class between 11 a.m. and 2 p.m.

They also played music at the front of Osceola Campus and displayed posters with quick facts for students to learn a bit of history about the Dominican Republic and to have fun.

Walking towards Osceola Campus on Monday, the first thing one would notice is the moving sound of Bachata and Merengue music playing in the background as students from LASO dance, and the air was filled with the smell of the Dominican food being served.

"It's nice that they're celebrating Dominican Republic's Independence," said Apolinar Ramirez, a Dominican student at Valencia, "I need more Dominicans in my life, that way I could celebrate today more officially."

In the Osceola and Kissimmee area, Hispanics and Latinos make up a large percentage of the population, according to the most recent survey of the U.S. Census

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# Counseling at students disposal

— Continued from page 1

personal balance,” said Morales.

Since 2006 Morales has been seeing more students affected by the economy. Parents are losing jobs, homes and cars. Many people are distressed and suicide rates have increased. She emphasized that through all the distressing circumstances it is vital to have “balance” in life. “Mental and emotional steadiness equal balance,” said Morales. An effort to smile and feel happiness is important in times of pressure. Morales also talked about how physical exercise is also important.

The following are the tips she offered to help students gain better balance in their lives:

1. Take care of and nurture yourself.
2. Know what your priorities are.
3. Re-evaluate yourself emotionally, mentally and physically at least every six months. Start from the inside out.
4. Find what kinds of things you can to make yourself feel better. Can walking or writing relieve stress or set you on a more positive outlook?
5. Create an efficient mindset. Be positive. Positive self-talk is very helpful.
6. Expect the unexpected. You need to be aware

of your surroundings, so when there is a bump coming toward you can be better prepared.

7. Reduce your time with negative people and be a part of some type of positive support group.

8. Look for solutions in spite of everything going bad around you.

9. Understand personal challenges by being honest with yourself; avoid denial of facts.

10. Listen to meditation music.

11. Seek appropriate resources.

## Other Resources & Services Offered:

1. Essential Life Skills website: [essentiallifekills.net](http://essentiallifekills.net)
2. Striking a Balance website [www.apa.org](http://www.apa.org)
3. Bay Care, Behavioral Service -800-878-5470
4. Life Skills Class – SLS 1122 Student Success
5. Florida 2-1-1 Network- 3-digit telephone number 2-1-1 for easy access to community human service information. This is a United Way service; they will give you information on events and resources. People in need may be eligible for funding for heat and other household necessities. The money comes from donations and government funding. More information can be found at their website.

# Dominican independence celebrated

— Continued from page 1

Bureau. Not many people around the area have celebrated or even know about Dominican Republic's Independence Day, so LASO came together to celebrate, and spread some history about a day that many may not have known about.

A group of Dominican rebels finally seized the Ozama fortress in Santo Domingo on Feb. 27, 1844, and as the Haitians fled, the Dominican Republic was able to declare their independence from Haitian rule. It was a movement that brought an end to 22 years of Haitian dominance and the beginning of a new country.

Some facts that LASO talked about were about how Bachata and Merengue are music and dances that are unique to the Dominican Republic. Many members of LASO were dancing to this Dominican

music and teaching others how to dance as well.

Other random facts are that the average Dominican meal includes stewed meat with plantains, white rice and red beans.

The Dominican Republic has also been a huge help in the relief of Haiti after they went through the massive earthquake in 2010, which also managed to relieve a lot of tension between the countries.

Osceola Campus is not the only campus that LASO participates in, but every campus has their own organization with different events to look out for as well. Next time the Latin American Student Organization puts on another event, one can be sure to have a good time and learn a bit of history as well.

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# GOP candidates trade blows

## Romney, Santorum care for poor but would cut safety net

By Alana Semuels  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES — Republican presidential candidates recently have found themselves battling over who cares most for the poor.

But their demonstrations of empathy sometimes collide with their plans to cut back the programs on which many of the poor depend.

After he appeared to dismiss the very poor, Mitt Romney was forced to backpedal from his politically perilous remarks.

But he and other candidates stand by bedrock conservative principles of cutting entitlement programs and government spending.

"We have to be concerned about those who are at the very margins of society," Rick Santorum told the Detroit Economic Club. "There's another candidate in this race who suggested he didn't care about the very poor, who just cares about the 95 percent. How about a candidate that cares about 100 percent?"

Yet just minutes earlier, Santorum had pledged to cut entitlement programs, which he said would "completely consume all revenues" if unchecked.

The safety net for the poor has expanded in recent years, by some measures.

Since traditional welfare was phased out in the mid-1990s, programs such as the earned income tax credit, cash assistance and food stamps have replaced it as resources for families down on their luck.

The government spent \$7,374 per person on benefits in 2010, up 53 percent from 2000 when adjusted for inflation, according to data from the federal Bureau of Economic Analysis.

Talk about cutting the safety net is especially fraught in states like Michigan, where the Republican primary will be held Tuesday.

It had the highest unemployment rate in the nation in 2009 and is still recovering from the recession that saw the state lose more than half a million jobs.

Though many of the state's poor benefit from

government assistance, Michigan is dramatically cutting back state-funded benefits as it tries to work its way back to financial health.

Recently, the state has cut the number of weeks of unemployment benefits to 20 from 26, dramatically limited its state-run earned income tax credit, put a 48-month lifetime limit on cash assistance programs and implemented an asset test that people must pass before receiving food stamps. It applied a means test for food stamps even as 38 other states had removed theirs.

"There's a lot of states that have made significant cuts to their basic safety net programs, but Michigan does stand out," said Michael Leachman, director of state fiscal research at the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities.

The nonprofit Michigan League for Human Services estimates that the cuts in the earned income tax credit would reduce the amount families get from the state to \$140 from \$430.

It says that 15,000 families, including 30,000 children, lost their cash assistance between September and January.

These cuts echo plans proposed by many of the GOP candidates. Romney would allow the expansion of the earned income tax credit to expire, essentially reducing the amount available to families, something Michigan just did.

Santorum wants to put time and work limits on people receiving government benefits, which Michigan just did.

Gingrich proposes a flat tax rate for corporations; Michigan eliminated the state's major business tax and replaced it with a 6 percent corporate income tax, costing the state \$1 billion and forcing some of the safety net cuts, according to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities.

Gingrich, Romney and Santorum also say they would change means-tested federal programs such as Medicaid into block grant programs run by the states. Romney, speaking at an economic round table in Monroe, said once he eliminated what he considers



Republican presidential candidate Rick Santorum speaks to members of the Livonia Chamber of Commerce in Michigan.

unsustainable federal spending, such as subsidies for Amtrak and the National Endowment for the Arts, he would examine the remaining federal programs.

"I'm going to say, 'Is this program better handled at the state or local level than the federal level?'" he said, adding that Medicaid, food stamps and housing vouchers are among the programs he would consider sending to the states.

Federal funding would be handed out as block grants and state leaders would decide how it would best be spent.

That makes people like Gilda Z. Jacobs, president of the Michigan League for Human Services, more than a little nervous.

The theory behind block grants is that they give states flexibility in administering the funds in ways that best suit local conditions.

"My concern is that sometimes, in the political climate in our state, political decisions are being driven

by people who base these decisions on an ideology that don't necessarily mesh with some of the needs that we may have in the state," she said.

When federal welfare reform was passed, it moved money in block grants to the states.

That model alone might make politicians hesitate about using block grant programs to help the very poor, said Leachman, of the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities.

Though caseloads rose during the recession, the amount of money available to states didn't increase.

Several other states have recently trimmed programs for the poor.

Wisconsin and New Jersey cut the percentage they contribute to the earned income tax credit. Washington froze enrollment for a state-run health care plan. South Carolina wants to impose a drug test on people receiving unemployment benefits.

— MCT Campus



# Bridges first ever fashion show

## 'Colors of Greatness' displayed with music, dance, poetry

By James Tutten  
jtutten@valenciavoice.com

The inaugural "Colors of Greatness" fashion show was a cultural showcase for African-American heritage, supported by Valencia's Bridges to Success program. By focusing on more than just fashion, those in attendance were treated to much more than a clothing expo.

"We wanted to put on an event that was inspiring as well as entertaining," said event coordinator Andrey Alexander. The timing of the show honors the cultural additions of African-Americans and important figures of Black History Month such as Nelson Mandela.

"Colors of Greatness" was attended in high numbers and had several models displaying everything from club attire to formal business-wear. The organizers also had different forms of artistic expression featured throughout the event including dance groups, poetry, spoken word speeches and an acoustical musical performance.

"The spoken word was awesome; that's a great way to get the word out and still entertain," said audience member Brianna Davis.

This spoken word speech, written by Jason Alexander, was a fast paced assault on the devastating issue of AIDS and its effect on the family and the community. While going through detailed statistics on the disease, he would say something controversial then immediately sliding into a joke to break any tension.

"I tend to have a message in my poems, have an overall theme and point out specific things that I'm talking about." Alexander is a graduate from FAMU, and wants to be a motivational speaker helping young students make better choices in life.

