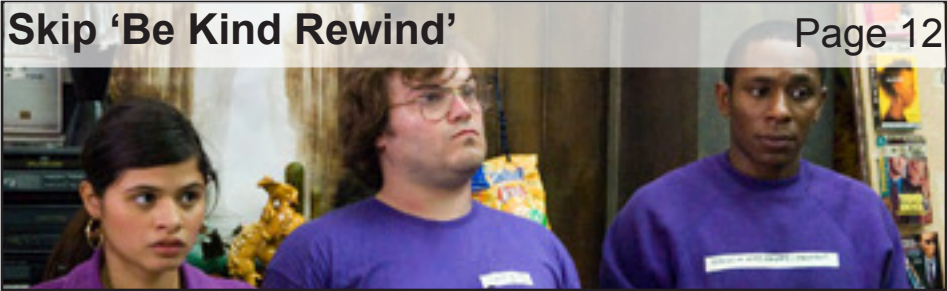




'Vantage Point' loses focus Page 12



Skip 'Be Kind Rewind' Page 12

VALENCIA VOICE

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February 27, 2008

Fast Finder

World News

Fidel Castro

Long-time Cuban leader says that he does not plan to run for reelection

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Entertainment News

Gaming

'Professor Layton and the curious Village' exercises gamers minds and thumbs

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National News

Bird Flu

Scientist say that Bird Flu may lead to a pandemic

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Important Dates

Arab-American Culture Day

Tuesday, March 4

11 a.m. - 2 p.m.
East Campus

Talent Tuesday

Tuesday, March 4

1 - 2 p.m.

West Campus

Game Night

Thursday, March 6

6 - 9 p.m.

East Campus

Obama takes lead, fends off attacks

By Frank Tobin
Valencia Voice

If American voters were casting their ballot today, Democrat Barack Obama would have a slight advantage over Republican John McCain in the race for the White House, while McCain would narrowly edge out Hillary Clinton, according to the latest national polls.

With Obama gaining a lead over Clinton after

his wins in key delegate states, the political scene is alive with the speculation of an Obama versus McCain 2008 election.

"It's a choice that's not just about turning the page on the politics of the past, but also turning the page on the policies of the past," Obama said. "John McCain has already promised another four years of George Bush policies."

Even after retaliating against his cross-aisle opponent, Obama still found the time to address

the attacks by Clinton earlier this week as well.

"As this movement continues, as this campaign builds strength, there are those who will tell you not to believe," Obama said, addressing 17,000 supporters at a boisterous rally in Dallas last week. "There are those who will tell you it can't be done."

"Senator Clinton told us that there was a choice in this race, and, you know, I couldn't

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Photo by Robert Navaille / Valencia Voice

Fire trucks respond to overflow parking behind HSB building where a gas line was cut by a construction worker—no severe damage was done to Valencia's West Campus.

West Campus evacuated

Gas leak incurs fire department response

Confusion disrupted Valencia Community College's West Campus, Feb. 25, when a reported gas leak caused the entire campus to be evacuated.

Students from all buildings crowded the SSB patio as they were instructed to stay out of all buildings until further notice and to relocate into the parking lots and empty sidewalk space.

The City of Orlando Fire & Rescue team arrived shortly before 6 p.m. to investigate the scene and assist in the protection of Valencia students and faculty from further emergency.

With the arrival of five fire trucks pulling into Valencia's south entrance and into an overflow parking lot behind Health and Sciences Building, firefighters calmly gathered to walk into HSB where the main break had



Photo by Robert Navaille / Valencia Voice

Students and Faculty gather around Building 1, which remained closed.

occurred.

"We were called about five minutes ago," said Officer Shane Edwards of Orlando Fire & Rescue. Proceeding to undress from his protective gear he finished by adding, "we can't give away full details at this time."

Valencia security patrolled campus to prevent uncooperative and uninformed students from returning to any of their classrooms before official permission had been granted.

With the return of the firefighters from the HSB building and back to

their fire trucks, security guard George Helsey commented on the leak saying, "somebody cut a gas line, construction workers cut a gas line." Before returning to the building himself Helsey announced, "You can go inside the building now, you can go inside the HSB building."

After discovering that there had been no major harm done to West Campus, students returned to their classrooms in all buildings excluding building one where further investigation is being conducted.

Poet Laureate returns to Valencia

By Kevin Norris
Valencia Voice

Rain soaked those who were dodging the puddles that flooded the halls of East Campus but found refuge in the auditorium where the Jack Kerouac Celebration took place. The Jack Kerouac Celebration was a free literary event held on Feb. 23 in commemoration of the 50th anniversary of Kerouac's book, "On the Road".

Inside the auditorium, the red seats were occupied with nearly 100 people when the event kicked off at 1:05 p.m. The first hour of the event was dedicated to student

poets of all the Valencia campuses. Emily Beardsley appropriately commenced the afternoon with several of her energetic poems. Alex Copeland, a freelance web designer, following Beardsley recited a variety of humorous poems about his mustache 'Red Under My Nose', prehistoric animals 'Don't Kill Me', and his father 'W.W.J.D.' The humor that filled the air was slow to retreat when Florida native, and writer of science fiction, Amanda Leezer was welcomed to the stage to engross the audience with her memoirs of teen angst, and short stories about the idiosyncrasies of large families.

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Oscars get outsourced

By John Horn
Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — Hollywood took on a new role in Sunday's 80th annual Academy Awards: bit player.

In a series of startling upsets and a few expected triumphs, almost all of the top Oscars were handed to foreigners and iconoclastic show business outsiders. Every one of the evening's acting winners came from beyond American borders, and the ceremony's dominant film — best picture winner "No Country for Old Men" — was created by a pair of filmmaking brothers from Minnesota who have never made a mainstream movie in their three-decade career.

In an era where overseas revenues account for more than half of a movie's income, the percentages were tilted far more heavily toward foreigners throughout the awards show, with an especially strong showing from the European Union.

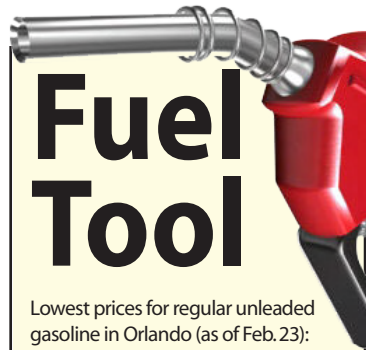
"There Will Be Blood's" best actor Daniel Day-Lewis lives in Ireland, while "La Vie en Rose" surprise best actress winner Marion Cotillard makes her home in Paris. Spain's Javier Bardem was named best sup-

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Photo by Daniel A. Anderson, Orange County Register / MCT Campus

Daniel Day-Lewis, right, winner of best actor, and presenter Helen Mirren pose for portrait backstage at the 80th annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California, Sunday, February 24, 2008.



Fuel Tool

Lowest prices for regular unleaded gasoline in Orlando (as of Feb. 23):

\$3.03⁹
Sam's Club 7810 W. Colonial Dr. Orlando FL, 32818
\$3.05⁹
Sam's Club 7701 E. Colonial Dr. Orlando FL, 32807
\$3.05⁹
RaceTrac 13100 East Colonial Dr. Orlando FL, 32826

Source: www.gasbuddy.com
Compiled by Robert Navaille / Valencia Voice

Observing Black History Month

By Louis Gordon II
Valencia Voice

Black History Month is a time for reflection, and education. Movie night at the Valencia East Campus provided a bold and very worthwhile experience for students looking to expand their knowledge of black history. “Rosewood” was the feature of the evening on Feb. 20, and it brought to light some feelings that some students never knew could exist in American society.

Dr. John Robinson and Dr. Bonnie Oliver where the speakers of the evening, giving students an interesting perspective of social issues that African-Americans still go through today. “External and internal conditioning can cause rifts in our personality, which brings about a need for self-analysis in order to truly get to know oneself”, states Dr. Oliver.

Dr. Robinson added to the conversation the notion that each one of us has the capacity to be abusive to each other. “Society as a whole could use a lot of “deprogramming” when it comes to racial relations”, states Dr. Robinson.

Many students who had never seen this film were shocked and amazed at the pure hatred and ignorance shown in the movie.

“Rosewood” is directed by John Singleton, the same talent that generated classic movies like “Boyz N’ Da Hood”, “Baby Boy” and the action-packed “Waist Deep”. Ving Rhames headlines an all-star cast that brings this epic story to life.

This riveting true story takes place in the small town of Rosewood, FL, which is located in Levy County near Gainesville. The plot takes us to New Year’s Day, 1923. Rhames is an Army war veteran who has stopped in Rosewood and is looking to settle down and start a new life, but doesn’t realize that the nice, “peaceful” town is about to change for the worse.

The torrid chain of events begins at the Taylor residence, where the lady of the house, who is known for “making her rounds” around town is beaten up by her one of her other lovers. Mrs. Taylor, in order to cover up the incident from her husband, cries for help and blames a black man, causing the town to erupt into a racial war.

