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Park art
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Knights
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Fred Lambert / Valencia Voice

Drivers in the busy Central Florida area are getting frustrated with never ending road construction projects and dangerous road conditions.

408 exit permanently shut down

Changes to congested interchange frustrate East Campus drivers

By Fred Lambert
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As many East Campus students already know, the Valencia College Lane ramps from the State Roads 408 and 417, which provided quick access to the college from the toll roads, have now been permanently shut down.

The closures are due to a massive reconstruction of the interchange from SR 408 to SR 417 which began in Oct. 2010. As construction on the new interchange

shifted further southeast, the ramp from Valencia College Lane allowing west-bound access onto the 408 was shut down on Nov. 5, along with the 417 ramp going south onto the road. The two remaining ramps, including the exit from the East-West Expressway onto Valencia College Lane, were closed last Saturday, March 10.

"To boil it down in simple terms, the location of the new interchange necessitated the elimination of the existing Valencia College Lane ramps," said Brian Hutchings, a Public Information Officer for the Orlando-

Orange County Expressway Authority.

"We had to keep the existing one where it is while building the new one," he said while explaining the process of tearing down and rebuilding the interchange, which is used by more than 130,000 drivers each day.

Students and faculty must now access Valencia College Lane by using the Goldenrod Road 408 ramps and Colonial Drive 417 ramps (which take motorists onto

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Local elections discussed

Town Hall meeting held in regards of upcoming voting

By Neda Hamdan
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Voting affects our everyday life in ways that we would not expect. Held at the University of Central Florida, the event, Arab and Muslim and the 2012 Elections, was mainly focused on the advantages of voting and what has happened in the past because of the lack of the Muslim voters. The town hall was set up by the Muslim Student Association, Emerge USA, Arab American Community Center, Arab American Institute and many others.

"Surfacing an event like this is imperative. It is a different angle for the Arab and Muslim community in Central Florida," Rasha Mubarak, Emerge USA Field Coordinator and AACC PR and Media Director said. "Knowing our rights and benefits from voting will initiate understanding of how much of a role our community truly does play in the election process."

One of the panelists who discussed the problems and solutions was Dr. James Zogby, who was the moderator of the meeting. Dr. Zogby is the president of the Arab American Institute (AAI), which is a non-profit national leadership organization that encourages the direct participation of Arab Americans in political and civic life.

Another panelists was Daniel Hummel who is currently a Research Assistant with Institute for Social Policy and Understanding. ISPU is an independent,

research organization that conducts research and offers policy analysis on issues such as U.S. foreign policy, national security, and the economy.

Nayef Mubarak is an attorney who currently serves as the Immigration Director of the Arab American Community Center (AACC) in Orlando. The Arab American Community Center is a non-partisan organization that focus services that meet the community's economic, social and cultural needs. He is also an Associate with the Nejame Law Firm.

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Emerge USA Field Coordinator, Rasha Mubarak presents panelists in the meeting.

L-R: Felicia Ropchand / Valencia Voice; Mary Stevens / Valencia Voice

Neda Hamdan / Valencia Voice

The road less traveled by

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busy routes like Chickasaw and Econlockhatchee Trail) until new 408 exits at Chickasaw Trail are constructed later this year. The new ramps should be open by Fall, according to Hutchings.

The Expressway Authority has held several meetings with local residents, Valencia College and Orange County Public Works in order to inform about the project and address any concerns.

"Valencia College's administration has actually been engaged throughout this entire process," Hutchings said.

"They were very helpful and listened to concerns, and I think they were very positive meetings," said Ruth Prather, Provost for Valencia's East Campus, about the Expressway Authority.

"I'm not a traffic engineer, but I think the big traffic pattern changes they've made are to make the roads safer and to have traffic flow more effectively," she said, noting how helpful the widening of Econlockhatchee Trail, a typically bloated route that sometimes backs up to SR 50, will be for the campus. "What they have done very well is communicate with us on an ongoing basis."

Before one community meeting at the Polytechnic College across the street from the

East Campus, the Expressway Authority sent out around 6,000 invitations.

"We've been pretty aggressive in trying to get the word out and help people understand, but there have certainly been people who have voiced their opposition and questioned why it needed to be done," said Hutchings.

He said that there have been no more than a dozen complaints, however, and that "given the amount of people who live here in this area, it's been a fraction."

On the other hand, many Valencia students were disgruntled about the closure of the ramps.

Broadcast Journalism major Allie Otterbacher said that she was on her way to class when she was surprised by the closed exit, getting lost briefly while trying to find an alternate way in.

"I was, like, a good 25 minutes late to an hour and fifteen minute class, and my professor does not

like late," Otterbacher said. She said that she now has to take Lake Underhill to Goldenrod before getting onto Valencia College Lane, a route which she calls a "zig-zag of directions."

"I think it's an inconvenience to many of the students that go to this campus," said physics and mathematics major Jay Green, explaining the frustration of enduring traffic on local streets Alafaya, Econlockhatchee and Lake Underhill. "In fact, last week I got into a car accident coming off of Econ and Lake Underhill, and I would have probably avoided that accident if I could have used the 408 to get off right here at Valencia College Lane."

"I believe in the end we'll have a safer road pattern," said Prather, who lives close by and doesn't use the 408 or 417 to get to campus. She said she uses a mixture of Econlockhatchee, Chickasaw and Colonial Drive.

"But you know, right now," she said, "people are getting used to the new traffic patterns."



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The typical sight of a barricaded median on V. C. Lane.

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(Left to Right) Dr. James Zogby, Nayef Mubarak, Howard Simon, Imran Siidiqui, and Daniel Hummer as the panel.

Importance of voter education

— Continued from page 1

Howard Simon is the Executive Director of the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Florida. ACLU is a non-profit, nonpartisan organization that focuses on individual rights. Imran Siddiqui is on the Board of Emerge USA, a Florida non-profit organization designed to educate Muslim-Americans and encourage political engagement.

Racial profiling is a current issue that has been affecting the rights and has caused discrimination towards Arab and Muslim Americans. Such as the current issue of the NYPD conducting secret surveillance on Muslim college students, specifically Muslim groups in colleges located in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

"As great as Mayor Bloomberg has been as a mayor and all the achievements he's made, it disappoints me greatly of the lack of motivation of resolving these issues in regards of the NYPD," Howard Simon said.

A large topic was discrimination towards Muslim and Arab Americans, as well as Islamophobia, which has started since the falling of the Twin Tow-

ers on September 11th. Florida has a higher rate of Islamophobia than most other states. The panelists emphasized on the important of centralizing as a community and mobilizing.

There is the the current issue of the mixing of religious views and freedom as citizens. With laws regarding abortion, birth control and others, the need to be able to separate beliefs and constitutional rights. Muslims have similar ideologies as Catholics, which explains the inability to distinguish those is a problem for Muslim Americans also.

"There's Muslim guilt, and catholic guilt, it's all very much related and the same," said Nayef Mubarak. "We need to be free of those beliefs when we're deciding on our rights, and not allow them to conflict."

Voter education was also a major point during the meeting. Since Florida has created the Voter Suppression Bill, it has prevented minorities from registering to vote, adding more complex requirements and prolonging the registration.

"There have been many changes in voting, especially in Florida," Howard Simon said. "We need to figure out how not to be defeated."

Learning all about 'new media'

Presentation features current and future technology in art design

By Shannon Metherell
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Kimberly Elam, from the Ringling College of Art and Design's department of Graphic and Interactive Communication, spoke to students in Valencia's graphic design program on Saturday, March 17. Elam is a designer, educator as well as an author. She has written books about different types of graphic design, but has placed her focus on typography mostly.

During her speech, Elam introduced her point of view on different pieces from Youtube videos and slide show demonstrations of "new media" that have help changed graphic design over the years.

"Design will affect what people see and feel; it is a way of influencing life and culture," Elam said when discussing what graphic design does as a whole. "Graphic design is 'a little pizzazz and color.'"