Despite a critical failure in her microphone, psychology student Khandy Graydon touchingly performed "Killing Me Softly" on her acoustic guitar. Undaunted and unplugged, she didn't skip a beat, and the audience sang along softly in return with the catchy melody.

"I just thought to myself, I'm not even going to



Christopher Correa / Valencia Voice

Fashion model showing off design from 'Chunky Fine'.

use the mic, I'm just gonna sing" said Graydon. She has performed live music at several venues over the past two years, including Club 57 West.

The fashion show then went underway with a wide array of brightly colored and practically designed styles from local vendors like "Created 4 Fashion" and "Chunky Fine" offering clothing designed to make a woman feel beautiful, no matter what size they are. Many in attendance were raving about the hot colored heels and other modern designer shoes featured along with the clothing.

Another highlight of the fashion show was a showcase by Men's Wearhouse of sharp and coordinated business attire for the young college graduate looking to enter the workforce. They presented darker and more formal styles for a sharper look for a big job interview, and also a looser look, with more earth tones for casual business attire, for when you have secured the position in the future.

"I loved the modeling, I want to be a model myself so I was watching everybody," said physical therapy student Mideline Daceus.

After the models did their final walk and the show was over, Bridges founder and manager John Stover presented event organizer Andrey Alexander with an award from the African-American cultural society for her actions, and tying this event into cultural awareness with Black History Month.

Bridges to Success supports any student looking for help with their education, no matter the ethnicity.

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# Violence continues

## Syrian forces retake rebel town of Zabadani

By David Enders  
McClatchy Newspapers

BAALBEK, Lebanon — Syrian forces loyal to President Bashar Assad have driven most rebel fighters from the town of Zabadani, northwest of Damascus, in a vicious assault that refugees reaching Lebanon's Bekaa Valley say is similar to the one that's now taking place in Homs, Syria's third largest city.

"There is no water, no electricity, no gas, no bread," said Ali, who crossed into Lebanon illegally three days ago on foot with his wife and five children. "People are trapped in their houses by snipers. Some are buried under their own houses. There are bodies in the streets, and they don't allow people to reach them."

Ali, who asked that he not be identified further out of concern for his safety, described families burying their dead under cover of night in their own yards, another echo of the fighting in Homs. He also described arrests and beatings by the military to intimidate residents, and a 3 p.m. curfew enforced by sniper fire.

A resort town with a population of about 20,000, Zabadani was billed in January as the first city to have fallen completely under the control of the anti-Assad Free Syrian Army.

But that status lasted less than a month, as pro-Assad forces undertook an offensive that intensified three weeks ago, just as the offensive against Homs also was launched.



David Enders / MCT

Sunni Muslim fighters who have a long-standing animosity toward the Syrian government and Assad.

The offensive in Homs, which has been under constant bombardment for the past 20 days, claimed the lives of two journalists Wednesday, including an American who was on assignment for Britain's Sunday Times. Another 60 people also were killed in the city's Baba Amr neighborhood, according to Syrian activists.

Marie Colvin was killed when artillery and rocket fire struck the house where she was staying in Baba Amr.

A French photographer, Remi Ochlik, was killed along with her. Three journalists also were wounded in the bombardment, which Syrian activists in the city said had intensified in the last 24 hours.

Human Rights Watch has reported that the military is using 240 mm artillery rounds, the same as the Russian military used in its intense shelling of the Chechen

city of Grozny more than a decade ago.

The intensification of the Syrian offensive in Homs and elsewhere comes ahead of two key events: a referendum on a new constitution that Assad has called for Sunday and a conference Friday in Tunisia at which representatives of 70 countries are expected to discuss whether to provide arms to the rebels.

The Homs offensive and the events in Zabadani show how crucial a decision to supply weapons and ammunition could be to the rebel forces.

Refugees say the rebels have largely withdrawn from Zabadani, and one Lebanese man who's involved in smuggling medical supplies into the town said the Free Syrian Army's supply lines had been cut.

"They ran out of ammo," he said.

— MCT Campus

# Death toll rises to 3

## Gunman under arrest, questions unanswered

By Thomas J. Sheeran  
The Evening Sun, Hanover, Pa.

Feb. 28--The death toll rose to three Tuesday in the shooting rampage in an Ohio high school cafeteria as schoolmates and townspeople grappled with the tragedy and wondered what could have set the teenage gunman off.

The teenager under arrest in Monday's attack, T.J. Lane, faced an afternoon hearing in juvenile court.

Shaken residents offered condolences and prayers to the families of those killed and wounded at 1,100-student Chardon High School in suburban Cleveland. All three of the dead were students.

"This gets more tragic, the whole area is suffering, our prayers go up to God to give all strength, healing and closure," said one of hundreds of Facebook postings on a memorial page.

"We're not just any old place, Chardon," Chardon School Superintendent Joseph Bergant II said. "This is every place. As you've seen in the past, this can happen anywhere, proof of what we had yesterday."

A Cleveland hospital said Demeetrius Hewlin, who had been in critical condition, died Tuesday morning. That news came shortly after Police Chief Tim McKenna said 17-year-old Russell King Jr. had died.

Another student, Daniel Parmertor, died hours after the shooting, which sent students screaming through the halls and led teachers to lock down their classrooms as they had practiced doing so many times during drills.

Both King and Parmertor were

students at the nearby Auburn Career Center, a vocational school, and were waiting for a bus for their daily 15-minute ride when they were shot.

The police chief would shed no light on a motive.

"I feel sorry not only for that family but all the families that are affected by this," McKenna said. Characterizing himself as a "hometown boy," he added: "Chardon will take care of Chardon."

A student who saw the attack up close said it appeared that the gunman targeted a group of students sitting together and that the one who was killed was gunned down while trying to duck under the cafeteria table.

Lane's family is mourning "this terrible loss for their community," attorney Robert Farnacci said in a statement.

Lane did not go to Chardon High, instead attending nearby Lake Academy, which is for students with academic or behavioral problems.

Fifteen-year-old Danny Komertz, who witnessed the shooting, said Lane was known as an outcast who had apparently been bullied. But others disputed that.

Farinacci, representing Lane and his family, told WKYC-TV that Lane "pretty much sticks to himself but does have some friends and has never been in trouble over anything that we know about."

Long before official word came of the attack, parents learned of the bloodshed from students via text message and cellphone and thronged the streets around the school, anxiously awaiting word on their children.

— MCT Campus



# Hollywood accused too often

## Blame needs to be placed elsewhere

By Jeremy S. Williams  
jwilliams@valenciavoice.com

Hollywood is accused of a lot when society goes astray -- sex, drugs, violence -- anything and everything that spurs outrage will unavoidably be linked back to something seen in a movie or on TV, or something heard in a song, but it seems like the finger is never pointed at the real culprit when a situation happens: The parents.

A slew of controversy has surrounded the recent Grammy Awards which aired Feb. 12 about the center stage support thrown behind musical performer Chris Brown. Brown, whom was nominated for

several awards that night and even won for best R&B album, has not attended the award telecast since the now infamous night three years ago when he attacked and beat then girlfriend Rihanna, putting the Grammy Award winning performer in the hospital.

During the telecast Brown's fans and supporters took to Twitter, tweeting their desire to be beaten by the performer and expressing how much they adored him. After this many stood up in protest, but not condemning the performer or his bounty of fans who seem to want him to attack them, but rather to protest the Grammy telecast and CBS, the station that

aired the award show, for supposedly glorifying domestic violence.

Society has always wanted someone else to blame other than themselves. In 1999, two students marched into Columbine High School and opened fire on students and faculty, causing the deadliest high school massacre in our nation's history. But when the smoke cleared we did not question the morals or upbringing of the perpetrators. Instead we blamed the music they listened to and the video games they played.

Columbine was a tragedy, but it was not something that should have enraged people to take up arms against Hollywood. When did we stop expecting parents to raise their children and start requiring television to be the morality altar that we should worship at? The tweets glorifying domestic violence were not the fault of CBS, nor the fault of the Grammy Academy. They weren't even the fault of Chris Brown. They were the fault of the women posting the tweets.

Social media has allowed everyone with a smartphone or a laptop to express their opinion and put a spin or comment on every social event that takes place, but we don't need to blame the event planner when a party crasher shows up and says or does something completely idiotic. These tweeters did not express their stupidity because Hollywood hasn't provided them with a proper role model. They did so because their parents were not be the role models they should have been.

Even before movies and TV the world had its problems with younger generations abusing alcohol and drugs, having premarital sex and becoming extremely violent with each another.

These "trouble topics" are not the fault of Hollywood. On the contrary, Hollywood has helped society with these problems

by shedding light on them. Movies like "Rebel Without a Cause" and "Boyz n the Hood" opened the door for society to see what was really happening to the youth. Television shows like "My So-Called Life" and "Freaks and Geeks" opened parents' eyes to see what their kids were really dealing with in school.

Whether through drama or comedy, satire or song, Hollywood is the window that has allowed society to look back in on itself and question whether the morals and values we are living by are the best interpretation of ourselves. For us to then turn around and blame the very institution that only mimics our own style is no more than shameless; it

is the very reason why individual responsibility has been cast aside to make room for the "blame Hollywood" mentality.