The black citizens of the town come together to not only figure out who the real violator is, but also to keep their families safe. Michael Rooker, whose resume includes “Replacement Killers” and most recently “Jumper”, stars as the town sheriff who has lost control of a riled up mob of white citizens that travels from house to house, destroying everything in their path as they search for the culprit.

Jon Voight (“Transformers”) also gives a powerful performance as “Jon Wright”, who owns the town grocery store. The battle he struggles with is trying to decide whether to help his black customers whom he knows are good people, or take the side of the angry mob that is bent on nothing but destruction. Don Cheadle (“Talk To Me”), Esther Rolle (“Good Times”), and Elise Neal (“Hustle and Flow”), round off the dynamic cast that delivers a powerful performance in this riveting story, stirring up feelings of audiences of all races.

The events portrayed in the movie are captured wonderfully and seem frighteningly realistic. Beautiful country scenery, true-to-life wardrobe styles, and brilliant musical arrangements capture every emotion and draw you into this ground-breaking film. Due to the graphic nature of this film though, one should be advised to mentally prepare for many intense scenes that are sure to leave a lasting impression on the viewer.

The web-site “The Real Rosewood” (RosewoodFlorida.com), offers profiles, quotes, and thoughts from survivors of this horrific incident in American history. There is much to be learned from this incident, and hopefully, people of all cultures and nationalities can look at a terrible situation like this, and find ways that we can better ourselves and ultimately, better our society.

Soul food festival honors Achiever’s president

By Shaneece Dixon
Valencia Voice

For 28 years, Valencia has hosted the annual African-American Heritage and Soul Food Festival in honor of Black History Month.

This year’s festival was held at West Campus on Feb. 21 on the SSB patio and was hosted by Student Development, African American Cultural Society, and Black High Achievers. What made this year’s festival stand out, however, was the fact that it was dedicated to Janet Bryan, president of Black High Achievers, and was officially renamed in her honor.

It is what Bryan exemplifies and what she has done for Valencia that more than qualifies her to receive such a high mark of respect.

“This event lets students know that anything is possible,” said Bryan, “All of my struggles didn’t stop me from achieving.”

In fact, many people don’t know much about Bryan’s struggles and what really makes her worthy to have such an event dedicated to her.

Born on Feb. 22, 1956 in Trench Town, Jamaica, Bryan struggled and was even forced to drop out of high school at age fifteen. Even while making a living as a traffic police officer for several years it was a hard search for opportunities in Jamaica.

In 1979, however, her opportunities went to new heights after she migrated to the States at age 23. Even while trying to overcome personal obstacles, Bryan enrolled as a full time student at Valencia in the Fall term of 2004. Among her numerous attributes, she is the 2006 recipient for the Black Advisory Committee Incentive Award, Former Senator of Marketing and Advertising for SGA, and an active member of both Phi Theta Kappa and African American Cultural Society.

“Janet has been a big voice and an advocate for African American students here,” said Kwame Walker, vice president of Black High Achievers and African American Cultural Society.

Later on in the day, the fun really began as students waited anxiously in line for some “soul food,” consisting of trademark delicacies such



Photo by Erica Teamer / Valencia Voice

Violinists Kev Marcus and Wil B played alongside the Walton girls at African American Heritage festival Feb. 21.

as fried chicken, collard greens, macaroni and cheese, cornbread, and peach cobbler. Next to the line was a display of African relics and artifacts to compliment the nature of the event itself. And of course, there was a variety of entertainment that allowed students and faculty to enjoy the event even more. Among the performers was a group of young girls from the Walton Academy for the Performing Arts, a private school in Tampa where Bryan is an active volunteer. The girls were enjoyable to watch on stage as they danced, sang, and even mimed to the delight of several students.

“More events like this are needed,” said Sam Walton, chairman of the board for Walton Academy for the Performing Arts, “It’s a great thing for students to see and experience the art forms.”

Along with the Walton girls, two violinists,

Kev Marcus and Wil B, performed along to several hip-hop songs played by DJ TK. It was truly a change of pace to hear a classical influence to songs such as “Like a Boy”, by Ciara and “Jam-rock”, by Damian Marley. Eventually the two men did perform a simple classical piece which continually wowed audience members.

“I like the violinists. They were really unique,” said Kendra Thompson, one of the spectators of the show.

Closing the event was a woman who goes by the name of Ovachi, who did a sultry performance of classic R&B song “Let’s Do It Again” by the Staple Singers as well as singing 90’s hit “Call Tyrone” by Erykah Badu and Whitney Houston song “Saving All My Love for You”.

“I count it as a privilege to be invited and an honor to be asked for an encore,” Ovachi said of her performance.

Professor drafts passion for Dow Jones newspaper

By Tatiana Isis
Valencia Voice

Some would say that Professor Anne G. Whitt is one of those teachers that students will always remember. Professor Whitt is an English Composition I and II teacher at Valencia’s Osceola Campus. She has been teaching for most of her life—43 years as a high school teacher and 33 years as a college teacher. Although she has the credentials and experience to teach other subjects, she prefers teaching language arts, saying “I love writing most because when I teach someone to express ideas in writing, I have given that person a gift to help him or her in their life.”

But teaching isn’t Whitt’s only passion, she

spends her free time writing. She writes features and columns for the Dow Jones Newspaper and the Walsworth yearbooks. Her honors include JEA’s Distinguished Adviser of the Year and Pioneer Award and the Dow Jones Newspaper Fund Special Recognition Adviser.

Whitt also published her own community magazine right here in Orlando. The magazine was called “Park Live,” which Whitt began with her son a few years ago. Park Live was published every three months, for 18 months, and portrayed different people in their everyday lives, had a dog of the month feature, and articles in regards to the three areas which it served, amongst other things. Professor Whitt didn’t teach for that period of time as she focused her time and energy on her magazine.

Unfortunately, the magazine didn’t have enough funds to go on and released its last issue in August/September 2005. When asked about whether or not Whitt would make another magazine she replied, “If I had the money I would.” Whitt and her son now publish a bi-weekly newsletter that is aimed at the business community at Veranda Park. Along with business related articles, Whitt adds her personal touch with a recipe included in the newsletter.

Professor Whitt’s love for writing and skill for teaching has made her a great English Composition teacher. “Students have returned to tell me how much their lives have been improved since learning the writing skills.” Why not be one of those students?

Unaffiliated ranks 4th largest religious group

By Margaret Ramirez
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO—Many U.S. Roman Catholics and Protestants are leaving the churches of their childhood and either choosing other faiths or no religion at all, according to an extensive survey released Monday.

More than a quarter, or 28 percent, of American adults said they have left the faith in which they were raised, according to the Pew Forum on Religion & Public Life.

About 16 percent of Americans say they are not members of any religious group, making the “unaffiliated” group the fourth largest religious tradition in the United States, rivaling the number of members in mainline Protestant churches.

The three largest religious traditions are Protestant evangelicals at 26 percent, Catholics at 24 percent and mainline Protestants at 18 percent.

The Catholic Church has lost more members than any other religious group, the survey found, with about 10 percent of all Americans reporting they have left.

Those losses, however, largely have been

replaced by Catholic immigrants entering the country, Pew researchers said. As a result, the total percentage of the U.S. population that identifies as Catholic has remained fairly stable.

In a shift that could significantly alter the nation’s religious fabric, the study also found a sharp decline in American Protestantism—that “the United States is on the verge of becoming a minority Protestant country.”

The number of Americans who report they are members of Protestant denominations now stands at barely 51 percent. Moreover, that population is diverse and fragmented, encompassing hundreds of denominations. The three largest groups are evangelical churches, mainline churches and historically black Protestant churches.

“If these patterns persist, we are seeing that America is becoming a less Protestant and less Christian nation,” said John Green, senior fellow with the Pew forum.

Other major findings include:

The Midwest most closely resembles the religious makeup of the overall population. The South has the heaviest concentration of evangelical Protestants. The Northeast has the most

Catholics, and the West has the largest proportion of unaffiliated people, including atheists and agnostics.

Mormons and Muslims are the groups with the largest families; more than one in five Mormon adults and 15 percent of Muslim adults in the U.S. have three or more children living at home.

Of all the major racial and ethnic groups in the United States, black Americans are the most likely to report a formal religious affiliation. Even among unaffiliated blacks, three in four belong to a “religious unaffiliated” category—they say religion is either somewhat or very important in their lives. Slightly more than one-third of the unaffiliated population overall is in that category.

Hinduism exhibits the highest overall retention rate with 84 percent of adults who were raised as Hindus saying they were still Hindu.

Findings in the report came from a national survey of 35,000 adults conducted from May 8 to Aug. 13, 2007.

— MCT Campus

Opinion

Students take election into their hands

By Ashley Gonzalez
Valencia Voice

It is no doubt that on Nov. 4, 2008 hundreds of United States citizens will be rushing to the polls to elect our next president.

The next poll will be an interesting one indeed.

It is suspected by many that quite a few of those who are neglecting to vote or are not registered to will keep up, at least somewhat, with the upcoming election.

Out of the candidates running some of them will have characteristics that will be named as a first in the history of U.S. presidents thus far.