Elam's speech was accompanied by a slide-show explaining graphic design and videos that she found amusing and educational. By showing these different examples, Elam's goal was to show that this new media and new design was where the future was heading. "In 2040 -- 28 years from now -- the iPhone is going to look just as silly as 'The Brick' does to us now from 1984," she said.

Students and faculty were impressed with her presentation. "My favorite part of her speech was the Blu video. Imagine how long it would take to paint on all the build-

ings and take the still photos for it," said Jennifer Jewell, graphic design major and president of Visual Voices of Valencia. "You could see all the white paint that they had to use to make each shot and erase."

"AIGA.org has resources for speakers on their website. They have a section for silver medalist design archive and usually we can get a speaker that way," said graphic design professor Kristy Pennino when asked how Elam was able to come out to Valencia and speak for the day. "The students usually end up finding the speakers and we're able to have them speak due to the student development funding."

Elam spent the morning at Valencia helping judge the student showcase for artwork that was going to be in the student exhibition in April.

"I was really impressed with the 3-D work, and also impressed with the hand-drawn type and the expressive type," said Elam when

talking about the student showcase she had helped judge that morning.

At the end of her speech was a question and answer session. When asked about whether or not Elam thought that print design was dying, she replied, "No, but it is tougher to do print design. It's always going to be there. It is just easier to start a student off with a page that doesn't move, rather than to start off with a page with many different interactions."

The audience wasn't just current graphic design students and professors; there were graduates and industry professionals in attendance as well.

Fabio Rocha, a graduate of the graphic design program from 2008 said he came to the event because Kristy invited him on Facebook and he was curious to see what it was about. "Thank God for Facebook," Pennino said. "I only sent the invite out about a week ago and we had a good turnout."



James Tutton / Valencia Voice

Presenter Kimberly Elam speaking with graphic design students Saturday, March 17.

Sidewalk Art Festival transforms Winter Park

Local artists sculpt city into creative playground of metal, glass, paint in all shapes, sizes

By Brittany Rose
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The people of Winter Park held their annual Sidewalk Art Festival this weekend, featuring over 260 artists ranging from drawing and painting to sculpting and pop-art.

The festival definitely didn't discriminate against the size of the art that was featured, which became evident with Dale Rogers' metal sculptures. His art varied in sizes and shapes, but most stood at about eight-feet tall.

"I started doing metal sculptures in 2002," said Rogers, taking into the shade

of one of his large sculptures; a 70-inch work of art that he calls 'Ball Tower.' "It really began because I was a bad welder. I actually began making metal sculptures to refine my welding skills. As I started doing that, it became something that I was passionate about, and I've been doing it ever since."

Looking around at the several different sculptures in the exhibit, one would think that it would take at least a month to build most of them. Rogers was quick to tell otherwise.

"The average piece to build takes about one to two weeks," said Rogers. "The bigger pieces take longer, obviously, but I try to keep them within that one week. When things get out beyond that, you kind of have problems with projects piling on top of each other, so I like to avoid that."

Marlene Rose's sand-cast sculptures were equally as unique, though not as large. Ranging in shape, design and color, Rose's exhibit attracted a large group of visitors.

"I've always been a sculptor and a painter," said Rose. "I was never really attracted to glass, so it was a fluke that I even got involved with it." She went on to tell the story of how she'd fallen into the profession: She put off working with glass until her junior year at art school, but was shown the art of sand-casting by a professor.

"It just clicked on every level of what I liked to do," said Rose. "It's very physical and exciting and really beautiful to watch; it's like a dance."

Amy Flynn's 'Fobots' exhibit was a big hit as well. Set up like a store, the "Found Object Robots," made by vintage household kitchen and appliance pieces lined the shelves with their vibrant colors and their quirky, animated looks.

"I've been an illustrator all of my adult life," said Flynn. "But in 2008, business started to drop off because the economy got so bad. I started tinkering with these, just playing around the house. Then I started to sell them, and



Welder Dale Rogers' metal tree sculptures.

now it's my full time job."

Shining with excitement and pride, Flynn went on to say that each of the Fobots have a name, a birthdate, and then -- sliding open the front of one, showed that they have a small silver heart inside.

The art didn't just stop at the large group of professionals. Across the street, tents filled with children's art from the surrounding schools were showcased. They also also had several areas where children could stop by to create their own masterpieces.

Packed full with patrons, the festival was truly a hit.



A 2010 golden sand-cast sculpture of a traditional buddist head bears Marlene Rose's signature at the Winter Park Arts Festival on March 17.

Valencia raises awareness

Stories of hunger used to inspire action in Central Florida

By James Tutton
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The tragically elevating numbers of hunger in the Central Florida area reflect the true victims of a country hit hard by years of economic recession. Valencia College students are taking action against this problem and teaming up with the dedicated non-profit Second Harvest food bank of Central Florida.

"We have changed our programming and the way we plan events," said Valencia Volunteers organizer Zia Ur Rehman Ansari. "We are doing more co-curricular pieces like this skill shop where we discuss particular social service needs in the community."

The ultimate goal is to alleviate the rising poverty numbers seen not only in our local area but around the nation. The best tool used to help move an apathetic mind is sharing the personal stories negatively affecting the needy. Figures like "more than 732,000 Central Floridians are at the poverty level," really grabbed the attention of those in attendance.

This was all sharply presented by Jennifer Gibson, an events specialist, who spoke to students on behalf of her employer Second Harvest. "Hunger really is an issue that affects everyone, it doesn't discriminate on gender or ethnicity," said Gibson.

Children that live at or below the poverty line frequently deal with hunger, and cases are seen when Friday's meal at school was the last real meal for some children when they returned to school on Monday morning.

There was also a moving video presentation portraying the food centers working with families in our area. Actually seeing the poverty stricken people talk about the struggle and concerns they endure struck an emotional chord with those in attendance. Hearing a mother cry, fearing of her children being malnourished is only one of the strong examples shared during this section.

"I just wanted to get involved and learn more about helping the less fortunate people in my area," said student volunteer Taleem Moncrease.

Second Harvest works with its food distribution programs to pack and distribute meals and necessities to anyone who comes to them for help. There is also the ever rising concern of more people coming to receive help, and less people able to make donations or volunteer their time.

Seventy percent of the donations to Second Harvest food banks come from local stores that donate food they can't sell past an expiration date. This food is still good to eat, but just doesn't meet the quality standards of high-end food retailers. Rather than being thrown away, this food is given a second chance with the needy.

"My parents accept food stamps right now, and I know a lot of others that need them also," said Valencia student Marc Brevant.

People were also informed about a "Sort and Pack" event designed to help Second Harvest gain more volunteers. Anyone interested is encouraged to meet up at the Second Harvest location at 3533 Mercy Drive in Orlando on Saturday, March 24. They can help arrange and package meals to be distributed to the local community.

For more information on how Second Harvest food bank helps the Central Florida area, and how you can get involved, go to their official web site at <http://www.foodbankcentralflorida.org/>.



Jennifer Gibson event specialist for Second Harvest.

James Tutton/Valencia Voice

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Questions surround Sanford shooting

Florida's self-defense law could hamper efforts to prosecute shooter

By David Ovalle and Frances Robles
The Miami Herald

March 20--Florida's controversial 2005 "Stand-Your-Ground" self-defense law could hamper any efforts to charge a Sanford man who fatally shot an unarmed Miami Gardens teenager, legal experts say.

An arrest could hinge on whether prosecutors believe neighborhood watch volunteer George Zimmerman acted unreasonably when he encountered the teen, Trayvon Martin, whom he suspected was a prowler. A 911 dispatcher told Zimmerman he didn't need to follow the youth, and now attorneys want to know whether he did so anyway.

"If he was attacked, he can stand his ground," said retired Miami-Dade prosecutor David Waksman, who is not involved in the case. "But if police say back off and we'll take care of it, he's not covered by the law."