If you want to be outraged about what happened at the Grammys then do so, but place the blame where it is deserved. The music industry and Hollywood as a whole cannot govern the youth of today simply because the parents won't. If an individual posts or tweets something that is in poor taste then that person is to blame for the comment. People must stop using Hollywood as a crutch and start parenting their children from the beginning. Now that would be a novel idea for a Hollywood screenplay.



Red Huber, Orlando Sentinel / MCT

Chris Brown performs before the NBA All-Star Game at the Amway Center in Orlando, Florida.



Michael Mulvey, Dallas Morning News / MCT

In 1999, 14 students and one teacher were killed at the school when two teenage gunmen opened fire.



# Hollywood not accused enough

## Celebrities send wrong message to youth

By Brittany Rose  
brose@valenciavoice.com

Picture it: your friend comes to you with a bruised face and tells you that her boyfriend beat her up. Said boyfriend is then arrested, sentenced to probation and literally banned by the court system from seeing your friend for a set amount of time.

Flash forward to two years down the road when the ban has been lifted and your friend comes to you with a smile on her face and story about how much her ex-boyfriend has changed. Would two years be enough for you? Would you think that your friend was out of her mind? It's likely a safe assumption to say

that you wouldn't be ready to high five your friend with the sentiment of "eh, two years is long enough."

Chris Brown beat Rihanna to a pulp on the eve before The Grammys two years ago, and the whole world was up in arms about it. Brown was not only banned from the award show for the next two years, but also had to suffer the many understandable legal consequences for his actions. Rihanna did several interviews speaking out against abuse, telling her fans to stay out of relationships like the one she'd been a part of with Brown.

Two years has apparently become an eternity in Hollywood, because not only did The Grammys try to shove a Chris Brown "comeback" down our

throats during their award show this year, but Rihanna is now flaunting the two singles she recently recorded with Brown on the Internet.

It would be "their business" and a non-issue if young girls weren't stepping out because of this with Twitter posts about how much they wish that Chris Brown would "beat" them, and Hollywood wasn't advertising this situation as a "comeback" just for a the sole purpose of selling some singles.

Rihanna may not have any control over the fact that she is viewed as a role model at this point in her life, but why speak out against abuse and the person who committed it to various news outlets only to turn around two years down the

road and gloss it over as if nothing ever happened? She made herself a role model by becoming some kind of spokesperson against abuse, only to go back to publicly hanging out with her attacker. It makes her look weak, and it makes it look like she thinks it's okay.

There are also television shows, such as the CW hit "Gossip Girl," that make it seem glamorous or perfectly normal to want to be in an abusive relationship. One of the fan favorite couples recently had a moment in which the male punched a window subsequently cutting the female characters face, and the moment was brushed aside and excused as a moment of passion. Another couple on the show (involving the same female) re-

cently made it seem completely fine for a man to dictate who the female could have in her life and why. This was glossed over with an explanation of "he's a prince" and "he loves me."

How is this acceptable in this day and age at all? An act of abuse should never be excused, let alone in the eye of the public or on a television show that is widely known for having a large teenage audience. You don't speak out against abuse and then fan a later relationship with your abuser for the world to see, and you certainly don't gloss it over with "let it go! It's been two years." You don't excuse abuse on a television show just because the couple in question is a "fan favorite" or because the abuser is a "prince."



Robert Gauthier, Los Angeles Times / MCT

Chris Brown wins best R&B album and performs at the 54th Annual Grammy Awards at the Staples Center in L.A., California.



Red Huber, Orlando Sentinel / MCT

Chris Brown is facing a lot of criticism because is trying to make a comeback after he beat then girlfriend Rihanna in 2009.



# Does Hollywood glamorize domestic violence?

Photos by Christopher Correa / Interviews by Felicia Roopchand



"I think it's [Rihanna's] personality. I don't think they should sing songs together."

— Joy Weaver



"Professionally collaborating is okay, but not if they get back together."

— Nicole Neilson



"It makes it look like it's okay to go back [to an abusive relationship], when it's not."

— Delia Figura



"It's only news because they're famous."

— Sarah Elsherbeny



"I think they step outside the lines to get more attention... it's all for publicity."

— Krystal Stutz



"I was in a domestic relationship for 3 years, it's not easy. They make it seem easy."

— Vanessa Galett



"Controversy sells, especially in the Hollywood lifestyle."

— Martin Lalanne



"We put them so high on a totem pole, they don't want us to know that they have a weak side."

— Marquise Humphrey



"I don't think he did it on purpose. Either way, he shouldn't have hit her like that."

— Hafsa Abrabar



"I think celebrities like Chris Brown are people too, and are able to learn from their mistakes."

— Nora Davis





Robert Gauthier, Los Angeles Times / MCT

Kermit the Frog and Miss Piggy watch as 'The Muppets Movie' wins Best Song.



ABC / MCT

Billy Crystal dusted off the old tuxedo for his ninth time as the Oscar host.



Robert Gauthier, Los Angeles Times / MCT

Elizabeth Taylor concluded the memorial reel of Hollywood's 2011 passings.

## 48th annual Academy Awards wrap-up 'The Artist', 'Hugo' Oscar nights big winners

By Jeremy Williams  
jwilliams@valenciavoice.com

Hollywood had their annual love affair with themselves this past Sunday with the 84th Academy Awards with host Billy Crystal emceeing for the ninth time.

A throw back to the past, Hollywood spent the night honoring movies about movies and awarding Hollywood's elite who have been acknowledged with nominations, yet have not been given Oscar gold in decades (and in some cases never).

The show opened in typical Crystal fashion with a movie montage injecting him into some of the best movies from 2011, then his song and dance anthem honoring the nine films nominated for best picture.

Crystal moved the evening along with funny quips and light-hearted knocks at the Hollywood attendees. "So tonight, enjoy yourselves," joked Crystal, "because nothing can take the sting out of the world's eco-

nomic problems like watching millionaires present each other with golden statues."

'The Artist' and 'Hugo' were the biggest winners bringing home five statues each, with 'Hugo' cleaning up in the technical categories and 'The Artist' coming out on top in most of the major categories including Best Picture, Best Director and Best Actor for Jean Dujardin.

"It's funny because in 1929, it wasn't Billy Crystal but Douglas Fairbanks who hosted the first Oscars ceremony," said Dujardin in his acceptance speech. "Tickets cost five dollars and it lasted 15 minutes. Times have changed."

The Academy did not forget to honor their legends this year presenting Meryl Streep with her third Oscar for her portrayal of Margaret Thatcher in "The Iron Lady." While Streep is the most nominated performer in Oscar history with 17 nominations, she hasn't won in 29 years when she took home the Best Actress statue for 'Sophie's Choice.'

"When they called my name, I had this

feeling I could hear half of America going, 'Oh no. Come on... Her, again?' You know. But, whatever," Streep said as she took to the stage to collect her award.

Woody Allen, nominated a total of 23 times collectively for acting, directing and screen writing, won Best Original Screenplay for 'Midnight in Paris,' only his fourth Oscar and his first since 1987 when he won for writing the screenplay to 'Hanna and Her Sisters.'

Allen famously does not attend award shows and has never gone the Oscars except once in 2002. After the 9-11 terrorist attacks he made an appearance to ask producers to continue filming in New York City.

Christopher Plummer accepted his first Oscar at the age of 82 for playing a man coming out of the closet late in life after the death of his wife in the movie 'Beginners.'

Plummer, a Hollywood legend from such classic films as 'The Sound of Music,' acknowledged that he is not much younger than the Oscars themselves.

"You're only two years older than me darling, where have you been all my life?" said Plummer to his new golden statue.

'The Help,' the most commercially successful of the nine best pictures, was nominated for four awards and only brought home one. Octavia Spencer, Best Supporting Actress winner, could barely get through her acceptance speech amidst tears after hearing her name called.

"I'm sorry," repeated Spencer, "I'm freaking out, thank you world."

The Oscar telecast had more than 39 million viewers, up slightly from last year's show in which 'The King's Speech' won best picture and co-host's Anne Hathaway and James Franco attempted to gather up a younger audience but fell flat for most viewers.

The uptick in viewership might be attributed to the return of Oscar-favorite host Crystal who put up sold numbers each time he has hosted in the past.

Viewership was important for ABC,

the network that airs the Oscars, because of their status as the second most watched show in America each year after the Super Bowl, but with The Grammy telecast bringing in record numbers a few weeks ago due to the return of Adele to a live stage after throat surgery and the death of Whitney Houston it appears that they may to settle for third place.

The Academy Awards came to a close just over three hours, which is on the shorter end of the shows standard airtime and contained your typical award show fare, but the best moment from the Oscars came from a virtual unknown, the acceptance speech from Best Sound Editing winner Philip Stockton, who won for 'Hugo,' summed it up for all the winners.

"I want to thank everybody who is here tonight," said Stockton, "and everybody who isn't, and everybody who has ever been born or may be born or be born again or reborn. If I've forgotten anybody then you probably know who you are."