These include: a Hispanic, a Mormon, a woman, black person, a Vietnam war veteran, and an Italian.

Aside from those characteristics another topic of interest is the ongoing feud between some of the candidates.

Even those from the same political party verbally differ and battle over the most important subjects in which you would think they would agree.

For example, many Americans care about health care. It is one of the most important issues in the upcoming election.

This topic has always been one for debate and will continue to be.

Senators Obama and Clinton are currently at each other's throats when it comes to their differences in ideas for what the next step should be to improve health care.

Another topic of interest to many Americans is gay rights for gay men and lesbians.

The two most familiar parties (Democrats and Republicans) have been extremely divided over the subject over the past years.

With this particular subject it is not easy to say that republicans are against them and democrats are for them.

Valencia Voice asked students if they were registered to vote and if the upcoming election was important to them. Why or why not?



"I'm definitely registered to vote. It makes a difference."
— **Fay Jourieh**



"I'm not registered. I don't really think it makes a difference at all."
— **Allen Matthew**



"I'm not registered either. I couldn't. But if I could vote I would, for Hillary, I guess."
— **Alejandro Mesa**



"I'm registered. It's a good thing to be. It brings diversity to the election, especially because it's an historical event."
— **Brittney Nuckoles**



"I don't like any of the candidates that are running, but i'm registered."
— **Pamela Gust**



"I'm an international student so i'm not registered. If I could vote I definitely would."
— **Andrei Preguza**



"I'm not registered, I wasn't able to. If I could vote I would, maybe Clinton. It does make a difference."
— **Patrick Tas**



"I'm registered. No matter who wins it's going to be interesting to see what happens and if it'll be a turn for better or worse."
— **Breann Nuckoles**

Photos by Erica Teamer

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Corrections
The bottom photo on page 7 of Issue 5 was taken by Abigail J. Isham.
Page 3 of Issue 5 was designed by Sarah King.
Page 1 of Issue 5 was designed by Sarah King and Robert Navaille.
Page 10 of Issue 5 was compiled by Sarah King.
Two stories on page 14 of Issue 5 were not credited to MCT Campus.
Page 16 of Issue 5 was compiled by Sarah King.

Opinion

Our Position:
Evolution in classrooms

History was, in a small part, made this month as Florida’s Board of Education decided, after a 4-3 vote, to make it a requirement to teach the theory of evolution in Florida’s public schools.

The majority selected a last-minute compromise rather than the original document created by scientists and science teachers after months of work. That compromise, introduced late last week, inserts the phrase “the scientific theory of” in front of evolution and certain other concepts. For those of you living under a rock for the last 100 years, here is a brief summary as to what the theory of evolution entails:

Charles Darwin’s “On the Origin of Species” (published in 1859) is a seminal work in scientific literature and arguably the pivotal work in evolutionary biology. The book’s full title is “On the Origin of Species by Means of Natural Selection, or the Preservation of Fav-ored Races in the Struggle for Life,” while for the 6th edition of 1872 the title was changed to “The Origin of Species.”

This book introduced the theory that popu-lations evolve over the course of generations through a process of natural selection. Dar-win’s book was the culmination of evidence he had accumulated on the voyage of the Beagle in the 1830s and expanded through contin-uing investigations and experiments since his return.

The book is readable even for the non-spe-cialist or attracted widespread interest on publi-cation and was controversial because it contra-dicted religious beliefs that underlay the then current theories of biology, and it generated much discussion on scientific, philosophical, and religious grounds. The scientific theory of evolution has itself evolved since Darwin first presented it, but natural selection remains the most widely accepted scientific model of how species evolve; the at-times bitter creation-evo-lution controversy continues to this day.

Depending on where you stand on the con-

troversy, this issue seems rather pointless. For pro-evolution folks, the evidence found during the exploration of the Galapagos Island has so-lidified their beliefs. Whereas the pro-creation-ism people feel that faith, and the unexplained behind the process of life, far outweighs any “scientific evidence” that prevails.

A quick rundown of Intelligent Design/ Creationsim shows that, according to the AP, Intelligent Design is the assertion that certain features of the universe and of living things are best explained by an intelligent cause, not an undirected process such as natural selection. It is a modern form of the traditional teleological argument for the existence of God, modified to avoid specifying the nature or identity of the designer.

The catch? Both theories are neither right nor wrong. Which further proves the need for public schools to offer both theories in order to allow students to make up their own minds.

But there is another controversy inside the already controversial topic at hand: overzealous teachers who fall on one side of the fence or the other. What type of message does it send to impressionable young high school students when their instructor hammers home a point about how Intelligent Design (Creationism with a sprinkle of science on top) should sup-ersede all other theories of how life began on earth, or vice versa.

There should be a middle ground here, but the line between both seem blurred by each theory’s adherents.

In terms of public schools, Thomas Jef-ferson wrote in a letter that there should be a separation between church and state. That would leave little chance for the instruction of Intelligent Design in our classrooms. Howev-er, it would be a sign of our society becoming more adaptable, and open-minded to various cultures and beliefs, by allowing both theories equal opportunity to find purchase in the foot-hold of the educational process.

Evolution:
Times have changed

By Carlos Minet
Valencia Voice

How did we all come to be
In this world in which we live
How did we start all those years ago
What explanation can we give?

If you live in the state of Florida
This question has been ignored
But at last we’ve made a change
Like we’ve never made before

Now we teach evolution
In all the public schools
We’ve started giving options
And changing all the rules

Before we avoided the topic
Leaving people guessing in their minds
But now we teach something different
These are truly changing times

At last children can make up their minds
With decisions that should be theirs
As opposed as to all the years before
Where the options weren’t quite fair

Where teaching something like evolution
Was considered illegal and taboo
But now Darwin’s to be taught publicly
So there’s only one thing left to do

Stand aside America
For tomorrow we make things clear
in a new time in our history
For the time for change is here

Louis Coppola

The Pitt News



Hollywood:
Falling into decline

By Carlos Minet
Valencia Voice

Movies used to have integrity
They use to be short and sweet
Now they’re full of explosions
While people pay nine dollars for a seat

They sit down to see people do drugs
They watch like all the rest
As all the people in the audience
Drool over the nudity and sex

What happened to the meaning
The passion on the screen
The fornication in every movie
The car chases in every scene

It’s a shame that movies have come down to this
When they once were a form of art
Why can’t we go back to the beginning
Let’s go back to the start

When they used to be things for people to escape to
A refuge for those in need
People would go there once every few weeks
It was either that or read

So they’d go out to the cinema
With their loved ones that would cheer
But now a days we only see movies
To kill time until a beer

Let’s start making movies
Like they made back in the day
Where the words that were said would touch us
No matter what they’d say

A time where it was a privilege
To sit before the stage
Before the adult content in movies
Before you had to be of age

So let’s bring back real movies
The ones that were originals in the start
And remember what it was like to moved
When movies used to touch our hearts.

Opinion:
Hillary Clinton

By Jonathan Last
The Philadelphia Inquirer

For Hillary Rodham Clinton, February has been the cruelest month.

But it’s too early to crown Barack Obama king. After a strong showing on Super Tuesday, Clinton was faced with a four-week stretch of 10 contests that she had little chance of winning. Obama has won eight of them so far and could well run the table if he takes Wisconsin and Hawaii on Tuesday. His money advantage is growing, and he now holds a small but undisputed lead in both delegates and popular votes.

After Clinton’s New Hampshire victory, this state of affairs was not unexpected. The calendar favored Obama, giving him four weeks of open-field running, provided he could survive Super Tuesday. The Clinton campaign planned somewhat accordingly. But as a poet and boxer once said, “Everyone has a plan until they get punched in the face.”

Which is what has happened to Team Clinton. The question is: Can it recover, or will Obama build enough momentum to overwhelm her Texas and Ohio firewalls?

The Obama campaign has reason to be confident. It has a very good candidate. And it is entirely possible that his new front-runner status will help him break through with voting groups Clinton has been winning. Obama’s most encouraging result last week was his 8-point win among Hispanic voters in Virginia. (Hispanics made up only 5 percent of Democratic voters in the commonwealth, but it’s a good sign nonetheless.)

Obama isn’t unstoppable (yet), though, and an examination of his numbers points to some weaknesses.

First, there are the caucuses. Because of the energy of his supporters, Obama has been spectacularly successful in caucus states. He has been less successful in states with full-voting primaries.

Then there’s race. Let’s get the obligatory disclaimer out of the way: None of the following is meant as a value judgment, it is merely a simple observation of facts.

Obama is unbeatable in states where blacks make up a large part of Democratic voters because blacks have gone for him by staggering margins.

A few examples: In South Carolina, where blacks were 55 percent of the vote, Obama won them by a 59-point margin. Similarly for Georgia (51 percent; Obama won them by 77 points), Maryland (37 percent; Obama by 69 points), and Virginia (30 percent; Obama by 80 points). When a candidate can roll up margins of 60-plus points in a single segment that represents 30 percent to 50 percent of the vote, he is, as a mathematical matter, nearly invincible.