Florida's controversial self-defense law



In this family photograph, Trayvon Martin, is shown at age 14 when he played football.

Courtesy of Martin Family via Miami Herald / MCT

eliminated a citizen's duty to retreat before using deadly force to confront an attacker. Police and prosecutors statewide have derided the measure, saying the law fosters a shoot-first, ask-questions-later mentality and gives criminal a pass on facing justice.

The law also included a provision that grants "immunity" from prosecution or civil suit if a person is deemed to have acted in self-defense, though lawmakers did not clearly specify exactly who bestows the immunity.

After a series of court battles across the state, the Florida Supreme Court in December 2010 ruled that judges should be the ones to weigh the evidence under a looser standard than the familiar "beyond a reasonable doubt" one used before juries in criminal cases. Since then, South Florida judges have dismissed charges in several high-profile murder cases in which defendants sought immunity based on the law.

Last month, however, Miami-Dade Circuit Judge Milton Hirsch denied the immunity claim of a Florida International University student who fatally stabbed an unarmed football player during a brawl.

The law "does not justify the use of deadly force in response to threats or shows of force of any and ever kind. In ordinary circumstances a push or a slap may be met with a push or a slap, or perhaps a punch -- but not with a bullet," Hirsch said.

Said Miami-Dade defense attorney Jeffrey Weiner, who recently had a murder case thrown out by a judge on self-defense grounds: "The shooter must be able to point out, preferably with witnesses, that he wasn't just seeking vigilante justice."

Still, legal experts say Zimmerman, if arrested, would probably be charged with manslaughter and not murder -- and would have a strong defense under Florida's law,

with a judge needing to decide first whether he is immune from prosecution.

"I think absolutely this is a case that squarely falls within the Stand Your Ground immunity statute," said defense attorney Bill Matthewman. "Even if he shouldn't have been following [Martin] he's not committing a crime and he can stand his ground."

Zimmerman, 28, the target of the investigation, is a neighborhood watch volunteer who fatally shot Martin on Feb. 26 at the Retreat at Twin Lakes community in Sanford. He has not been charged.

The case has sparked racial tensions, because Martin was black and Zimmerman is not. Martin's family has insisted Zimmerman was racially profiling the teen, who was visiting friends of relatives and that night had walked to the store to buy candy.

While prosecutors decide whether charges are warranted, attorneys say Sanford's police chief has been unusually forceful in declaring that Zimmerman appeared to be acting in self-defense when he killed the teen in a public walkway at a housing community. To be sure, not all the facts in Zimmerman's case have been released to the public. But according to 911 calls released last week, Zimmerman told dispatchers that said the person now identified as 17-year-old Martin looked drugged and was walking slowly, as if looking inside people's homes.

"These a--holes always get away," complained Zimmerman, who has called 911 scores of times to complain of potential criminals.

Zimmerman, who was in his truck, told the dispatcher that the suspicious person had his hand in his waist band -- suggesting he thought the teen was armed, a fact that could bolster his defense. "Some-



Peter Andrew Bosch, Miami Herald / MCT

Sybrina Fulton, the mother of Martin, the teenager who was killed by a neighborhood watch captain.

thing's wrong with him. He's coming to check me out," Zimmerman said. As Zimmerman narrated, the dispatcher asked: "Are you following him?" "Yeah," Zimmerman replied. "We don't need you to do that," the dispatcher said.

An interpretation of that exchange could be key in deciding whether Zimmerman acted recklessly in pursuing Martin. Sanford Police Chief Bill Lee, in an interview last week, suggested that Zimmerman did not.

"That's another question we get quite often: 'He was told not to follow him.'" Lee said in an interview last week. "Well that's a recommendation or a suggestion. It's not a lawful order."

Zimmerman's responsibility to stay in his truck and keep out of it was a "moral responsibility," Lee said. Zimmerman told police that he was headed back to his truck when Martin jumped him from behind, Lee said.

Waksman, the former Miami-Dade prosecutor, pointed out that Zimmerman was supposed to be a "crime watch" volunteer.

"You're supposed to look and call it in," Waksman said. "He's placing himself in danger and he can't say, I had no choice. He did have a choice."

Indeed, Zimmerman got out of the truck, allegedly to check the name of the street he was on, which even Lee said he found implausible given the small size of the complex and the volunteer's familiarity with it.

What happened next remains unclear. Calls to 911 alerted police to a scuffle and someone crying for help. Zimmerman claimed he was the one hollering for help. Witnesses thought it was Martin.

"Another important critical issue is, who is approaching who? Is he approaching the decedent and approaching him aggressively?" Matthewman said.

Zimmerman told investigators that Martin was the aggressor and that he was taking such a beating -- and that no one responded to his calls for help -- that he was forced to fire. "He had injuries consistent with his story," Lee said.

Zimmerman's statement to police has not been released to the public, but legal experts say that he could claim the boy was reaching for a perceived weapon, or even for Zimmerman's own gun during the scuffle.

— MCT Campus



Jon Stephenson / MCT

Afghan security forces take cover at Najiban village in Kandahar province near the site of the killings.

Outrage over inexcusable act

Despite war-crimes, hasty withdrawal dangerous

By Fred Lambert
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After the recent shooting-spree by a U.S. soldier in Afghanistan, the nation is once again crying out in anger and dismay. With so many negative incidents, many believe that it's the end of the line in the nearly 10-year-old war. The consequences of a hasty and pressured exit, however, could be dire.

The suspect, Staff Sgt. Robert Bales, is accused of killing 16 Afghan civilians in a room-to-room rampage. Bales had served three previous tours in Iraq, suffering a foot and head injury on two separate occasions. He was surprised and downtrodden about having to go to Afghanistan on a fourth stint of combat.

The 38-year-old Bales is also a family man from Washington state with two

kids and a wife. His profile suggests reasons why he could have snapped, but his external normalcy makes this a baffling episode.

The shooting is just the latest in a lengthy series of atrocities by American troops in the War on Terror. During the Iraq conflict, torture at Abu Ghraib was followed by a Marine shooting a wounded insurgent in a mosque during the Second Battle of Fallujah, the murder of innocent Iraqi Hashim Ibrahim Awad, the slaughter of 24 civilians in Haditha by U.S. Marines, the rape and murder of a 14-year-old Iraqi girl and her family by U.S. soldiers in Mahmudiyah and the 17 civilians killed in a Baghdad traffic shooting by Blackwater mercenaries.

In Afghanistan, the new murders complement a cringe-worthy recent track-record. Riots and the slaying of Ameri-

can UN officers followed the discovery of burnt Korans at a detention facility, which came weeks after an online video flaunted the urination on dead Taliban by Marine scout-snipers. Both incidents occurred within the past two months. A squad of U.S. soldiers was also charged with killing three Afghan civilians for sport in 2010.

The rapid succession of the previous three – the urination, burnt Koran riots and Bales' killings – hurt relations with the Afghan people and government, and make several Americans believe that a quick pullout is necessary in order to prevent inevitable future-incidents that would add fuel to the fire.

This situation is incredibly complex. There are pros and cons, and they should be considered soberly.

On the plus side, if we do pull out earlier, we'll finally end the war — for us, at least; the Afghans will likely fight it out despite speculated peace talks between the Afghan government and Taliban leadership.

We'll get the troops home, allowing them to not die or be maimed or go crazy and shoot civilians. It's what many Afghans want, too, or any country for that matter that has foreign troops raiding their homes at night and walking their streets and fields with assault rifles.

On the other, more negative hand, the Taliban are brutal, religious zealots who follow Sharia Law. Women's noses and ears are cut off for minor infractions. The government propped up by the Soviets in Afghanistan lasted for a few years after the Russian withdrawal before civil war eventually brought it down and allowed the Taliban to take power. It would not be surprising if the same thing happened twice.