# Tweets of the Week



**Jim Gaffigan** @JimGaffigan  
It turns out our baby doesn't speak French either.



**Adam Levine** @adamlevine  
Well...I didn't win an Oscar. Which makes perfect sense considering I've never been in a movie and I wasn't nominated.



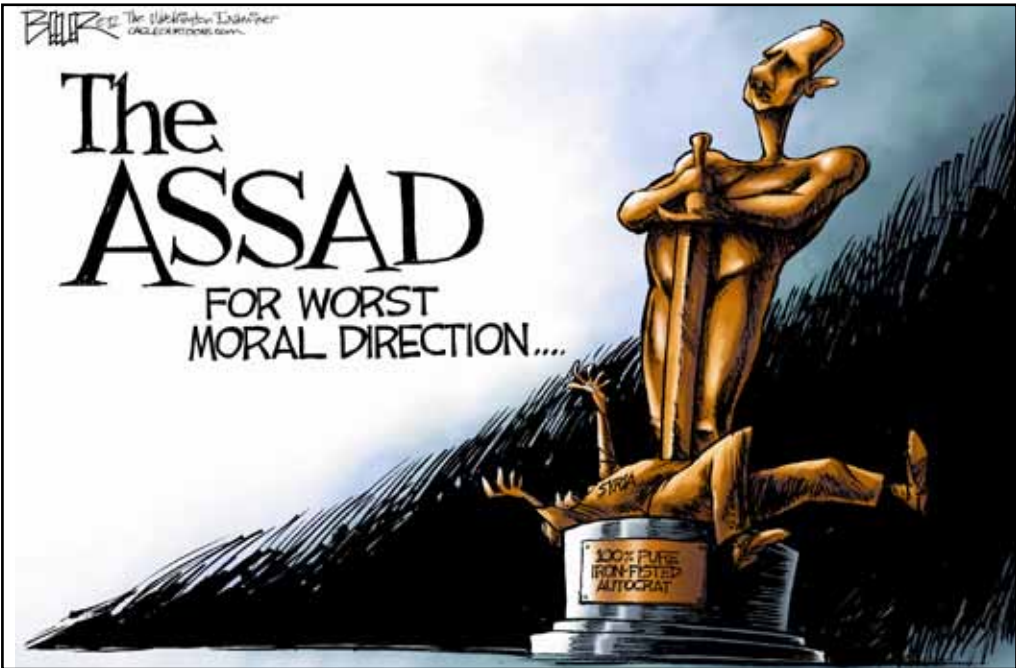
**Whitney Cummings** @WhitneyCummings  
The Artist taught us what Instagram has been telling us every day: words and mind blowing modern technology are out.



**Jen Kirkman** @JenKirkman  
It's insensitive of Brad Pitt to have "The Rachel" haircut.



**Steve Martin** @SteveMartinToGo  
I hate my life. [pic.twitter.com/NAu1eKOU](http://pic.twitter.com/NAu1eKOU)



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# Going home empty handed

‘War Horse,’ ‘Moneyball’ among others with no Oscar

By Ben Fritz  
Los Angeles Times

For a moment, it looked as though “Hugo” could sweep this year’s Academy Awards.

Martin Scorsese’s 3-D family film snapped up five trophies in technical categories, including surprise wins for cinematography and visual effects.

But as the more prestigious prizes were handed out later in the night, momentum shifted to the expected favorite, “The Artist,” which won for best picture, best director and best actor among its five awards.

The only upset in the highest-profile categories came near the end of the show, when Meryl Streep won the lead actress statue for her portrayal of former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher in “The Iron Lady,” beating out Viola Davis for “The Help.” Many thought Davis, who had won the Screen Actors Guild over Streep for her role as a maid in Mississippi in the early 1960s, had a good chance of repeating that victory at the Oscars.

Several films that were respected enough by Oscar voters to garner multiple nominations went home empty-handed. “Moneyball” and “War Horse,” with six nominations each, including best picture, didn’t win a single prize.

“The Descendants,” which received five nominations and early in awards season looked like a viable contender for Oscar’s top honor after winning best motion picture drama at the Golden Globes, received only one trophy Sunday night, for adapted screenplay.

Another movie that once seemed to have a shot at best picture, SAG award winner for ensemble cast “The Help,” only captured one win out of four nominations, best supporting actress for Octavia Spencer.

The film editing category has often been a good predictor of the best picture winner, as the two went together in seven of the prior 10 years. But “The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo” editors Kirk Baxter and Angus Wall pulled off the rare feat of winning for a movie that wasn’t even nominated for best picture. The only other time that happened in the last decade was in 2008, when “The



Courtesy of Columbia Pictures

Moneyball was nominated for Best Picture, Best Actor (Brad Pitt), but didn’t take any Oscars home.

Bourne Ultimatum” won for editing.

Baxter and Wall are also the first film editors in Hollywood history to win Academy Awards two years in a row. They won last year for “The Social Network,” which, like “Dragon Tattoo,” was directed by David Fincher.

With its win for visual effects, “Hugo” defeated a film that many considered groundbreaking for its lifelike motion-captured animal performance: “Rise of the Planet of the Apes.” But Oscar voters showed they were

more impressed by “Hugo’s” eye-popping 3-D effects, which included a mechanical robot and a dramatic train crash.

Traditional Oscar-ology also held that Terrence Malick’s “The Tree of Life” was a favorite in the cinematography category, given its spectacular shots of sun-drenched nature. This year, however, it was a movie that takes place largely in a Paris train station and was enhanced by digital 3-D effects that took the prize.

— MCT Campus

## Opening March 2 ‘Dr. Seuss’ The Lorax



Courtesy of Universal Pictures

**Directors:** Chris Renaud, Kyle Balda  
**Starring:** Zac Efron, Taylor Swift, Danny DeVito, and Betty White

**Rated:** PG  
**Running Time:** 94 minutes  
**Genre:** Animation, family, fantasy

## ‘Project X’



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

**Director:** Nima Nourizadeh  
**Starring:** Thomas Mann, Oliver Cooper and Jonathan Daniel Brown

**Rated:** R  
**Running Time:** 88 minutes  
**Genre:** Comedy

## Box Office



Courtesy of Relativity

### ‘Act of Valor’

**Rated:** R  
**This Weekend:** \$24. 8 million  
**Total Gross:** \$24. 8 million



Courtesy of Lionsgate

### ‘Tyler Perry Good Deeds’

**Rated:** PG-13  
**This Weekend:** \$15.6 million  
**Total Gross:** \$15.6 million



Courtesy of Warner Bros.

### ‘Journey 2’

**Rated:** PG  
**This Weekend:** \$13.4 million  
**Total Gross:** \$76.6 million



# Navy SEALs grace big screen

## Real warriors don't need to act when killing an enemy



By Fred Lambert  
flambert@valenciavoice.com

"Act of Valor" is a realistic and fresh view of the war movie genre. Using real Navy SEALs (Sea, Air, Land), spectacular cinematography, and a meticulous portrayal of tactical technology, this film directed by Scott Waugh and Mike McCoy

boosts the known styles used to portray modern conflict in film.

Other contemporary war films have utilized active duty military personnel for the sake of realism; Paul Greengrass's "Green Zone" used Matt Damon as the lead role but cast actual soldiers between tours to Iraq for the men in his team. HBO's "Generation Kill" had Rudy Reyes playing himself as the "fruity" apex Recon Marine.

But "Act of Valor" has the elite of the

elite — America's toughest razor-edge human weapons, the SEALs. Just getting these special forces gurus in between their actual forward deployments made the filming portion last over two years, according to Waugh.

Much of the equipment featured in the film is accurate and some of the battle scenes were shot using live ammunition to blast vehicles and dazzle the screen with tracer fire.

The story is simple and complex at the same time. Two CIA agents (Nestor Serrano and Roselyn Sanchez) are compromised in Costa Rica while on a mission to link a gun smuggler named Christo (Alex Veadov) with a Chechen jihadi (Jason Cottle) bent on shedding American blood.

This scene is just as hard-wired as the rest of the movie, and shows how brutally isolated many intelligence personnel are. It also reveals the mythical stereotype that CIA agents are one-man armies; when Serrano's character answers the door for a Chinese food delivery, his head is blown off while Sanchez is overpowered by her abductors. Then the real-world cavalry rolls into action when the SEALs get briefed for the rescue mission.

A wider plot to implant suicide bombers in America is discovered, and follow-on missions see the team pulling reconnaissance duties and raids in Somalia before confronting drug cartels and Filipino terrorists on the US/Mexico border.

Much of the cinematography is in a documentary style familiar to films like "Saving Private Ryan." Other shots range from indoor helmet-cam views to grand, sweeping, helicopter-borne angles. All of



Courtesy of Relativity

Special forces operative silently emerges from water while sneaking up on a sentry in Costa Rica.

it is breathtaking to watch; the visual element is a work of art and is probably the movie's strongest suit.

But amid the impeccable portrayal of real-world missions and techniques, some may find the lighter scenes a bit disconcerting because of the acting. It must be noted that the SEALs train to kill, not act. This being said, some of the dialogue scenes, like one in a California bar between the Chief and Lieutenant concerning family life, seem contrived and unnatural.