None of this is to say Obama cannot win white votes, too. His victories in quite-white Iowa, Minnesota and North Dakota all prove that. But those are caucus states and states with homogeneously white

populations. Obama has not been able to win consistently in (a) primary states with (b) racial makeups closer to the national average. His victories in Missouri and Connecticut are important because they show that he can win this type of primary. But regression analysis suggests race is a factor in these contests.

Here’s Duke poli-sci fellow Brendan Nyhan summing up the phenomenon: The theory is that “Obama’s race isn’t an issue in overwhelmingly white states because race isn’t salient there, whereas Obama can win in states with large black populations using a coalition built on black support. But in states with moderate black populations, race is sufficiently salient to reduce his vote totals among whites, and he can’t ride the black vote to victory in the same way as he does in more heavily black states. I’m not sure if that’s true, but the data are at least broadly consistent with the story.” Other academics and pollsters, including the indispensable Jay Cost of Real Clear politics, have noticed much the same.

Obama’s other major weakness has been with white voters making less than \$50,000 a year. Like Gary Hart, Bill Bradley and Howard Dean before him, Obama has been a big winner among wealthy, well-educated whites. He regularly wins wide margins among those with postgraduate degrees and those making more than \$100,000. Again, the calendar has helped him: In four of the last seven contests, the median income of white voters has been more than \$50,000.

If you’re in the Clinton campaign, you can survey all this and cling to four facts: (1) Only two caucuses remain, in Hawaii and Wyoming. (2) Blacks make up an outsized part of the vote in only two more states, Mississippi and North Carolina. (3) Only a handful of small, racially homogeneous states are left on the board (Montana, Vermont, South Dakota, Oregon, Wyoming). The rest of the states on the schedule look “more like America,” to borrow a phrase. (4) Perhaps most important, none of the remaining 16 states has a median white income of more than \$46,000.

If she can weather the February storms and win Texas and Ohio (and perhaps even Rhode Island) on March 4, Clinton will be within a couple of dozen delegates of Obama. But March 4 holds a binary result for her: Lose and the campaign is over; win and she goes to Kentucky, West Virginia, Indiana and Pennsylvania in a very strong position. It’s the lady or the tiger.

Clinton and Obama could well head to the convention in a dead heat. If so, Clinton would have the momentum and the unseated delegates from Michigan and Florida in her back pocket. At that point, we could see all manner of mischief.

Of course, it’s also possible that February’s victories have given Obama a breakthrough with Clinton’s coalition that he will be able to exploit on March 4. Stay tuned.

Global warming to accelerate plant, animal extinction

By Renee Schoof
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON—What's likely to happen if the world does nothing to combat global warming? The answer from the Nobel Prize-winning Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change was jaw-dropping: More than 40 percent of known plant and animal species could become extinct by the end of this century.

Many scientists who've been studying climate change say extinctions aren't inevitable if the world greatly reduces its dependence on oil, coal and natural gas. As daunting as the warning signs and projections are, there's still

time to fend off the worst, they say. But they also warn that "business as usual" would bring devastating changes in the decades ahead.

"We're locked into a different planet, but we can still make it a planet similar to what we have known," said Lara Hansen, an ecologist who's the chief climate-change scientist at the World Wildlife Fund. The Arctic Ocean will be ice free in the summer in a few years, "but we're not locked into the Arctic being ice-free year round, or Greenland melting."

Last month, 600 scientists wrote to Congress saying that it's time to act.

Some paleontologists have suggested that the world already is witnessing a sixth mass

extinction, after five others known from the fossil record. The fifth was the end of the dinosaurs and some 70 percent of other species 65 million years ago. Some of the projections of a do-nothing trend on global warming suggest that 70 percent of all living things could become extinct again.

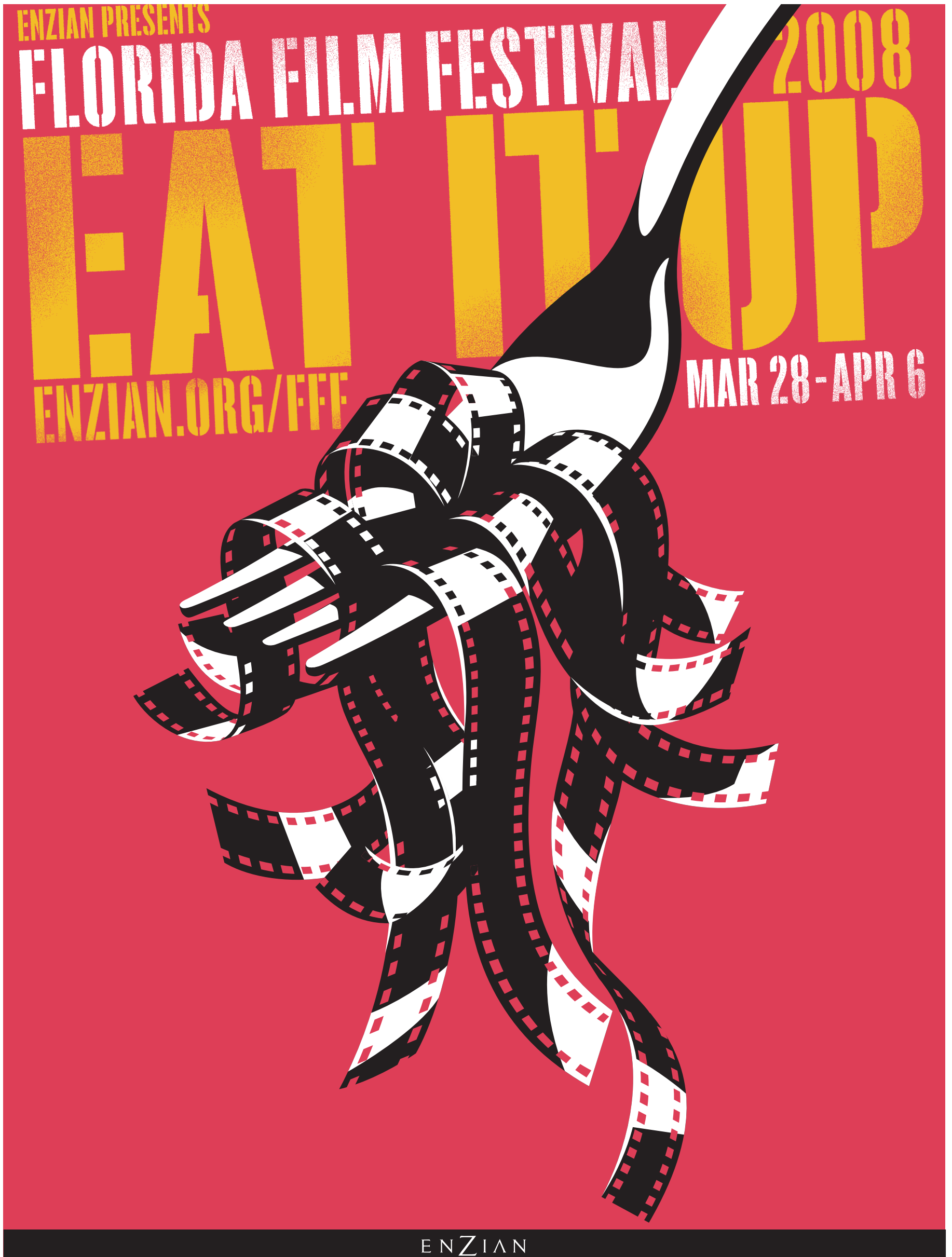
Douglas Inkley, a senior science adviser at the National Wildlife Federation, said it was impossible to say precisely what percentage of the Earth's plants and animals would be at risk, but that there was no question about the seriousness of the risk from such a large and rapid change to the climate.

"It is clear that the extent we can address

climate change by reducing global-warming pollution will reduce the worst-case scenarios of species becoming extinct," he said.

The World Conservation Union says that the rapid loss of species today is 1,000 to 10,000 times higher than the natural rate of species loss over the past millions of years. The causes of the current threat go back through human history: habitat destruction for development and agriculture, overexploitation, diseases and invasions of alien species. Climate change adds to the pressure on vulnerable species.

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Small SUV, enormous success

By Steven Cole Smith
The Orlando Sentinel

The Acura RDX enters its second year with no major changes from 2007, and no change whatsoever in its marketing mandate: Attract customers who would prefer a sports sedan, but for whatever reason, are compelled to buy a sport utility vehicle.

This is essentially the same marching order given the BMW X3, which is more expensive than the Acura RDX, and the Mazda CX-7, which is much cheaper. Of the three, the Mazda makes the most sense, and has been rewarded with the best sales record. This is not to say the RDX isn't a delightful, very successful vehicle, but at the as-tested price of \$37,410 — ouch.

Aside from the price, it's hard to find anything not to like about the RDX. The 2.3-liter four-cylinder engine, the first time a turbocharged power plant has been offered here by Acura, has solid, linear acceleration, and it's well-matched to the five-speed automatic transmission, which can be manually shifted via paddles on the steering wheel. The RDX's ride may be more firm than some SUV customers would want, but that's the small price you pay for comparatively crisp handling. Steering is communicative, brakes are excellent, and with Acura's sophisticated, transparent all-wheel-drive system, the RDX is pleasantly sure-footed. It is not, however, an off-roader.