If we completely withdraw before Karzai's government is ready and the Taliban gain control of the country once more, they'll probably kill everyone that worked with us.

Additionally, a majority of civilian deaths – over 70 percent – are from insurgent attacks, mostly from improvised explosive devices and suicide bombings, not U.S. troops, according to UN figures reported by Yahoo! News. The U.S. pulling out of Afghanistan will not cease the killing of innocents.

American forces are scheduled for another two years of fun in Afghanistan with the departure deadline set for 2014, and that may not even be enough time to turn the tide of violence. But a hasty pullout before then could cause even more U.S. casualties. Russian forces suf-

fered continual losses (over 500 dead) when they withdrew from Afghanistan in 1988-89, so all care must be taken when moving a large body of troops out of a still-hostile landscape.

So where does that leave America? In a complicated Gordian knot, where no matter what string is pulled the mess tightens. There are no easy options in Afghanistan, just hard choices. Any approach the U.S. takes should factor into the full range of consequences, and Americans should be patient enough to make sure we don't leave a deadly power vacuum in a sensitive and violent part of the world.



Jon Stephenson / MCT

A wounded Afghan National Army officer, foreground, and an Afghan policeman run for cover.

Important message furthered by Kony

Tales of war torn nation inspire international action, attention of millions

By Neda Hamdan
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Since when did saving the world become a bad thing? Since the release of the popular Youtube video "KONY 2012," the video has received both praise and criticism. The video is centered around Uganda and its former dictator Joseph Kony.

For the past 20 years Kony has developed a force called the Lord's Resistance Army, consisting of young girls and boys who are forced to kill and rape innocent victims. The purpose of the video is to bring awareness to this issue in Uganda by encouraging viewers to contact celebrities, politicians who have the power to make policies and anyone they know in order to eventually make it an unavoidable issue that cannot be ignored, leaving no other choice but to

help Uganda by trying to find Kony.

"I don't think that we should get involved with Uganda's problems," Mike Sush said. "We shouldn't have to go to war because another country has problems."

As the United States, however, we have a reputation as "world police" by going to war in Afghanistan and many other countries, helping nations when they are in a position where they cannot help themselves. So why are we hesitating with a country that has been suffering for decades?

"I think we should always be eager to help people and other countries out. They're a part of this world too, and it affects us in many ways," Patty Davis said. "Isn't world peace every one's dream? Then we should try to live up to that."

This issue is not a new or recent development. According to Child Soldiers

International, the problem is most critical in Africa, but children are also used as soldiers in other countries too, like those in Latin America, Europe, and Asia.

According to Visible Measures, just one week after the video went live, it garnered 112 million views. Although there are suspicions regarding Invisible Children and their use of the money donated to the organization, it's important to look beyond that and focus on the issue at hand.

As Americans we tend to be afraid of helping others when it does not result in a benefit for ourselves. We turn our heads the other way when a ASPCA commercial comes on the television because we avoid the guilt of not wanting to pay a certain amount per month to help animals that are abused and abandoned.

"I believe we should help the country, but I don't think we should donate money to Invisible Children," Kindra Jones said. "The money doesn't seem to be going to aid those in Africa like we originally thought."

If the United States decided to send troops to look for Kony, they may find him faster than most think. He disappeared the moment he realized the U.S. was aware of his army, pointing out that he does not think he could stand against a superpower's military; meaning we should be eager to go there and end these tragic events that we have let happen for the past decades.

As a human being, it should be everyone's mission to help out one another, whether it's opening a door to let someone in or saving another girl from getting raped. Being selfish is not something we can afford to do, because not helping Uganda recover will affect us in ways that we would never expect.



Courtesy of YouTube

Joseph Kony is the head of the Lord Resistance Army (LRA), which is a Ugandan guerilla group.



Courtesy of YouTube

An image featured in the well-known viral video 'KONY 2012', emphasized to raise awareness.



Courtesy of YouTube

Francis Ochaya, who served 12 years with the rebels, including as a personal escort to Kony.



Uganda's ruthless rebels

President Barack Obama has sent about 100 U.S. special operations troops to Uganda to help hunt down Joseph Kony, the leader of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

- **1961** Kony is born in Odek, a village in northern Uganda; he is a self-proclaimed mystic
- **1988** Kony, others splinter off from rebels that sign peace deal with the Ugandan government; Kony names group Uganda Christian Democratic Army; begins attacking government
- **1991** Kony renames group Lord's Resistance Army; operates in northern Uganda from bases in southern Sudan; terrorizes civilians for years using abduction, rape, maiming, mass killing
- **2005** International Criminal Court issues arrest warrants for Kony, four other senior LRA leaders
- **Recent years** LRA has spread to neighboring countries; has killed tens of thousands, displaced more than 1.5 million

Source: GlobalSecurity.org, Alertnet, BBC
Graphic: Judy Treible © 2011 MCT

Tough questions arise about Kony cause

'Invisible Children' has negative issues they are hiding from the general public

By Brittany Rose
brose@valenciavoice.com

Unless you live under a rock, you've likely heard about the 'Kony 2012' campaign, at least in passing; especially if Twitter, Tumblr and Facebook are places that you visit regularly.

While I do agree that there is a lot that needs to be done in the world, and I also agree that Joseph Kony is a terrible person, I feel that I have to urge everyone who hears about the campaign to do a lot more research on Invisible Children, the "non-profit" company who is running the campaign, before donating anything to them.

First of all, most of the footage in the "STOP KONY" video recently released is from 2003. All of the footage taken in Uganda was shown in the very first video, which was released in 2005. Things in Uganda are much different than they were back then. Children are sleeping in their own homes now, and though Kony is still out there somewhere, he has been rumored to have moved on to a surrounding country. He is also rumored to be sick and dying at this point, and has not been seen in Uganda since around 2006.

The "STOP KONY" video also claims that the United States has never made any attempts to help capture Kony and the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA), because it is not a direct threat to our national security or financial interests. That is simply not the truth. There have been several military operations to capture Kony, including using U.S.-trained Guatemalan troops armed with American weapons and technology to find him in 2006. That operation was a failure, and all of the Guatemalans were killed in action against the LRA.

The Ugandan government is not innocent either. Several reports of rape and mistreatment have been made against their government and those working for it, but Invisible Children is working closely with the Ugandan government and is willing to ignore their highly negative publicity in order to pursue a man who has seemingly dropped off the map.

As far as Invisible Children as an organization goes, its spending habits are questionable at best. Only 33 percent of the funds they've received from donations were

used for charitable purposes in 2011. According to their rankings on Charity Navigator, the rest of that money went to staff salaries, traveling expenses and film production. They spend close to \$1 million a year on traveling to Uganda and another \$1 million on creating their various films. There have been 11 made so far.

Invisible Children was an organization ultimately created by a group of young filmmakers, and according to the social media wildfire spread by the "STOP KONY" video over the last few weeks, it's obvious that they're pretty good at getting their message across. The information stacked against their company and campaign really puts a damper on the sincerity of that message, however.

Buying a "kit" with a bracelet and posters isn't a very effective way of helping the situation. Obama has already

sent 100 soldiers into Uganda to help with the efforts, and they haven't been removed from the country as of yet. It certainly seems as though the outcome they want has already been given to them. Why do they need \$30 from everyone to "Make Kony Famous"?

Why do they need celebrities to make Kony famous? It seems to me that they're looking to get their film famous more than anything else.

Let's also not forget the new developments that have occurred just this past weekend. As a result of being put under the spotlight for Invisible Children's apparent misleadings, co-founder Jason Russell became heavily intoxicated and "exhausted" before being arrested for stripping down to nothing and masturbating on the streets of Los Angeles. Now... is that the kind of guy you want to follow? I think I've said enough.



Guinikpara Germaine was abducted in March 2008 from the Central African Republic and forced to be rebel leader Joseph Kony's wife.