"The acting was okay, but it wasn't the best," said Kevin Ford after watching the movie. "They were real Navy SEALs, though, so I think they did a pretty good job."

While these scenes are necessary in humanizing certain elements of the characters, they are so few and far between that it doesn't detract from the film much at all.

As soon as the professional warriors snap into their gun-sights, put sniper

rounds through sentry skulls, glide underwater in scuba gear, drop from the sky in HALO (High Altitude Low Opening) jumps or deploy model-airplane-like UAVs (Unmanned Aerial Vehicles), it becomes quite obvious that the men aren't acting at all, but doing as they always do.

"I can overlook it," said audience member Jeremy Hawkins about the meager dialogue scenes. "At times you could tell it was scripted, but for the most part it was good."

"If real life is anything close to that," he said of the action, "then those guys are pretty serious."

"Act of Valor" is one of the most honest portrayals of what some of America's elite warriors are faced with, and more complexly, the secretive scenarios that America is threatened with regularly. The mixture of real-world personnel, gorgeous camera-work and skillful editing make this film an instant classic among top portrayals of searing conflict.



Courtesy of Relativity

U.S navy provided active duty SEALs to fill the roles of soldiers during production of 'Act of Valor.'



# Time for a spring break

## Florida has a lot to offer for vacations on a budget

By Neda Hamdan  
nhamdan@valenciavoiced.com

It's every college student's favorite time of the year, spring break. It's also one of Florida's favorite times of the year, as colleges students across the nation fly or drive down to have fun at one of the many cities the peninsula has to offer.

Over 1.5 million students go on spring break each year. With that, there are a variety of ideal places to spend spring break in Florida. The most well-known destina-

tion is of course Panama City. Especially with St. Andrews Park which has 1,260 acres of beautiful beaches, wetlands, and natural coastal dunes. There's also 18,000 hotel rooms prepared for any college student that wants to visit.

With the help of MTV, Daytona has grabbed attention as a spring break getaway. Not only is the coastal community a hot spot, there's nightlife like clubs Razzles and Ocean Deck, along with half-a-dozen concerts in mid-March which are located at local bars in the area.

If spring-breakers have amusement parks and attractions in mind, Orlando is the right place. The city is well-known for Islands of Adventure, which features the Wizarding World of Harry Potter, Universal Studios Orlando, Seaworld and the waterpark known as Aquatica. There are an abundance of places to have fun. Those who want to tap into their inner-child go to Disney World; it's not too far from Cocoa Beach, and Church Street in downtown Orlando is perfect to find a great party or club.

South Beach Miami has become a great spring break destination. Not only is the beach one of the most noticeable in Florida, Lincoln Road is rimmed with trendy shops and restaurants, and has nightlife.

Ft. Lauderdale offers a different way to

have fun. It's not as upscale as Miami, but it does offer great nightlife, with a legendary-to-Florida two-story party bar including a deck and patio called the Elbo Room.

Surrounded by water and endless beaches, Key West is also an attractive place for spring break. Once tired of spending a day at the beach, Duval Street is the place to let loose, and guarantees a night of interesting stories to tell the next day.

The Florida Keys and Wekiva Springs are enjoyable destinations that offer time to spend in the sun and enjoy night-activities.

Florida is a state that offers a variety of places to go and ways to have fun. The most important thing about spring break is to be safe. Have fun, but also act responsibly.



Mary Ann Anderson / MCT

"World's Most Famous Beach" since the '20s, Daytona Beach extends miles on Florida's coast.

## App of the Week: Where's My Water

By Neda Hamdan  
nhamdan@valenciavoiced.com

"Angry Birds" was the most popular app last year, but it might be time for it to step down from the throne. "Where's My Water?" was released by Disney this past September and the name itself is compelling enough to try the game out.

In "Where's My Water?" there's an alligator named Swampy, and being more like a human than an actual alligator, he enjoys being clean and taking baths. As a result, Cranky (another more terrifying alligator) and friends' motives are to sabotage the water pipes in an attempt to stop the supply of fluid for Swampy's house.

With 80 challenging levels spread out into four different worlds, the objective is to find a way for the water to reach Swampy's pipes, which eventually reaches his bathtub. The player uses gravity, momentum, angles and even scratching dirt off the

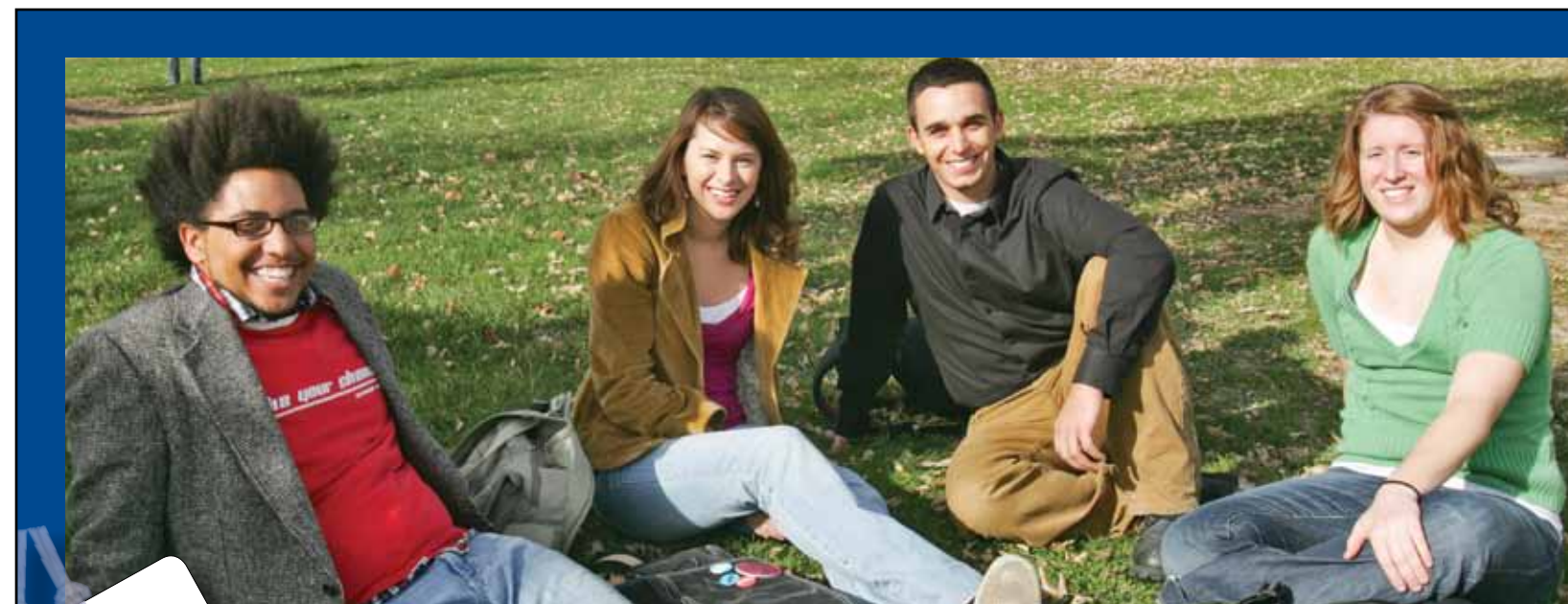


Courtesy of iTunes

pipes to control where the water ends up. Your score is based on the amount of time it takes to finish the level, the amount of ducks obtained and a bonus for water overflow.

In each level there are three ducks to pick up using diverted water. This can unlock bonus levels and rewards that are hidden in dirt and other places. Rewards can include a loofah or a toothbrush. There are also obstacles like acid that turns the water toxic (making it unusable for Swampy), mines and even plants that can steal the precious H<sub>2</sub>O.

"Where's My Water?" gets tougher as the levels increase, forcing players to calculate and measure the best way to allow the water to reach Swampy's pipes. A benefit of the app is that it is family-friendly and available for any type of audience. Available for the iPhone and Android systems for 99 cents, this game will not disappoint fans of puzzle challenges.



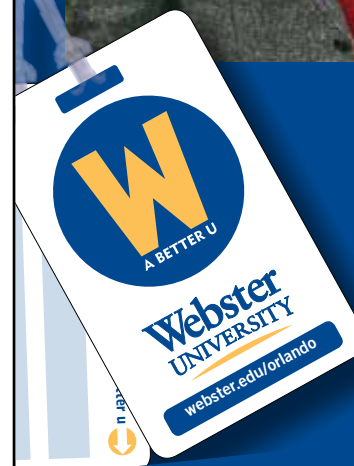
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# And the Oscar goes to ...

## Best Picture



Allen J. Schaben, Los Angeles Times / MCT

"The Artist."

## Best Director



Allen J. Schaben, Los Angeles Times / MCT

Michel Hazanavicius, "The Artist."

## Actor in a Leading Role



Francis Specker, Landov / MCT

Jean Dujardin, "The Artist."

## Actress in a Leading Role



Francis Specker, Landov / MCT

Meryl Streep, "The Iron Lady."

## Actress in a Supporting Role



Francis Specker, Landov / MCT

Octavia Spencer, "The Help."