Inside, this is undeniably a premium vehicle, with nice trim, leather upholstery



Handout / MCT Campus

The 2008 Acura RDX offers power and luxury, however, they do come at a price.

and a handsome — if slightly trendy — instrument and control layout. In keeping with Acura's sales policies, the RDX comes in only two versions: The base model, and the base model with the added technology package. There are no other options: You either get the tech package or you don't, and aside from that choice, just pick a color.

The test RDX had the technology package, which bumps the base price of \$33,195 to \$36,695, or \$37,410 with shipping. The tech package adds an upgraded 10-speaker, 410-watt sound system, a

voice-activated navigation system with constantly updated "real time" traffic information, a rearview camera and Bluetooth connectivity. Acura's nav system is one of the best, and the traffic info was helpful during heavy congestion.

The RDX is well-equipped, with side and side-curtain air bags, stability control, a power moon roof and pretty much every other feature you'd expect. This is a five-passenger SUV; no third-row seat, though five adults can fit reasonably well, four very well.

The RDX may be too nice, as more than

\$37,000 for a four-cylinder SUV seems extravagant. The Mazda CX-7, with more horsepower, sells for at least \$4,000 less with comparable equipment. And while the RDX is certainly handsome, nothing about its profile suggests it costs \$11,000 more than, say, a Nissan Rogue.

Happy RDX customers are those who appreciate its features, its performance, its Honda durability, and are willing to pay extra. Acura just wishes there were more of them.

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Photo by Ken Love, Akron Beacon Journal / MCT
Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) speaks to supporters during a campaign stop at the John S. Knight Center, Saturday, February 23, 2008, in Akron, Ohio.

Presidential race tightens

Continued from Page 1

agree with her more," Obama said. "It's not a choice between speeches and solutions; it's a choice between a politics that offers more of the same divisions and distractions that didn't work in South Carolina and didn't work in Wisconsin and will not work in Texas, or a new politics of common sense, of common purpose, of shared sacrifice and shared prosperity."

Speaking to supporters earlier this week during an event at Hunter College in New York, Clinton said she would continue to present herself as someone who has the experience to provide solutions and not just give a good speech.

"Americans have a choice to make in this election, and that choice matters," she said. "It's about picking a president who relies not just on words but on work, on hard work, to

get America back to work, to get America working again for all of our people."

With the race tightening on both sides of the political spectrum, the personal and political attacks are sure to only intensify.

McCain, who is seeking to portray Obama as too inexperienced to step into the role of commander in chief, was referring to comments by Obama that the United States must be willing to strike Al-Qaeda targets near Pakistan's northwest border that President Pervez Musharraf has proved unable to control.

Susan Rice, a foreign policy adviser to Obama, responded that McCain was seriously distorting Obama's words. In a speech last summer at the Woodrow Wilson International Center in Washington, Obama said that if elected president, he would act if he had information that terrorists were in the border area of Pakistan, thought to be a hiding place for Osama bin Laden.

Literary great visits Valencia

Continued from Page 1

Jared Silvia possessed a witty and stylish tongue that mocked those of characters in Woody Allen movies. Silvia an English major, announced that he has had various short stories published before he read his first fiction piece, "Interview." The character in "Interview" appeared to be his alter ego, just like famed novelist and poet Charles Bukowski had Henry Chinaski. "Interview" was a highly amusing story about the struggles of unemployment, and ironically trying to fill the void with working at the unemployment office.

Carmelo Spatazza and Rochelle Davis both finalized the hour for the student poets with their poems and short stories about the awkwardness of growing up and initial feelings of falling in love.

Around 2:00 p.m., Communications professor Linda Anthon announced that it was time for the faculty and local poets to have the spotlight. The faculty and local poets ranged from Ilyse Kusnetz, a freelance art journalist, to Darlyn Finch, a former Kerouac Artist in Residence.

Finch is currently a student at Rollins College and has had an assortment of her pieces published in the Orlando Sentinel. Before indulging the audience with her poems she encouraged them to check out the Jack Kerouac Residence Project of Orlando, where she wrote her first poetry book and met her first "true" love.

Finch noted that she would do her "death and dying poems" first; she started off with "Chris's Shoes", a poem about a young boy becoming unrecognizably mangled by a car. Finch's delicate voice graciously haunted the atmosphere of the auditorium with her tear-jerking poem about ending a marriage after 27 years, "Daddy's Pajamas." She followed her melancholy path with "Mirror, Mirror", in which she stated, "this one is for the ladies in a society focused on external beauty." Perhaps one of the most uplifting and brilliantly written poems of the afternoon was Finch's poem for a young gay couples mother, "Mothers of the Brides Together."

After being introduced by the President of

Valencia Dr. Sanford Shugart, Billy Collins ran up on stage and asked the audience to "give another round of applause for the talented people of Orlando." When Collins arrived on stage at nearly 3:30 p.m., the crowd that had grown to nearly 200 people chaotically applauded the renowned poet.

Before he started his readings, he accepted that fact that it was becoming late in the afternoon and "hoped that the poetry tolerance has not been exceeded." His first poem, "Monday" was humorously about the habitual behavior of poets. Collins poignant voice resembled that of actor Kevin Spacey, as he caused a sharp sense of sadness, pity and regret with one of his newest poems about the moment of crashes, "Ballistics."

Collins introduced more recent poems that he said, "do nothing but react to their own title, as if the poem was curious to why they were named that." He recited two of those poems, "Hippos on Holiday" and "Bathtub Families" which both invigorated the audience with their vibrant sense of wit.

Near the end of the afternoon, Collins politely took a couple minutes to remember Jack Kerouac. Collins stated that he was 16 when "On The Road" was first published and was "so taken by the freedom, and struck by the wildness of it." He said he loved the idea of "taking pills, playing bongos, and hanging out with chicks," and that the book "opened up the consumption of American space" for him.

Collins noted that alongside the fact that "On the Road" had a "tremendous effect" on him, he had another connection with Kerouac. Collins father was also born in same town of Lowell, Massachusetts. He laughed and commented on his fathers' birth in the same town as Kerouac as being equivalent to "Britney Spears and Einstein being born on the same day," "so much for astrology," he joked.

Collins joked that he would "read one more poem before it turns midnight" before ending with "Night Club." "Night Club", inspired by legendary musician Johnny Hartman, was the perfect finale for the afternoon before everyone feverishly rushed into line to receive Collins autograph.

Oscars head overseas

Continued from Page 1

porting actor for "No Country for Old Men," and Scotland's Tilda Swinton won best supporting actress for "Michael Clayton." Many of the evening's lesser awards -- for art direction, makeup, costume design and animated short among them -- went to non-American filmmakers and designers.

"Hollywood is built on Europeans! Go back and look," Swinton said backstage after her triumph. "I'm really sad I couldn't give a speech in Gaelic."

After he won his supporting actor Oscar, Canary Islands-born Bardem gave a shout-out to his actress mother -- in Spanish. Backstage, he fielded questions in Spanish for eight minutes.

It wasn't just foreign accents, and foreign-language acceptance speeches, that set many of the evening's winners apart: the big winners all have distinctive creative voices, too. While quite a few of the victors were hardly household names, almost all of the Oscar recipients are known by film lovers for their fierce determination to invent singular work not typically embraced by the studios. Day-Lewis, who won a best actor Oscar for "My Left Foot" in 1989, and is very selective about his acting jobs. In fact, he once took a hiatus from acting to become a shoemaker.

Joel and Ethan Coen won not only the best picture honor for co-producing "No Country for Old Men" with Scott Rudin, but also took home Oscars for directing the film and adapting Cormac McCarthy's gothic crime novel. In accepting their shared directing prize, Joel Coen said he and his brother were not making movies all that differently from when they were kids in the 1960s shooting with a Super 8 camera. "We're very thankful to all of you out there for letting us continue to play in our corner of the sandbox," Joel Coen said.

In perhaps the victory that captured the tenor of the night most fittingly, "Falling Slowly" was honored as the best original song. The tiny love ballad comes from the equally small Irish film "Once," and defeated three flashy songs from the Disney musical blockbuster "Enchanted."

"This is such a big deal, not only for us, but for all other independent musicians and artists that spend most of their time struggling," the song's co-writer and the film's co-star, the Czech Republic's Marketa Irglova, said returning to the stage of the Kodak Theatre, after she was inadvertently played off by the orchestra before she had a chance to speak. "This song was written

from a perspective of hope, and hope at the end of the day connects us all, no matter how different we are."

Given that Hollywood was recently torn apart -- and the Oscar broadcast nearly eviscerated -- by a nasty internecine labor strike, it was appropriate that a wealth of awards acclamation would be showered on so many people working beyond the town's customary orbits. The best original screenplay statue was presented to "Juno's" Diablo Cody, a former stripper and peep show worker who made her writing debut on the movie about a precocious and pregnant teen.

"It's a great year for extraordinary films," the film's director, Jason Reitman, said after the show. "It's a great year for unique films. Nothing felt popular or included because it was popular."