Tweets of the Week






bob saget @bobsaget
I don't know how I feel about what my decorator's done with my basement. [say.ly/IWP1AMM](#)
[Hide photo](#)





Mike DiCenzo @mikedicenzo
If someone types "Hahah" to you, don't be fooled: they intentionally left off that last "a" to prevent you from getting the full "Hahaha."



Tim Carvell @timcarvell
"One question about your film in which two dozen children murder one another: Do any of them use the F-word? No? Here's your PG-13, then."



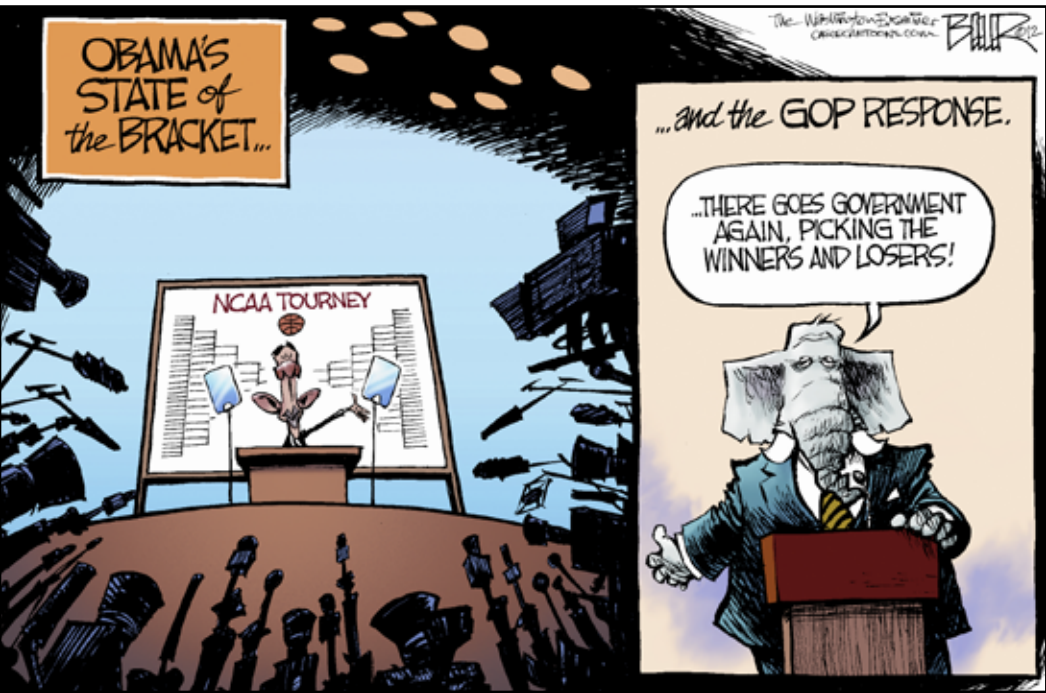
Conan O'Brien @ConanOBrien
Hey guys, I'm starting a cool new hashtag:
[#tweetmeyoursocialsecuritynumber](#)

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Member, Associated Collegiate Press

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Jeff should stay at home

Surreal semi-comedy too foggy to stay focused



By Aaron Davison
Special to Valencia Voice

Paramount Vantage Films’ new comedy-drama, “Jeff, Who Lives At Home” tells the story of Jeff (Jason Segel), who lives in his mother’s (Susan Sarandon) basement. The first few minutes of the movie feature scenes of drug use as Jeff just sits on the couch getting drunk and doing nothing with his life. He becomes fixated by the sci-fi-suspense movie “Signs,” and believes that everyone and everything is interconnected in this world. One day in the early morning, Jeff is sitting down watching TV and smoking and he comes across a commercial for the “world’s greatest vitamin.” The salesman in the advertisement -- a man named Kevin -- says to stay near a phone and make the call. Then, suddenly the phone rings and Jeff answers it and speaks to a

stranger who is looking for a Kevin despite no Kevin living there. Jeff explains this to the guy numerous times but he doesn’t listen and threatens him to find Kevin and hangs up the phone. This was one of those “What was that all about moments?” that could leave audience members in the dark wondering who this Kevin was. Jeff now becomes obsessed with that very common name. Jeff puts the word backwards, makes up codes and even meets a pedestrian named Kevin while playing basketball on the other side of town he lives in. It is funny seeing the main character stop what he is doing to see if a random guy’s name is Kevin. Jeff’s mother, portrayed by the legendary Susan Sarandon, works at a business office and spends a lot of time trying to get Jeff to do something productive for once. Meanwhile, Jeff’s brother, Pat works for a pain company and informs his wife, Linda (Judy Greer, “The Descendants”), that he wants to buy a new car. She points



Hilary Bronwyn Gay, Courtesy Paramount Pictures and Indian Paintbrush / MCT

Jason Segel, left, plays Jeff and Ed Helms plays Pat in the semi-comedy “Jeff, Who Lives at Home.”

out that they can’t afford it, but he surprises her with the keys to a new Porsche, which she promptly covers in condiments from an upstairs balcony. There were some real tear-jerker moments, like the part where Jeff and Pat are sitting in the bathtub in a hotel room talking about their struggles in life after learning Pat’s wife Linda is cheating on him. The plot will be confusing for some movie goers who may think they are going to see a comedy film (as presented by the trailer) until they find out this is more of a drama. “Jeff, Who Lives At Home” is directed by the Duplass brothers, Jay and Mark. With any luck there will be another comedy from these two talented directors; hopefully the next story is clearer and less difficult to figure out.

Opening March 23

‘The Hunger Games’



Courtesy Murray Close / MCT



Courtesy Murray Close / MCT



Courtesy Murray Close / MCT

Director: Gary Ross
Starring: Jennifer Lawrence, Josh Hutcherson, and Woody Harrelson.
Rated: PG-13
Running Time: 142 minutes
Genre: Action/Adventure, Drama

Box Office



Courtesy of Sony / Columbia Pictures

‘21 Jump Street’
Rated: R

This Weekend: \$35,000,000

Total Gross: \$35,000,000



Universal Pictures and Illumination Entertainment / MCT

‘The Lorax’
Rated: PG

This Weekend: \$22,800,000

Total Gross: \$158,400,000



Frank Conner/Disney / MCT

‘John Carter’
Rated: PG-13

This Weekend: \$13,515,000

Total Gross: \$53,172,000

Campbell's farewell tour

Country legend affected by Alzheimer's says good-bye

By James Tutten
jtutten@valenciavoice.com

American country music legend Glen Campbell faces a debilitating medical condition, but he will still perform this week in Florida, a state hit hard by the very illness that is robbing him of the life he once knew.

Campbell announced to the public last year that he was diagnosed with the early stages of Alzheimer's disease, a condition which adversely affects the

mind causing nerve cells in the brain to die, creating problems with memory, judgment and general cognition.

Because Florida has such a high elderly population, the state has been referred to as "ground zero" for Alzheimer's in America. The disease has no cure and currently affects more than five million Americans, with cases expected to double in the future due to the high number of aging baby boomers. While little is understood about this disease, scientists are predicting more cases will arise due to

advances in medicine allowing us to live longer live as time goes on.

Many families have to learn to live and support each other throughout this disease, and Campbell now serves as a face for this cause.

This "Goodbye Tour" gives fans young and old a chance to see the singer perform his hits and share his charm one last time. It's a sad fact that due to several related complications, sufferers of Alzheimer's face worsening levels of dementia and other health problems that lead to eventual death.

Campbell is showing the signs of Alzheimer's, but is miraculously still able to perform thanks to the support of his family and others. This gives a unique and touching "living tribute" to a performer,

and some level of closure for his devoted fans and others looking to deal with similar conditions in their own lives.

Many older fans of Campbell have fond memories of not only his music, but also his time spent hosting his own comedy variety television show, "The Glen Campbell Goodtime Hour." He also stepped into lead acting roles in movies like the original "True Grit" with legendary actor John Wayne.