## Actor in a Supporting Role



Allen J. Schaben, Los Angeles Times / MCT

Christopher Plummer, "Beginners."

## Best Adapted Screenplay



Allen J. Schaben, Los Angeles Times / MCT

Nat Faxon, Jim Rash, Alexander Payne, "The Descendants."

## Best Cinematography



Allen J. Schaben, Los Angeles Times / MCT

Robert Richardson, "Hugo."

To view all winners click here: [oscars.com](http://oscars.com)



March 1  
Staying Safe on  
Campus  
East Campus  
3-113  
2:30 p.m. - 1:30 p.m.

March 1  
How to Get Into a  
Professional Medical  
Related School  
Osceola Campus  
3-230  
1:15 p.m. - 2:15 p.m.

March 2  
Meet the Deans  
Valencia College  
Skillshop  
Winter Park Campus  
Rm. 107  
10:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

March 4  
Start Right  
Convocation  
Winter Park Campus  
PAC  
9:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

March 6  
Campus Crusade for  
Christ  
West Campus  
5-253  
1:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

March 7  
Campus and Email  
Etiquette  
Osceola Campus  
3-230  
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

March 7  
Test Taking 101  
Winter Park Campus  
Rm. 123  
5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Community



Courtesy of flstrawberryfestival.com  
3/1-3/11  
Florida Strawberry Festival  
The Strawberry Festival Grounds  
10:00 a.m. - 10:00 p.m.

3/1 - 3/11  
Artists-in-Residence #144  
Atlantic Center for the Arts  
Tuesdays-Fridays, 10:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.  
Saturdays, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m

3/1 - 3/25  
Hedda Gabler  
Mad Cow Theatre  
Thurs - Fri. 8:00 p.m.  
Sundays 3:00 p.m.

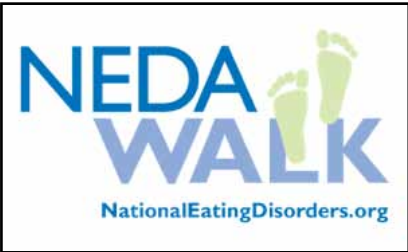
3/3 -3/4  
The Best of Times  
Wayne Densch Performing Arts Center  
3:00 p.m.



Courtesy of wdpac.com

On-going

3/1  
Bicycle Dreams  
Garden Theatre  
7:00 p.m.



Courtesy of nationaleatingdisorders.org

3/3  
NEDA Walk. Save a Life.  
Cranes Roost Park  
10:00 a.m.

3/4  
33rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade  
Winter Park Country Club  
2:00 p.m.

3/5  
Film Night hosted by SDS  
Natura Coffee & Tea  
9:00 p.m

3/6  
John Leguizamo  
Bob Carr Performing Arts Centre  
8:00 p.m.

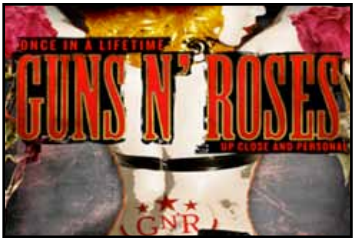
3/7  
UCF Baseball vs. Florida State  
Jay Bergman Field  
6:30 p.m.

Concerts

3/2  
Romeo Santos  
Amway Center  
8:00 p.m.



Courtesy of amwaycenter.com



Courtesy of houseofblues.com

3/3  
Guns N' Roses  
House of Blues  
9:00 p.m.

3/3  
The Lighter Exchange  
Son Of A Bad Man  
The Social  
7:00 p.m.



Courtesy of thesocial.org



Courtesy of thebeacham.com

3/5  
Lotus  
The Beacham  
7:00 p.m.



# All-Star weekend invades Orlando

Game recap, story on local fan festivities in sports section



# Hesitation leads to East's loss

## Despite allowing 80 at half, game ends on LBJ turnover

By K.C. Johnson  
Chicago Tribune

ORLANDO, Fla. — Often, the NBA All-Star Game is far more about style than substance.

That changed Sunday night at Amway Center with 8 minutes, 48 seconds remaining in the third quarter.

That's when Dwyane Wade delivered a hard foul on Kobe Bryant that actually drew blood.

Bryant being Bryant, he focused on chasing history, surpassing Michael Jordan as the all-time leading scorer in All-Star Game history.

Wade's foul energized the East, which rode LeBron James' comeback effort before eventually succumbing 152-149 in a defensive performance that had to make coach Tom Thibodeau's skin crawl.

Kevin Durant captured the game's most valuable player award for his 36-point, seven-rebound performance for the West.

Derrick Rose finished with 14 points and three assists in 18 minutes, sitting the entire second and fourth quarters and playing the least of the East starters.

"I know with my back I didn't want to play that much to be careful," Rose said. "Of course I wanted to be in there at the end, but I think (coach Thibodeau) was just being safe."

In his first All-Star appearance, Luol Deng played the final 5 minutes, 51 seconds of the first quarter and didn't return, missing two jumpers and posting one assist.

In another show of competitiveness, Celtics forward Paul Pierce yelled from the bench at Bryant as he attempted two critical free throws with 18.1 seconds left, reminding all that Bryant missed two late free throws recently during a regular-season victory over the Mavericks.

Bryant missed the second of two, allowing Thibodeau to draw an out-of-bounds play that gave Deron Williams a wide-open 3-point look that he missed.

James, whose 36 points led the East, rebounded but turned it over, allowing Blake Griffin to split two free throws with 1.1 seconds left.

Wade's 3-pointer at the buzzer drew air.

Before Wade's foul on Bryant, the only true competition centered on whether Deng or Thibodeau provided the most shocking moment.

Deng pulled a surprise during pre-game player introductions, eschewing the league-mandated warmups and proudly displaying a T-shirt of his native Africa. Deng's family was exiled from war-torn Sudan when Deng was a toddler, and Deng has spoken eloquently and emotionally of South Sudan's newfound independence that was achieved last year.

And Thibodeau? Well, the Bulls coach sat down while coaching, until late in the fourth quarter.

"The game is for the fans," Thibodeau said. "My job is to dole out minutes and get out of the way."

For the second straight year, Rose did his stone-faced routine while James

and Dwight Howard shimmied and smiled during starters' introductions.

Rose started slowly, scoring just two first-half points and then getting stripped by Durant for a breakaway dunk on the first possession of the second half.

But Rose heated up later in the third quarter, scoring 12 points in 7:57, including two 3-pointers.

"This is an honor being here," Rose said. "Of course when you're here, this game usually is for the fans. You want to be exciting when you're out there. But you also want to win."

While recognizing the significance of the game for the fans and appreciating them voting him as a starter, Rose consistently has talked about how uncomfortable he feels playing in basically a glorified exhibition.

"I'm like a loner, stay to myself, be in my own little comfort zone," Rose said.

Deng's excitement all weekend has been palpable.

He has clearly reveled in the experience and honored his homeland as a last-minute expression of his excitement.

"That day, seeing my parents," Deng said of South Sudan's independence in a recent interview with the Tribune, "it's something I'll never forget."

Bryant won't forget passing the player he is always closely compared to, doing so with style on a third-quarter dunk.

Jordan scored 262 points in 14 All-Star appearances. Bryant now has 271 points in 13 games.

— MCT Campus



All Star Game MVP Kevin Durant floats the ball over East All Star defender Dwight Howard during the All-Star Game.



# Knights' Soph. excels this year

**Isaiah Sykes has MVP year in just his 2nd season at UCF**

By Anisha Tandon  
atandon@valenciavoice.com

As a sophomore Isaiah Sykes has made a name for himself on the UCF men's basketball team, especially since he does it all.

Sykes joined the team right after graduating from Denby High in Detroit, Michigan in 2009.

He made his collegiate debut on Nov. 12, 2010 against West Florida University. He scored nine points in 13 minutes, as the Knights put up 115 points over the Agronauts.

Sykes played in 32 out of the 33 games of the regular season, averaging four points per game during his 16 minutes of play.

Now in his second season, Sykes has been making the best of his opportunities during this season. He's averaging 12.9 points in league games, and ranks third in the Conference-USA in field goal percentage.

Saturday night, Sykes accomplished the 6th double-double of his college career. Sykes put up 23 points and 11 rebounds in his 32 minutes against the UTEP Miners.

His first career double-double was earlier this season against Hartford with 22 points and 11 rebounds, leading the Knights to a win.

His performance against the Hawks led Sykes to become the Bright House player-athlete of the week on Dec. 6.

Sykes gained national attention with his Feb. 8 chase-down block against Marshall, and has since been nominated for the Geico play of the year. The block was also featured on Sports Center's top ten plays.

Head coach Donnie Jones started his UCF coaching career during Sykes' first season, and has been impressed with how he has been improving.

"He's starting to shoot threes now, when he starts



Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice

**Isaiah Sykes drives to the net during a game against UTEP. Sykes went on to score 23 points and bring down 11 boards.**

making threes, he's making me look like I'm a good coach or something," said Jones of Sykes' improvement in his 3-point shot.