The Paris-born Cotillard, who played Edith Piaf in "La Vie En Rose," won the best actress honor against the favorite, swinging London survivor Julie Christie. "It is true, there is some angels in this city," Cotillard said in fractured English in collecting her award.

The show began with an Anglo-French rout: Costume design went to the British team behind "Elizabeth: The Golden Age." Makeup went French as well, to the couple responsible for aging Cotillard from youth to her middle-age death in "La Vie En Rose." Visual effects was the mostly British team behind "The Golden Compass."

Art direction was a double whammy, going to two Italians who'd worked on "Sweeney Todd: The Demon Barber of Fleet Street" with a mostly British cast and crew.

Philippe Pollet-Villard, director of "Le Mozart Des Pickpockets (The Mozart Of Pickpockets)," which won for live action short, kicked off his acceptance speech with, "I don't really speak English." The best animated short, "Peter and the Wolf," was British and Polish. As the night wore on, the awards became slightly more American -- culminating in the documentary awards presentation by the all-American Tom Hanks with U.S. soldiers abroad.

Even though it was produced by the very American Disney and Pixar, the animated feature trophy went to "Ratatouille" -- you know, the movie about the French rat.

Times staff writers Scott Timberg, Geoff Boucher, Chris Lee and Robert W. Welkos contributed to this report.

— Los Angeles Times



Mindy Schauer, Orange County Register / MCT
Ethan Coen and Joel Coen (right) accept the Oscar for Best Director for the film "No Country for Old Men" during the 80th annual Academy Awards at the Kodak Theatre in Hollywood, California, Sunday, February 24, 2008.

Lens proteins provide accurate birth record

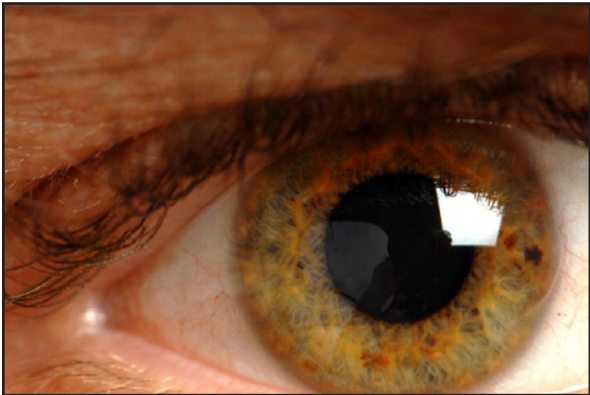
By Thomas H. Maugh II
Los Angeles Times

Radioactive carbon-14 trapped in the lens of the eye permits researchers to accurately date the year of a person's birth, according to Danish scientists.

The lens contains proteins called "lens crystallines" that are transparent, allowing light to pass through to the retina. These proteins are produced during the first year of life and are unchanged afterward, providing a unique record of the time of birth.

The only other bodily proteins that remain unchanged are those in the enamel of teeth, but they are formed over a five- to six-year period and are less useful in dating.

The key to the dating process is the incorporation into the crystallines of carbon-14, which is found in all the food a person con-



Close up of a male iris and pupil covered by the glossy lens.
Photo by Eric Hood

sumes. The Earth's atmosphere normally has a fairly constant level of carbon-14: It decays into nitrogen-14 with a half-life of 5,730 years

but is constantly replenished by the interaction of cosmic rays with nitrogen-14.

Because it is taken up by plants, all living organisms have a concentration of carbon-14 equal to that in the atmosphere. When the organism dies, the isotope decays slowly until none of it is left -- the phenomenon that is used for radiocarbon dating of archaeological artifacts.

Because of atmospheric testing of nuclear bombs between 1945 and 1960, the atmosphere received a sharp spike of carbon-14, commonly called the "bomb pulse," that has been declining to normal levels as excess carbon-14 has been absorbed into the ocean. The yearly amount of

carbon-14 has been carefully monitored and is well known.

Forensic medicine specialist Niels Lynnerup of the University of Copenhagen and physicist Henrik Kjeldsen of Aarhus University in Denmark reported Tuesday in the online journal PLoS One that measuring the amount of carbon-14 in the lenses of 13 corpses using a large nuclear particle accelerator provided the year of birth.

The primary restrictions on the technology are that the person has to have been born after 1950, the lens must be removed within three days after death before it decays too much and the individual cannot have subsisted primarily on seafood, which raises the readings.

— MCT Campus

Mutating bird flu may lead to pandemic

By Robert S. Boyd
McClatchy Newspaper

WASHINGTON—Like the rumble of distant thunder, bird flu continues to spread across Asia, Africa and Europe. Although it's been out of the news lately in the United States, scientists say that avian influenza, as it's also known, remains a serious threat to human and animal health.

The lethal H5N1 version of the virus is mutating rapidly and rampaging through bird flocks throughout those parts of the world, infecting and often killing people who come in contact with them.

The fear is that the virus will change into a form that makes human-to-human transmission quick and easy. At least seven slightly different subtypes already have been identified.

"New genes are being formed all the time," said Henry Niman, a molecular geneticist who tracks bird flu outbreaks around the world.

Although H5N1 hasn't reached the Western Hemisphere, Joseph Domenech, the chief veterinary officer for the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, warned last month that it "could still trigger a human influenza pandemic." A pandemic

is a worldwide outbreak such as the 1918 Spanish flu, which killed tens of millions of people in the United States and Europe.

The virus "continues to cause human disease with high mortality and to pose the threat of a pandemic," the latest situation report from the World Health Organization says.

As of Wednesday, bird flu had infected 362 people and killed 228 of them in 14 countries in Asia, Africa and Europe.

In the last year, the WHO confirmed 98 new human cases, including 69 deaths, an alarming 70 percent death rate. It was the second worst year for bird flu, topped only by 2006, when 115 cases and 79 deaths (69 percent) were reported.

Since the major outbreak in China in 2003, the virus has killed millions of chickens, ducks and geese along with pigs, cats and other mammals in some 50 countries.

Almost all the people who've been infected caught the disease from close contact with domestic poultry and occasionally from wild ducks, geese or swans. In a handful of cases, scientists think the virus passed from one human to another, usually among relatives or people living close together.

"So far the spread of H5N1 from person to person has been very

rare," the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported.

For example, eight family members in Indonesia caught the disease in 2005, and all but one of them died. A pregnant Chinese woman passed the virus to her 4-month-old fetus last fall. Both died. Four brothers in Pakistan were infected last winter, and two of them died.

"It's pretty clear that was a case of human-to-human transmission," said Niman, founder of Recombinomics, a genetics research firm in Pittsburgh.

Multiple teams of researchers are studying the details of how the virus performs its deadly work. They hope that their findings will lead to better vaccines to limit or prevent infection, but the problem is difficult.

"The rate of evolution makes it hard to make a vaccine. There are a lot of moving parts," Niman said.

Vaccines such as Tamiflu that are used for common seasonal flu offer partial but not complete protection from H5N1. Furthermore, the virus already is developing resistance to these vaccines.

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‘Vantage’ leaves viewers lost

By **Jordan Keyes**
Valencia Voice

“Vantage Point” is a thriller that follows eight people who witness an assassination and the ensuing chaos. Unfortunately, the hectic and divided nature of the movie leaves the viewer feeling like eight is way more than enough.

The film is about an attempted presidential assassination/terrorist attack as shown from the different viewpoints of eight characters at a Counter-terrorism Summit in Spain. With big names like Academy Award winner Forest Whitaker and William Hurt along with Dennis Quaid, Sigourney Weaver, and *Lost*’s Matthew Fox, it seemed destined to be a hit. Too bad the film’s narrative style is so fractured that very few of these heavy-hitters get the chance to really shine.

Each of their stories is told one after the other with an annoying rewind effect that is used as a transition between each point-of-view shift; this makes for an hour of set-up before the story actually gets going. Each shift reveals a little more about the plot, but the repetition becomes tedious after the third “rewind.”

With these shifts in story line happening every 15 minutes or so, it becomes very hard to care about any of the characters, with the exception of Whitaker’s character, Howard. This is not so much the fault of the story, but in the way the story is told. The plot is chock-full of twists that keep you guessing, but it just takes too long to get to them.

The top-notch ensemble cast did a very good job of making the best of the story line. Quaid’s admirable performance as a troubled Secret Service veteran, while not particularly impressive, was strong enough

to carry the majority of the movie; it is becoming apparent that he has the gruff-yet-approachable tough guy act down to a science and it is great to watch.

Whitaker displayed his ability to stand out in any situation as he took one of the, arguably, less important characters and imbued him with a depth and emotion that is lacking in the rest of the film. It is unfortunate that he has so little “real” screen time (we see him frequently from other viewpoints, but not for very long).

Fox was good, but not great. One would think he should thrive in a story filled with plot twists and frequent flashbacks (see “Lost”), but his performance is not much to speak of. Aside from the stars in the cast, there are several commendable performances by Spanish and Arabic actors including Eduardo Noriega as Enrique, a Spanish cop under suspicion, and Ayelet Zurer, his mysterious partner.