His long and productive career was recently honored with a lifetime achievement award at the 2012 Grammy celebration. His latest album, "Ghost On The Canvas," has received the acclaim of critics and is on several lists as one of the best albums of 2011. Campbell is expected to perform not only

songs from his new album, but all of the crowd pleasing hits one last time for his enduring fans.

Campbell is performing at the King Center for the Performing Arts this Friday the 23rd. This is one of the last chances to see Campbell live in Florida before his nationwide tour finishes in just a few months. For more information on this special performance check out the King Center's website at <http://www.kingcenter.com/>

There are also several informative websites about Alzheimer's research and information for victims and families of victims dealing with this challenging disease. The American Health Assistance Foundation details their research at <http://www.ahaf.org/alzheimers/>.

App of the Week: Draw Something

By Neda Hamdan
nhamdan@valenciavoice.com

Ever been a fan of Pictionary? Draw Something is a mobile version of the game that enables you to play against other Draw Something users all over the world. According to its creators, OMGPOP, Draw Something is the number one word game app in 40 different countries.

It is easy to sign up; just use an email and create a username so other players can identify you. There are options whether you want to play someone by searching by their Draw Something username, through facebook, email or there is a Random button option to play against any other Draw Something user.

You can save your games with different opponents and go back to them later. There is a choice between three different words to draw.

They vary by difficulty and the more difficult, the higher the points earned. If you do not

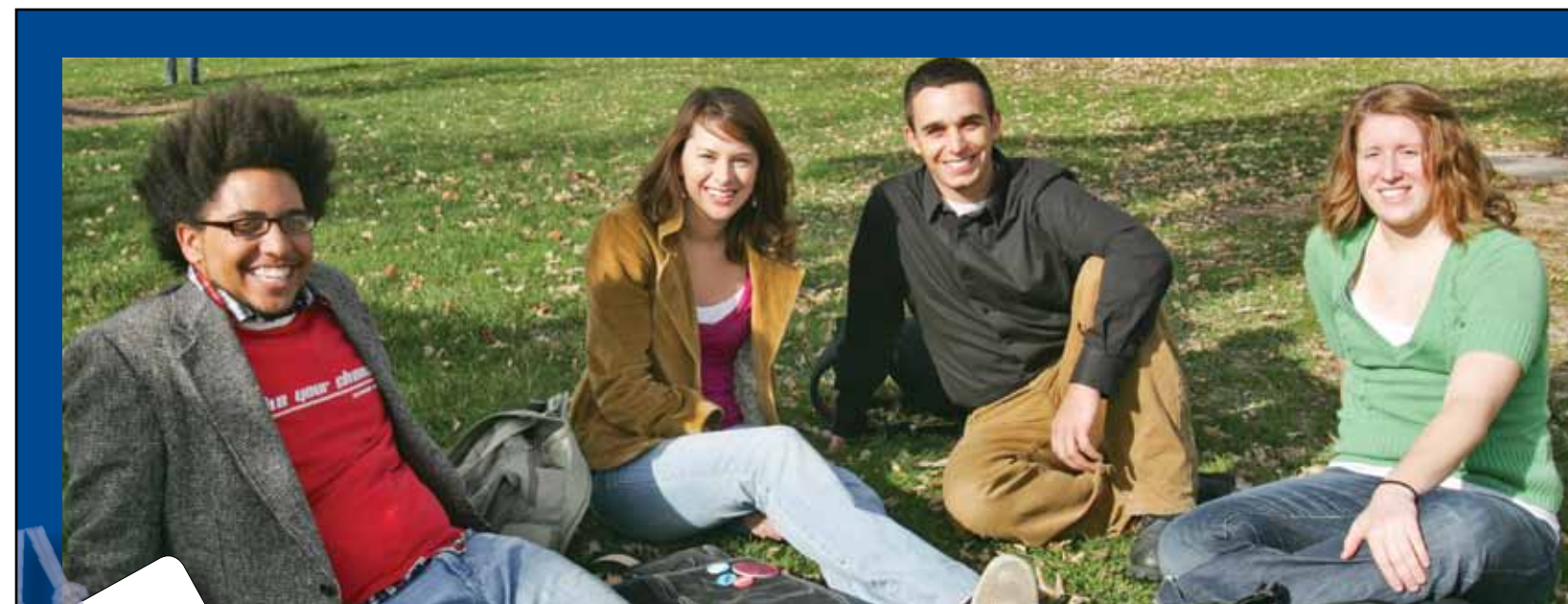


like those words, you can refresh the list and choose between three others.

When it is your turn to guess, you have 12 different letters to choose from that could possibly spell the word, which makes it a lot easier and faster than pulling them out of thin air.

It includes four different sized brush strokes, erasers and a variety of colors. When you earn points you can use them to buy more colors, or bombs, which are used when you get stuck on a drawing. It will eliminate some of the letters, narrowing down the options of what the word is, ultimately making it easier to determine what the answer is.

The app comes in a free version and a \$.99 version, although the only difference is that the paid version contains no advertisements, 400 coins and five other bomb options. It's available for iPhones and Androids, and is easily one of the most addicting games out there.



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March 22
Fundraiser Bake Sale
East Campus
Great Hall
11:15 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

March 22
Sexting and Cyber-Bullying
Osceola Campus
Portable K
2:00 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.

March 23/24
Valencia Spring Dance Concert
East Campus
Performing Arts Center
8:00 p.m.

March 26
Habits of Successful College Students
East Campus
8-101
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

March 27
Campus Crusade for Christ
West Campus
5-253
1:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.

March 28
Muslim Student Association
West Campus
4-203
3:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m.

March 29
Preparing for Final Exams
Winter Park Campus
Room 123
5:45 p.m. - 6:45 p.m.

Community

3/22
Joan Rivers
Lakeland Center
8:00 p.m.




Courtesy of thelakelandcenter.com

3/22
Celine & Julie Vont en Bateau
Southeast Museum of Photography
1:30 p.m.

3/24
Conflict Management & Meditation Techniques
UCF Student Union
Rm 224
9:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

3/27
Aligator Awareness Presentation
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Central Florida Zoo & Botanical Gardens



Courtesy of thecentralfloridazoo.org

3/28
Liza McCourt Author Discussion and Signing
Barnes and Noble
7:00 p.m.

On-going

3/22 - 4-22
Surfland
Sundays, Saturdays, 1-5 p.m.
Tuesdays, Thursdays-Fridays, 11 a.m. - 5 p.m.
Wednesdays, 11 a.m. - 7 p.m.
Southeast Museum of Photography

3/22 - 4-15
Raw Edges
Sundays, noon-5 p.m.
Tuesdays-Saturdays, 10 a.m. - 6 p.m.
Jeanine Taylor Folk Art

3/22 - 5/13
Sam Gilliam: Contingencies
Sundays, Saturdays, noon-5 p.m.
Tuesdays-Fridays, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Cornell Fine Arts Museum

3/22 - 4/20
Celebrating the Genius of Women
Orange County Public Library

3/28 - 4/30
Di-verse Word
Thursdays 8:00 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.
Dandelion Communita Cafe



Courtesy of dandelioncommunita.com

Concerts

3/22
Trevor Hall
The Social
8:00 p.m.



Courtesy of thesocial.org

3/23
Katchafire
The Social
8:00 p.m.



Courtesy of thesocial.org

3/26
Black Lips
The Social
8:00 p.m.



Courtesy of thesocial.org

3/24
Blue October
House of Blues
8:00 p.m.

UCF bullpen: strength of team

Rogers, Madrid lead Knights to victory in close games

By Anisha Tandon
atandon@valenciavoices.com

The Knights secured a win over Harvard after a three game series this weekend. UCF swept the Crimson, winning 6-5 on Sunday, giving Matt Collins his second victory of the season.

The sweep, and most of the Knights wins this season, wouldn't have been possible without the stellar performance of Collins and the rest of the UCF bullpen.