C-USA honored Sykes as the player of the week on Feb. 13 after averaging 21 points and 10 rebounds against Marshall and Southern Mississippi. The sophomore was able to become a key player in all aspects of the game for his team.

"He needs to continue being the player who he is," said Jones of Sykes skills. "From rebounding, to offensive rebounding, to getting out and getting buckets in transition, to getting fouled free throws."

The Detroit native has made his name in Orlando as a Knight, and will continue to do so with two regular season games left before the start of the post-season in Memphis on March 7.

"I'm very proud of him and his effort really set the tone for the team," said Jones of Sykes.

# Players visit fans in Orlando

**NBA stars greet people during weekend's festivities**

By Lawrence Laguna  
llaguna@valenciavoice.com

The 2012 All-Star weekend made its mark at the Florida Mall, with many NBA All-Star's making their way into stores, including Russell Westbrook, Jeremy Lin, Derrick Rose and Orlando's hometown favorite, Dwight Howard.

Stores like Champs, Foot Locker and Foot Action each featured the players throughout the weekend to sign autographs for fans.

"This event is good for the community. Everyone has a great chance to get a autograph from one of their favorite players," said NBA fan Erick Medina.

Hundreds of fans crowded the mall, making a line to meet the superstars and buy new releases of All-Star apparel, including limited edition shoes that customers literally rioted over.

Due to the riot, Nike wouldn't release the new LeBron James and Kobe Bryant Nike Galaxy Air Foamposite sneakers going for \$220, which left many shoe fanatics angry. Others thought it was the right call to make.

"The constant fighting over a pair of shoes that release at midnight is pathetic," said Orlando native Nick Brown. "I don't understand how someone would riot over a pair of shoes when there are other priorities more important to pay attention to."

Since the All-Star game hasn't been in Orlando in twenty years, fans made sure they took full advantage of all the festivities, like the Jam Session at the Convention Center.

Some even headed to the local Walmart to see another All-Star. Kevin Love agreed with the NBA to set up a station inside the Walmart on Kirkman Road to sign autographs and take pictures.

"It means a lot to me to be out here in Orlando," said Love. "It's obviously a little bit different than last year's all star in L.A. I'm going to have time to enjoy it and especially in a warmer climate."

Kevin Love won the three-point contest dur-

ing the weekend.

Retired hall of fame NBA player Dennis Rodman showed up to sign autographs at a store named Field of Dreams at the mall as well.

Other celebrities also made appearances at the mall to randomly heighten the excitement of the weekend and headline parties in the city.

The event-filled weekend made it possible for the NBA, its players, fans and Orlando businesses to benefit to a high degree.



**Minnesota Timberwolves All-Star Kevin Love celebrates after he won this weekend's 3-point shooting contest.**

Gary W. Green, Orlando Sentinel / MCT



# Sweeney's walk-off wins series

## UCF shortstop hits 2-out bases loaded double in 9th inning

By Mary Stevens  
mstevens@valenciavoices.com

Trailing in the ninth inning with bases loaded and two outs UCF shortstop Darnell Sweeney delivered a two walk-off single during Sunday's game against Boston College, resulting in a series win.

"Darnell obviously had the big hit," said head coach Terry Rooney. "We hope that it will become some kind of catalyst for us moving forward."

The Knights, the No. 19 baseball team had a 5-4 victory, and a 2-1 series over the Eagles.

"We left them on the field and that is what you want to do when you are a home team," said Sweeney after the game. Sweeney had a total of four runs during the series.

The Knights briefly had the lead in the sixth inning after four runs were scored.

"What a series. That is college baseball at its best. Three one run games. All three going down essentially to the last three innings," said Rooney. "They [Boston College] have a great club. They have some really good arms. Some experience in their line up so a lot of credit goes to those guys."

The Eagles were delivered their first loss 6-5 on Friday.

The Knights lost 8-7 to Boston College in the second game of the series on Saturday making it the first home loss.

Starting pitcher Chris Matulis pitched four innings allowed two runs and struck out three Eagles during Sunday's game.

"We need to pitch more efficiently. Matulis was at 94 pitches going into the fourth, that's too many," said Rooney.

Pitcher Joe Rogers also allowed two runs and struck out three during the two innings.

Pitcher Roman Madrid stacked up better during Sunday's game than in Friday's game after he struck out five and allowed no runs.

"Our starting rotation they have to go deeper," said Rooney after the game. "Brian went into the fourth inning, Chris went into the fourth inning, and obviously the highlight of the week from a starting pitchers point is Ben Lively."

Ben Lively allowed three runs and struck out a career-high 11 batters, over six innings during Friday's game.

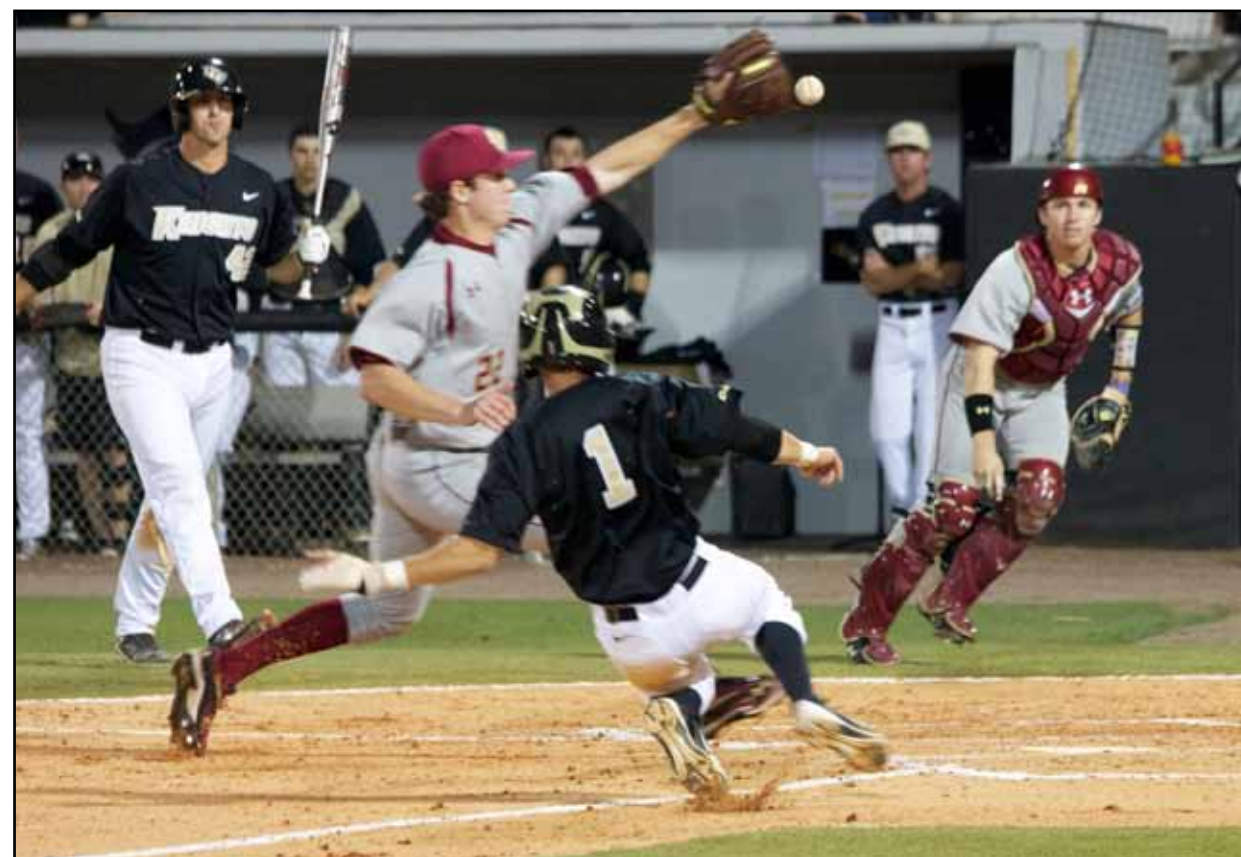
"We need a starting pitcher. I am going to shake this up a bit in the next couple of games," said Rooney.

UCF left the bases loaded three times and left a total of 12 runners on base during the third game of the series.

"We still have to tighten up in a lot of areas fundamentally," said Rooney.

The Knights haven't accomplished a series win over an ACC opponent since 2004.

Rooney hopes a tough second week rival will help set the tone for the season. "It's the second week and I want it to be a tougher weekend," explained Rooney.



Travis Shreve slides safely at home to score his first of two runs on Friday night against BC.

Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice

## Knights need consistency

By Bryan Levine  
blevine@valenciavoices.com

The UCF baseball team is the no. 19 ranked team in the nation, and deservedly so.

When their pitching is good, its one of the best staffs in the nation, but the problem is, you don't know always know what you're going to get out of the Knights' pitchers.

Throughout this weekend's series against Boston College, seven different pitchers threw for the Knights, two of which pitched both Friday and Sunday.

The weekend starters for the Knights are Ben Lively, Brian Adkins, and Chris Matulis. Through the first two weekends this season, it's clear that Lively is the ace of the rotation.