As far as excitement goes, the movie has its moments of glory. It starts off with a bang and ends with a great car chase, but the middle is lacking. When the action was happening, the cinematography took cues from other similar thrillers, using shaky, in-your-face camera work, reminiscent of films like “The Bourne Identity,” that allowed the viewer to get into the film without becoming too disconnected from the overall plot.

This film had so much potential, but while the idea was great, the execution did not match up. As far as thrillers go, this film had all the right elements: political intrigue, explosions, car chases, etc. They just did not connect into a unifying whole. My recommendation: skip seeing this in theaters and rent it. That way, you can fast-forward through the “rewinds” whenever you get that deja vu feeling.



Secret service agents, Thomas Barnes (Dennis Quaid) and Kent Taylor (Matthew Fox) pour over footage from American tourist, Howard Lewis’ (Forest Whitaker) camcorder.



Jerry (Jack Black) and Mike (Mos Def) happily begin recreating of one of many films erased by Jerry’s recently magnetized brain.

‘Be Kind’ provides cheap thrills

By **Kevin Norris**
Valencia Voice

When director Michel Gondry teamed up with writer Charlie Kaufman he was able to pull off an offbeat feature like 2004’s “Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind.” “Eternal Sunshine” was a film that plunged its audience into a rabbit hole of love and emotional twists. But when Gondry was abandoned by Kaufman and wrote the script for his last film, the ambitious “Science of Sleep,” he failed miserably. Once again without the cleverness of Kaufman, Gondry’s latest “Be Kind Rewind” is one of the most frustrating and annoying films of all time.

“Be Kind Rewind” is set in the dreary town of Passaic, New Jersey where Mike (Mos Def) and Jerry (Jack Black) find themselves in a great deal of trouble after the zany Jerry accidentally erases every VHS movie in Mike’s store when his brain becomes magnetized after he is zapped by an electromagnetic force while trying to sabotage a power plant.

The duo frantically come up with the idea to re-shoot all the movies that have been erased and rent them to unsuspecting customers. The first movie they recreate, “Ghostbusters,” is rented out to the scatterbrained Miss Falewicz, who is horrendously played by Mia Farrow. After the immediate success of “Ghostbusters,” they are asked to “swed” (term used in the film to describe shooting makeshift movies) more well know movies, “Rush Hour 2,” “2001: A Space Odyssey,” and “Driving Miss Daisy,” by the quirky locals of Passaic. Not only do the people of Passaic not mind watching their sometimes-comical renditions of the movies, they fall in love with them. This ultimately helps rejuvenate the failing VHS store, owned by Mr. Fletcher (Danny Glover), a lover

of jazz legend Fats Waller. By the end of the film, the entire community of the once lifeless Passaic comes together for the cinematic equivalent of a group hug.

“Be Kind Rewind” could have been an amusing satire about pop culture, but instead fails miserably in all the elements of film-making. Despite the fact that it is often too fluffy and sentimental, the movie falls short in its attempt to be nostalgic to a prehistoric time when VHS tapes were used. The suggestion that the film takes place in modern time rather than in the 20th century makes the notion of a video-only store seem slightly archaic.

Unlike “Eternal Sunshine,” a film in which Gondry actually succeeded in his quest for real poignancy, “Be Kind Rewind” finds itself in the same childish, struggling to be uncanny category of “The Science of Sleep.” Instead of remembering to rewind, be kind to your intelligence and do not waste a single brain cell or 10 dollars on this atrocious excuse for a movie.



Mike (Mos Def) imitates jazz legend Fats Waller to the delight of the Passaic locals.

Latest from Nintendo offers fresh take on brainteasers

By **Ashley McBride**
Valencia Voice

Who do you call when you have puzzles that need to be solved? Professor Layton, of course! The Nintendo DS game, “Professor Layton and the Curious Village,” opens with a stunning cinematic about the Professor and his apprentice, Luke, who are off to settle what seems to be an inheritance dispute; their real motive is to find the Reinhold family treasure, “The Golden Apple.”

In Baron Reinhold’s will, he reveals, “To whomever successfully locates this treasure, I offer the whole of my estate.” Lady Dahlia, who has requested Layton’s help, smugly reminds him that “a true gentleman never refuses the request of a beautiful lady.”

Professor Layton and Luke are both played by British voice actors with amazing talent. The first puzzle comes in figuring out which village is St. Mystere, where they will speak with Lady Dahlia. In the town of St. Mystere, people live for puzzles; the townsfolk can not even get through a conversation without present-

ing a puzzle in need of solving.

What is interesting, as well, is that the gamer plays as both the Professor Layton and Luke, and both characters are given opportunities to solve puzzles.

Created by Japanese puzzle guru Professor Emeritus Akira Tago, these puzzles are not for the impatient, as some of them are quite taxing on the brain and range in difficulty from the easy to next to impossible. Unfortunately, there is no “easy” button, but players may use hint coins, which are found throughout the village and offer hints to help solve puzzles.

After using up the last of the three coins that the game allows, however, I was no closer to solving a particularly difficult puzzle.

Some of the questions only give the player an A or B option, whereas some of them require some critical thinking. The puzzles pop up with the descriptions on the top screen, while the puzzles themselves are on the touch screen.

Many of the puzzles are simply trick questions; one that left me stumped for the longest time asked, “Mice are famous for their ability to multiply at breakneck

speeds. The type of mouse we have here gives birth once a month, birthing 12 babies each time. Baby mice mature and can give birth two months after they are born. You picked up one of these darling baby mice at the pet shop and brought it home the day after it was born. In 10 months from now, how many mice will you have?”

Sometimes while doing one of these puzzles you may find yourself searching for a pencil and paper, to figure the puzzle out by writing it down. The brilliance of the game is in the fact that it offers entertainment that encourages thought.

Going back to the original treasure hunt for the Golden Apple, the actual game has a good story line; upon arriving to speak with Lady Dahlia, a loud noise erupts and Lady Dahlia’s cat Claudia runs off. Of course, Professor Layton and Luke set off to find her. From there, the story continues to build, escalating into a murder investigation.

It turns out that there is a serial killer in St. Mystere and only the puzzle master, Professor Layton, and his apprentice Luke can solve it. Along the way, you will find many puzzles hidden in the scenery,

as are the hint coins, but you will also discover painting scraps and items that you can sort into either Professor Layton’s or Luke’s room.

After you have solved a puzzle you can go back into the menu screen and replay them. Many of them are multiple choice, or along those lines, and after you have solved it one time, you have no use for them, except to share with a friend and watch their brow furrow as they try to figure it out.

The appeal of the game exists in the satisfaction of finally solving one of Layton’s puzzles and, like the recent Sudoku and Kakuru crazes that have swept the nation, is evidence that people still really enjoy them.

The game play can be very slow if you get stuck on a tricky puzzle, but the cinematic scenes are done beautifully. The melodic voices of the characters seduce you into the game and the voice actors should have been used more.

If you like puzzles, give this game a try, however, if puzzles infuriate you, then this game probably is not for you and with that in mind, flip open your DS and enter the world of “Professor Layton and the Cur-

Florida schools offer alternatives to evolution

By Leslie Postal and Aaron Deslatte
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. — A bitter debate over how to teach evolution in Florida’s public schools ended — at least temporarily — with a compromise Tuesday. A divided state Board of Education voted 4-3 in Tallahassee to adopt new science standards that for the first time require teaching evolution. The majority selected a last-minute alternative rather than the original document created by scientists and science teachers after months of work.

That compromise, introduced late last week, inserts the phrase “the scientific theory of” in front of evolution and certain other concepts.

Opponents, who disliked both options, now

plan to shift their fight to the state Legislature.

John Stemberger, an Orlando lawyer and president of the Florida Family Policy Council, said after the vote that social conservatives hope to convince lawmakers to pass protections for teachers who offer alternatives to evolution in the classroom. Such Academic Freedom proposals have been debated in Florida and other states for years.

Stemberger called the final revision a “meaningless and impotent change.”

“It’s an attempt to placate the public, but it does nothing with the real problem,” he said, “which is school teachers don’t have a . . . line to know they’re protected, if they present scientific evidence that supports contradictory theories.”

The adopted version, like the original,

spells out for the first time that evolution must be taught in schools as the “fundamental concept underlying all of biology,” and one that it is “supported by multiple forms of scientific evidence.”

Board member Roberto Martinez favored the original and voted against the “scientific theory” wording, saying it was a diluted version meant to appease evolution opponents who want religious beliefs taught, too.

“Our responsibility is to approve the best science standards,” Martinez said, “and we didn’t do that today.”

Board member Kathleen Shanahan, who voted with the majority, disagreed. “I don’t think that it’s at all watered down. It’s qualified in terms of scientific theory.”

Board member Donna Callaway also voted

“no,” but not for the same reasons as Martinez.

She said neither version allowed teachers to discuss other ideas about how life developed on Earth, in effect shielding students from the type of debate the board heard in the Capitol on Tuesday morning.

“I believe in teaching evolution with all its blips, all its warts, all its blemishes,” Callaway said. “But leave the doorway open for people, teachers and kids who want to explore whether they accept that whether they have another theory.”