"Our bullpen is awesome," said Coach Terry Rooney. "The guys are doing a good job."

Matt Collins entered the game after the fifth inning, relieving starting pitcher Bri-

an Adkins, who threw five rocky innings.

The Knights were down 4-1 when Collins enter the game, and with his held, the Crimson were held to just one more run, helping the Knights come back to win.

"I just knew I needed to come in and throw a lot of strikes," said Collins of his pitching performance against Harvard. "When you're down you can't just give up."

The Knights have recently been relying on their bullpen more often to get the momentum they need in order to get wins. Closer Joe Rogers earned his sixth save of the season, Sunday, giving him a total of 23 saves of his career. The save puts him just four behind Jason Arnold for the school's all-time saves record.

"Our starters have to pitch better," said Rooney. "Our bullpen has been fantastic, we're just in that phase right now that our starters have to pitch better."

Roman Madrid has also been a huge strength in the back end of the bullpen. Madrid entered the weekend's series against Harvard with a perfect 0.00 era, and didn't allow his first earned run until he found himself in some trouble, in the eighth inning Sunday.

Possibly one of the biggest reasons Rogers and Madrid have been so effective early this season, is because pitchers like Garrett Nuss. In Nuss' last two outings, he has thrown a combined eight relief innings, including a near perfect outing against UMass.

The freshman struck out five batters, and didn't allow a hit in four innings of work, while picking up his first collegiate victory.

"We can't get to those guys all of the time," said Rooney, referring to Rogers and Madrid. "But guys are stepping up. As far as Nuss coming in, that was huge."

"We needed some momentum," said Rooney. "And sometimes we can do that pitching."

Referring to the need to switch up the pitching rotation in order to boost the game.

With conference play on the horizon, Rooney explained that his job is crucial right now.

"I'll make the necessary adjustments tomorrow to ensure we are putting ourselves in the best possible position to be successful in all aspects of the game."

"The Kids still found ways to win, I couldn't be prouder of our kids," said Rooney.



Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice

As a long reliever, Chris Matulis can eat up crucial early and middle innings for Terry Rooney.



Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice

Joe Rogers has picked up four saves in the last two weekends, giving him six on the young season.

UCF schedule at a glance

March 20	@ South Florida	Tampa, Fla.	7:00 p.m.
March 23	vs. East Carolina*	Orlando, Fla.	6:30 p.m.
March 24	vs. East Carolina*	Orlando, Fla.	4:00 p.m.
March 25	vs. East Carolina*	Orlando, Fla.	1:00 p.m.
March 27	@ Florida Atlantic	Boca Raton, Fla.	6:30 p.m.
March 30	@ Houston*	Houston, Texas	7:30 p.m.
March 31	@Houston*	Houston, Texas	7:30 p.m.
April 01	@Houston*	Houston, Texas	1:30 p.m.

* denotes Conference-USA opponent

Who's going to make the rotation?

Rooney must make decision before conference play begins

By Bryan Levine
blevine@valenciavoices.com

UCF baseball head coach Terry Rooney has some tough decisions to make just days away from the start of conference play.

The day-to-day decisions he deals with are hard enough; batting order, defensive alignments, and which relievers to bring into a game, but there is one looming decision that could shape the rest of the season for UCF.

Who is going to make the team's weekend rotation?

As far as Rooney is concerned, only one pitcher has an automatic spot in the lineup – Brian Adkins.

"Brian is going to be in our rotation this weekend, 100 percent," Rooney said. "I don't know what day yet, but he's definitely one of the three."

In six starts this season, Adkins has just one win, and has made it past the fifth inning only once. The junior has struggled greatly in half of his starts, allowing 12 runs on 15 hits in a combined 13 innings of work. In three other starts, Adkins has thrown 15.1 innings, and allowed 11 runs while surrendering six.

Adkins isn't stepping on the mound and blowing batters away, but when he's throwing well, he can paint the corners like Michelangelo putting the final touches on the Sistine Chapel.

After Adkins, the door is wide-open for the last two spots. Rooney's decision has to be narrowed down to four or five pitchers – Ben Lively, Eric Skoglund, Matt Collins, Chris Matulis, and Ray Hanson.

Collins probably won't make Rooney's final cut, but he deserves some real con-

sideration. The senior has made one start this season, but has thrived in the role as a mid-game reliever.

In his last outing, Collins picked up Adkins' slack, as he was left with a 4-1 deficit in the sixth inning. Two innings later, Collins left the game with a 6-4 lead, didn't allow a hit, and picked up his second win of the season.

"It really doesn't matter to me. Where ever coach needs me to help the team out is fine with me," Collins said.

Since the easy decision is to keep Collins in the pen, four legitimate arms are left fighting for two positions.

Lively, the Knights' current Friday night starter, struggled in his last outing against Harvard, despite great early-season success to emerge as the ace of the staff. In five starts this season, Lively is 3-0, with a 2.45 era and 33 strike-outs.

The timing for Lively to throw his first bad outing of the season couldn't have come at a worse time. Had he continued to be lights-out against Harvard, he would have automatically qualified for Rooney's rotation. Considering all, Lively has to be the second option to start, because the Knights can't really afford for him not to be.

This is where the decision gets tricky, with three pitchers, who haven't done anything to pitch themselves out of the rotation.

Based on process of elimination, Matulis won't beat out Skoglund or Hanson, but not by any fault of his own.

Matulis has made six appearances this season, three of which were starts. The redshirt junior began the season in the weekend rotation, but has really found his niche in the bullpen. For the sake of some continuity in the rotation, Matulis should



Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice

Starting pitchers Eric Skoglund (left) and Brian Adkins (above) will know their pitching fate, soon.

stay in the same role.

So it's down to Eric Skoglund or Ray Hanson? The freshman phenom or the seasoned veteran?

One has a 1.57 era, and is 3-0 in six appearances (three starts) while striking out 24 batters in 23 innings. The other has a 1.46 era in three appearances (two starts) and has allowed 10 hits while striking out 12 batters.

The former, freshman Skoglund, has been lights-out in nearly all of his outings, exceeding all expectations and complicating Rooney's decision further.

"He was a typical freshman," said Rooney, in reference to Skoglund's poor outing against UMass. "I'm chalking it up to experience, but he's going to fine."

Senior Ray Hanson is the latter. Hanson's 2012 debut was delayed as the California native recovered from a shoulder injury. Despite the injury, Hanson has shown no signs of rust, though Rooney has tried to limit his pitch count.

"Ray Hanson probably had the best fall and pre-season of anyone on the pitching

staff," said Rooney. "Had we started the season with him healthy, there's a good chance he would have started the season in our weekend rotation."

I don't know for certain who the right decision is, but I do know that I don't envy Rooney for being the one to have to make it.

Weighing all the pros and cons, Rooney has to pick the Hanson, right? Soley because he's a senior, and Skoglund is still young.

Skoglund has proved he is worthy of being in the weekend rotation, but his inexperience is a huge factor against him. His time will come. One day he will be the ace of the UCF staff, and he'll be the only pitcher with a guaranteed spot in the weekend rotation. But, for now, he has to continue to grow and mature as a pitcher, and that will have to happen in the bullpen, or in mid-week starts.

Adkins, Lively, and Hanson possibly even in that order; the best fit for the UCF rotation.

Whoever he picks, Rooney better make it quick. The clock is ticking, Coach.



Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice



Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice

“We were going to make sure that Dwight stayed here. But, we were prepared to make sure we didn’t have the same outcome as in the late ‘90s”

— Alex Martins



Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice

“I’m not like those guys that they’re trying to paint me to be. I’m loyal. That’s just who I am, that’s just my nature.”

— Dwight Howard



Bryan Levine / Valencia Voice

“The objective is to win an NBA title, and we believe the best chance to do that is with Dwight apart of our franchise.”