Lively has allowed just five hits and four earned runs in 11 innings of work. He also struck out 15 batters, and fanned a career-high 11 batters Friday night.

"I thought that was Ben Lively's best start of his career, to be quite honest with you," said head coach Terry Rooney.

After Lively, it's unsure whom one would consider as the number two starter. Entering the season, Rooney was hoping Adkins would step up and fill the role, but he hasn't been able to cease that position.

Adkins has allowed 15 hits, and eight runs in only eight innings. At one point in Saturday's game against BC, Adkins allowed four consecutive singles, which led to four runs that inning.

"Our starting pitchers have to get

better," said Rooney. "They need to pitch more efficiently. Brian Adkins got into too deep of counts, so he was getting hit around."

Matulis threw a mediocre outing Sunday afternoon, in a game where his pitch count hit 94 with just one out in the fifth inning, which meant the game was put in the hand of the bullpen early on.

Roman Madrid, who threw an inning to forget Friday night, was nothing short of brilliant on Sunday. In 2.2 innings, Madrid allowed just one hit and struck out five eagles, but most importantly he kept the score tied for Joe Rogers.

Rogers, the Knights' closer, threw 3.2 innings during the weekend, struck out four and allowed just two runs. Both runs came in the ninth inning of Sunday's game, following one of three very questionable calls by the umpires on the afternoon.

"You never want to make excuses, but it was unfortunate how it all happened," said Rogers. "There's going to be times when I'm off, or someone is off, and I'm just glad my teammate could pick me up."

The Knights clearly have loads of talent on the mound, if they managed to stay consistent. In order to be successful this year, they'll need their starters to step up and eat up more innings, without letting up more runs.

The starters won't be lights out every night, and it is unrealistic to expect them to be. On the nights the starters fail, they'll need the relievers like Madrid, Jimmy Reed and Eric Skoglund to manage the game so that Rogers has a chance to close it out.

UCF vs. USF  
Tuesday @ 6:30 p.m.  
at Jay Bergman Field

Check valenciavoices.com Tuesday night for a complete game recap.





Jeff Siner, Charlotte Observer / MCT

Above: NASCAR Sprint Cup Series driver Matt Kenseth (17) defeats Dale Earnhardt Jr. (88) and Greg Biffle (16) to win the Daytona 500 . Below: A fireball erupts from a track dryer truck after it was struck by driver Juan Pablo Montoya Monday night.

# Fright night at Daytona

## Rainy weather, deep burn extends race by 2 days

By Matt Murschel and Brentley Romine  
The Orlando Sentinel

Matt Kenseth won the Daytona 500 early Tuesday morning.

Dale Earnhardt Jr. finished second and Greg Biffle third.

The race, which began around 7:15 p.m. Monday, finally ended at approximately 12:56 a.m. Tuesday. It was marred by 10 cautions and a long delay after Juan Pablo Montoya ran into a track drying vehicle during a caution.

But through it all Kenseth ran near the front, ultimately using one of the fastest cars on the track to bring home the trophy.

The race was originally supposed to be run on Sunday afternoon, but was delayed several times during the day because of rain and then finally postponed until Monday. The postponement was the first in race history. The race was then supposed to start at noon Monday, but was pushed back to 7 p.m., again because of rain.

Once the race did finally begin, a couple

of the sports' biggest stars were eliminated from contention almost immediately.

Five-time NASCAR champion Jimmie Johnson was bumped by Elliott Sadler and lost control of his car on the race's second lap, running into the wall and causing a chain-reaction wreck. Among the other drivers caught up in the accident were Danica Patrick, defending Daytona 500 champion Trevor Bayne, David Ragan and Kurt Busch.

All drivers were OK, and Bayne and Patrick later returned to the race although they were out of contention for a win.

Later, former NASCAR champion Jeff Gordon blew his engine and left the race and Martin Truex Jr. won a \$200,000 bonus for leading at the halfway point.

The vehicle was out on the track blowing off debris. Montoya, who was running by himself trying to catch up with the pack and was getting ready to pass the vehicle, lost control, possibly because of a transmission problem, and smashed into the vehicle near turn 3, causing it to burst into flames.

Montoya was taken to the care center

and released. He had an X-ray on his left foot, but said it's "just a scratch," and that he is OK. He was not limping or wearing any kind of boot while leaving the care center.

The truck driver was taken to the Halifax Health Center, where, according to Fox TV, he is resting comfortably and under observation. "It just felt really strange and as I was talking in the radio the car just turned right," Montoya told the Orlando Sentinel.

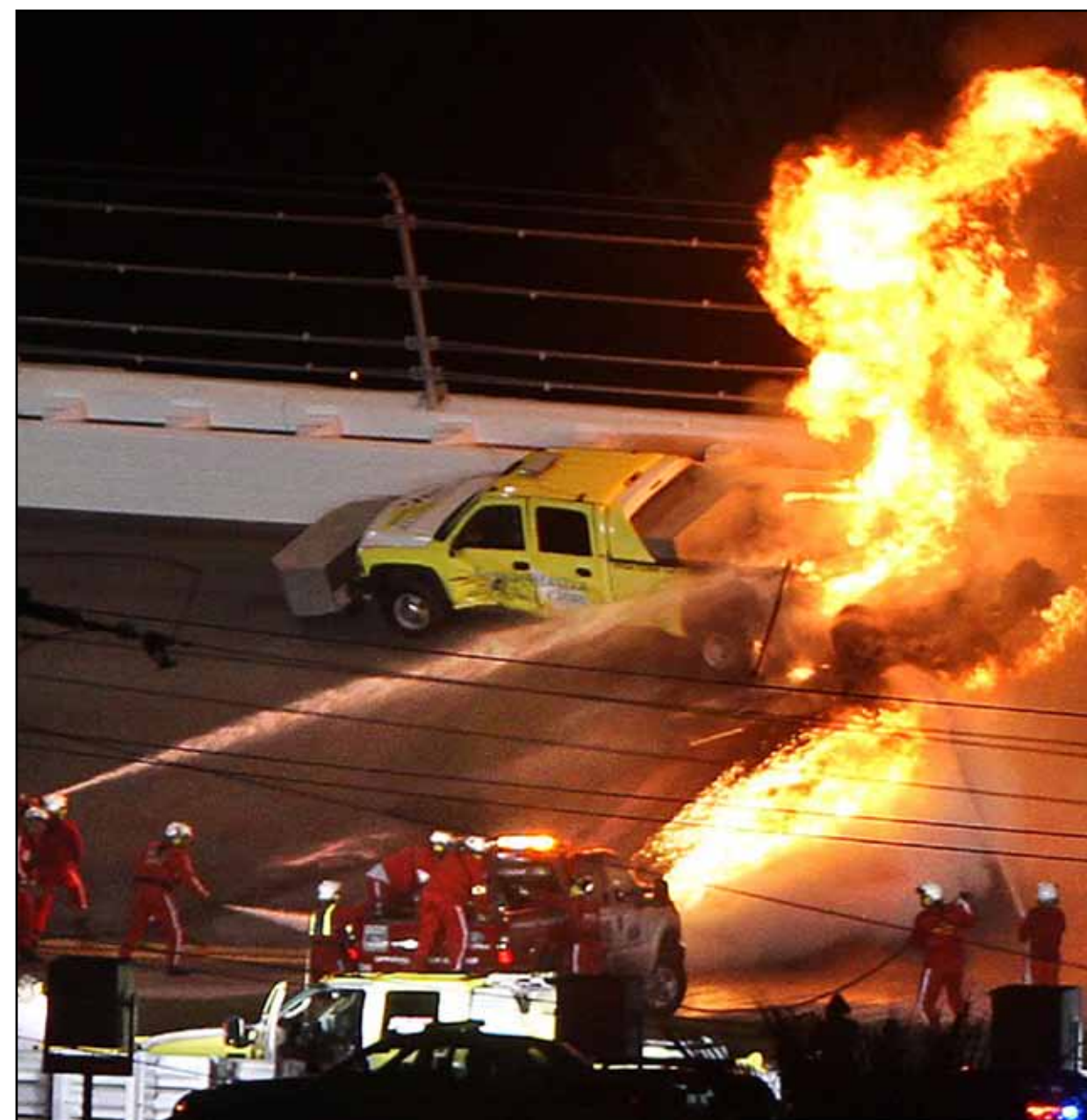
Montoya rode in the ambulance with the driver of the truck. "I'm sure he's pretty shaken and is going to be sore, but I think he's OK," Montoya said.

The vehicle has been described by Fox commentators as "a jet engine that is used to dry the track." It uses jet fuel, which caught fire. After several minutes and multiple attempts, the track crew was able to extinguish the fire. They removed the truck from the scene and track officials are examining the extent of the damage to the track.

There is concern about the racing surface around turn 3, which has had a large amount of jet fuel spilled on it. And, while NASCAR has said it hopes to finish the race, there is also rain in the forecast.

Landon Cassill is in second place, Tony Raines third and David Gilliland fourth. Montoya's crazy wreck is just one of several nutty events during this long race weekend.

— MCT Campus



Joe Burbank, Orlando Sentinel / MCT