— Otis Smith

D12 staying in Orlando

Magic front office hit with tons of work

By Juan Gutierrez
jgutierrez@valenciavoice.com

Orlando Magic center Dwight Howard announced Thursday morning that he is going to waive the early termination option of his contract and stay one more year with the Magic. This is good news for Orlando, which has been a circus prior to Howard’s commitment. But what does this really mean for the future of the organization?

Now that Howard is in with the Magic until 2013 the team can immediately focus on winning games. The Magic locker room has been an uncomfortable place before Howard made his decision and has had many questions in the air not just about Howard’s future with the team but also the work ethic of teammates and even Magic GM Otis Smith’s determination to upgrade the roster and keep Howard long term.

It is no question the Magic are contenders this year. Orlando is a top five

team in the league if their record is taken into account. Now with fewer distractions in the locker room they should be playing much better.

Howard has constantly been saying all year that he wants more help on the team and has even tried reaching out to other NBA stars to try and recruit their services. Now that Howard has committed to stay in Orlando for the next year, can this convince another NBA star to join him in Orlando? Do the Magic make another blockbuster trade in the off-season to bring in that second star player they’ve been searching for in past seasons?

The trade which many Magic fans were hoping would happen this year that would land that second star play-

er in Orlando didn’t fall through. The Magic were hoping to get former Golden State Warrior and now newly acquired Milwaukee Buck guard, Monta Ellis. Ellis was dealt to Milwaukee for center Andrew Bogut right before the trade deadline on Wednesday.

There is still hope for Orlando as the good news comes in the expiring contracts of Magic guards Jameer Nelson and J.J. Redick. Both Nelson’s and Redick’s contracts will be expiring at the end of next season, making them high-value trade bait for other teams in the league.

One big free agent that will be on the market at the end of this season and the Magic have their eyes on is New Jersey Nets All-Star point guard Deron Williams. Can Howard and the Magic lure in Wil-

liams this off-season and form Florida’s second super-team? If the Magic can deal Redick and Nelson and maybe throw in Ryan Anderson it seems likely.

The ultimate goal for Orlando, however, is to get Howard to commit long term with the organization. Without a deep run into the playoffs this year or a serious player acquisition in the off season, Howard may be gone and the whole circus may come back to town next year.

Only time and a little bit of luck can tell where the Magic will be at the end of this season and where super star center Howard will be playing once his contract officially expires next season. Hopefully Howard will continue to call Orlando home. think Matulis stays in the same role he’s in now.

NCAA men's basketball



SOUTH REGIONAL

Friday	Sunday
1 Kentucky 9:45 p.m. ET	Atlanta
4 Indiana	
3 Baylor 7:15 p.m. ET	Atlanta
10 Xavier	

WEST REGIONAL

Thursday	Saturday
1 Michigan St. 7:47 p.m. ET	Phoenix
4 Louisville	
3 Marquette 10:17 p.m. ET	Phoenix
7 Florida	

SEMIFINALS
New Orleans
March 31

NATIONAL
CHAMPIONSHIP
Mercedes-Benz
Superdome
New Orleans
April 2

© 2012 MCT

EAST REGIONAL

Saturday	Thursday
Boston	Syracuse 1 7:15 p.m. ET
	Wisconsin 4
Boston	Cincinnati 6 9:45 p.m. ET
	Ohio State 2

MIDWEST REGIONAL

Sunday	Friday
St. Louis	North Carolina 1 7:47 p.m. ET
	Ohio 13
St. Louis	N.C. State 11 10:17 p.m. ET
	Kansas 2



Norfolk State Spartans' Brandon Wheelless (24) celebrated an 86-84 upset win over second-seeded Missouri in the NCAA men's basketball tournament.

David Eulitt/Kansas City Star/MCT



Kansas Jayhawks guard Travis Releford (24) and Kansas Jayhawks center Jeff Withey (5) celebrate at the end of Sunday's third-round NCAA men's basketball tournament game.

Shane Keyser/Kansas City Star/MCT



North Carolina's Harrison Barnes (40) drives to the basket against Vermont during the second half in their second round game, Friday night.

Robert Willett / Raleigh News & Observer / MCT

From a Colt to a Bronco

Peyton Manning finds a new home in Denver

Chicago Tribune

March 19--Quarterback Peyton Manning's whirlwind free-agent tour has ended with the four-time NFL MVP instructing his agent to work out a contract with the Denver Broncos.

The sides had discussed the parameters of a five-year, \$95 million contract during their initial meeting March 9, according to ESPN, and a finalized deal is believed to be mostly a formality.

Manning's decision was confirmed by Titans owner Bud Adams, who made a strong push for the quarterback.

"I want to thank the whole organization for their efforts in trying to sign Peyton and also to Peyton for the time he put into the process," Adams said in the statement. "Peyton called me this morning to inform me of his decision and obviously I am disappointed, because I thought we would be a perfect fit."

According to 9News Sports in Denver, a news conference to introduce Manning will be held Tuesday in Denver.

However, there still are details to be worked out around guaranteed money and protecting the Broncos in the event Manning isn't able to return from his neck injury, which required four procedures over a 19-month span and sidelined him for the entire 2011 season. Manning has displayed improving arm strength during recent workouts and is expected to be ready to play next season.

Signing Manning means the Broncos likely will look to trade Tim Tebow. The Jacksonville Jaguars, who were considered a potential destination for the former Florida star, recently signed Chad Henne to push 2011 first-round pick Blaine Gabbert.

Manning, released by Indianapolis on March 7 after 14 seasons with the Colts, worked out for the Broncos, Titans and 49ers as he narrowed his potential destinations to those three teams. He had previously told the Dolphins, Cardinals and Seahawks, among others, that he would not be joining their franchises.

With Adams putting on a full-court press to bring the former University of Tennessee star back to the state, Broncos officials flew to Durham, N.C. on Friday to meet with Manning and have team doctors conduct a physical.

Manning is still working to regain his full arm strength as the nerves in his neck regenerate, but he did pass physicals from all three of the final teams he was considering, according to ESPN. He is expected to begin working out at the Broncos' facilities after the contract is finalized. However, the collective bargaining agreement prevents Manning from doing any supervised on-field work with his new team until May 2, the week after the NFL Draft, although player-organized workouts away from team facilities can be arranged.



Free agent Peyton Manning, wearing t-shirt and shorts, walks across a practice field with Denver Broncos executive John Elway, fourth from left in Durham, North Carolina.

Had he signed with Tennessee, Manning would have stayed in the AFC South. Meanwhile, San Francisco plays host to the Giants next season. Joining the Broncos means Manning will not face the Colts or younger brother Eli Manning next season. However, Denver is slated to play the NFC East teams in 2013.

Peyton Manning's agent, Tom Condon, also represents Alex Smith, who turned down a three-year contract offer from the 49ers and visited with the Dolphins on Sunday. If San Francisco can't lure Smith back, the 49ers would have to scramble to add a veteran to compete with 2011 second-round pick Colin Kaepernick.

Tennessee is in much better shape, with veteran Matt Hasselbeck returning and pushed by promising 2011 first-round pick Jake Locker.

Tebow went 7-4 as a starter and led the Broncos to the AFC West title

and a playoff victory over Pittsburgh last season. But serious questions remain about his ability to progress as a passer, and the Broncos had to drastically alter their offense to suit Tebow's style.

With Manning, Denver will return to a pro-style offense, and could look to bring in a few former teammates with Indianapolis undergoing a massive roster overhaul. While Reggie Wayne re-signed with the Colts and fellow wide receiver Pierre Garcon signed with the Redskins, center Jeff Saturday and tight end Dallas Clark are still free agents.

Manning left the Colts with 141 wins, 399 passing touchdowns and a staggering 54,828 passing yards during his 208 regular-season starts. He's been named the NFL MVP four times, and led the Colts to eight division titles, two Super Bowl appearances and one NFL Championship.

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