On the dais, Callaway and Martinez had the most pointed exchange, with Martinez calling evolution a “fundamental fact” and Callaway retorting, “This is a point of debate.”

— MCT Campus



Join us

as we raise our glasses
in support of learning



Valencia Foundation invites colleagues, alumni and friends of Valencia Community College to our annual international wine sampling and auction. This year guests can sample fine wines donated by more than 100 vintners from around the world.

The evening will include a silent auction with hundreds of selections, including spa treatments, trips to exotic locations, gift certificates to local restaurants and attractions and, of course, wine. Also, Valencia will present its prestigious 40th Anniversary Award to 40 recipients, 10 from each decade, for the distinction they have brought to the college.

Please join us in helping deserving students - 100% of sponsor, ticket and auction receipts will go directly to Valencia scholarships.

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- McCree Construction
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- HHCP
Helman Hurley Charvat
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Valencia
FOUNDATION

\$125 per person, \$200 per couple
Call 407-582-3150 for details

Saturday, April 12, 2008
7 to 10 p.m.
Rosen Shingle Creek
9939 Universal Boulevard, Orlando

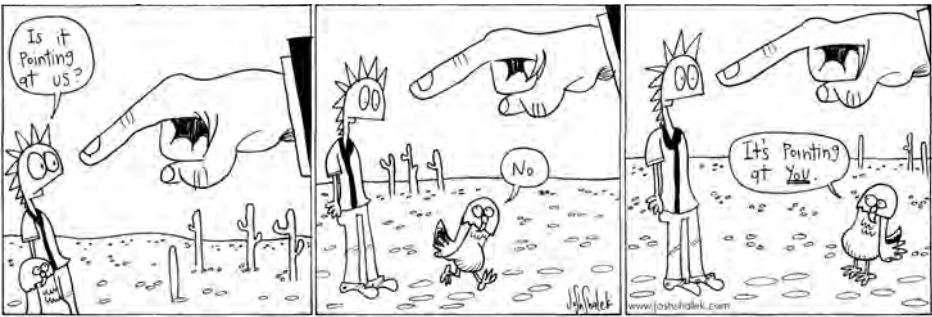
www.VALENCIA.ORG

Comics and Games

Brothers Watt by William Wilson



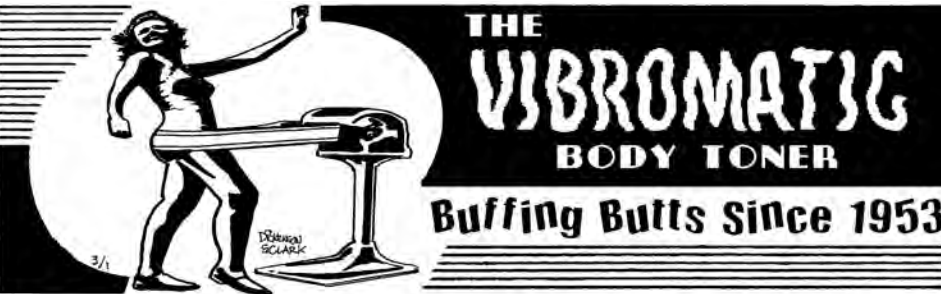
Welcome to Falling Rock National Park by Kid Shay



Dream Nation by Louis Coppola



Retro Geek by Dickenson & Clarke



Paul by Billy O'Keefe



Sudoku

	6	8			3		
1				3			8
			9		5		
7		6			9		3
	1					2	
5			1		9		7
			7		3		
8				9			2
		9			5	7	

Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Type of pear
 - 5 Neutral vowel sound
 - 10 Wound locator?
 - 14 Melville novel
 - 15 Braid
 - 16 Was a passenger
 - 17 Serving dishes
 - 19 Actor Sharif
 - 20 Tied
 - 21 Teachers' org.
 - 23 Woods' org.
 - 24 Unreturnable serve
 - 25 Vegetable color?
 - 27 Domestic worker
 - 30 Standard on the links
 - 31 Biddy
 - 32 Beholden
 - 35 Hussein of Iraq
 - 38 Astral
 - 39 Part of ICBM
 - 40 Detection device
 - 41 Flipped out
 - 42 As well
 - 43 Cub quarters
 - 44 Writer Oz
 - 45 Maternity confinement
 - 48 Once around the track
 - 50 One with two left feet
 - 51 Actor Brynner
 - 52 Primitive wind instrument
 - 56 Melange
 - 58 So they say
 - 60 Hammer part
 - 61 Belle or Bart
 - 62 Butt
 - 63 Newbie
 - 64 Cantankerous
 - 65 Surfeit
- DOWN
- 1 Beer choice
 - 2 Eastern sultanate
 - 3 Eh!
 - 4 Gibraltar's neighbor
 - 5 Spending frenzy
 - 6 Earth lump
 - 7 Actor Linden
 - 8 Stadium snack
 - 9 Bewildered
 - 10 Sellout letters
 - 11 Complete summary
 - 12 Proverb
 - 13 Played again
 - 18 & so on & so forth
 - 22 Struck by shock
 - 25 Tablet
 - 26 Gulf of Mexico food fish
 - 27 Not hit
 - 28 First of the pot
 - 29 Spotter
 - 30 Part of mph
 - 33 "Sunday, ___ Sunday"
 - 34 Pipe buildup
 - 35 Commandment breakage
 - 36 Chorus voice
 - 37 Jumble
 - 39 Stag attendees
 - 41 Get married

1	2	3	4		5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13
14					15						16			
17				18							19			
20							21		22		23			
			24				25				26			
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		42				43					44			
45	46				47			48	49					
50				51			52				53	54	55	
56			57		58	59								
60					61					62				
63					64					65				

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Solutions

E	L	V	S	A	L	S	E	L	O	R	A	L		
H	V	E	R	H	V	L	S	N	E	E	P			
A	T	D	E	L	O	P	E	H	O	I	T	O		
E	P	I	D	N	A	P		T	N	A	F	V	O	
S	O	W	A		N	E	D	O	O	L				
S	L	N	N	L	N	E	M	H	O	S	N	E	S	
E	T	I	S	S	I	M		H	V	T	T	E	L	S
W	A	D	D	V	S	O	E	L	B	E	D	N	I	
N	E	E	H	G	A	E	P	E	C	V				
V	G	P												
H	V	W	O		S	E	T	O	H	E	S	S	V	O
E	O	R												
H	A	C	S		A	W	H	C		C	S	O	B	

- 43 Strike out
- 45 Persuade
- 46 Bill ___ & His Comets
- 47 Fireworks explosion
- 48 Linville or Mize
- 49 Social insect
- 52 Left aboard ship
- 53 Notion
- 54 Assessor's map
- 55 "Jane ___"
- 57 Lennon's love
- 59 Faux ___

Announcements

Elementary School Tutoring Opportunity!

Looking for community service hours? Volunteer at one of the 16 Elementary Schools listed below! Only 30 minutes once a week. All materials are provided. All we need is you!!

- Bellalago Academy: Maryellen Troffer (407)-933-1690 x0249
- Canoe Creek Charter: Nancy Martinez (407)-891-7320
- Central Avenue Elementary School: Cheryl Vicari (407) 343-7330
- Chestnut Elementary School: Kathe Weisheyer (407) 870-4862
- Cypress Elementary School: Pam Ollis (407) 344-5000
- Deerwood Elementary School: Louise Steurer (407) 870-2400
- Hickory Tree Elementary: Deanna Fertic (407)-891-3120
- Kissimmee Charter Academy: Wendi Molina (407) 847-1400
- Mill Creek Elementary School: Maritza Torres (407) 935-3660

KAREN SALMANSOHN

Come see and hear world-renowned author, designer and radio talk show host, Karen Salmansohn, speak! This lady is hysterical.

WHERE: Valencia's East Campus PAC (Building 3)

WHEN: Feb. 29 at 7 p.m.

WHY: Because this is just what you need to get your creative juices flowing again!

If you own one of her books bring it with you and she'll autograph it for you. For more information about Karen, visit her website: www.notsalmon.com

Scholarships Available

The study trip to Poland's Holocaust sites with Professor Gair will be June 1 - 10.

To be eligible you must fill out the application, attach the photos it requests and attach the deposit fee of \$450. With the scholarships we estimate the cost to the student will be approximately \$1600 to \$1700, this does not include passport fees. I must have the applications and deposits in the hands of the travel company by the start of March.

Scholarships are first awarded on a first come basis. The application can be downloaded from Professor Gair's home page on the top of his web site at <http://home.cf.rr.com/rgair> or pick one up from Professor

Gair as soon as possible. For more information please contact:

Professor Richard A. Gair
East Campus, Building 8, Office 132
407-582-2641

The Enigma Machine.

In World War II, Peter Hilton first worked on breaking the Enigma Code. He then switched in 1943 and worked on a very new German code called, in English, the Secret Writer. He will describe the problems presented in the successful efforts to break this code.

The work done at Bletchley Park was important to the ending of WWII.

West Campus, Building 4, Room 120
March 13, 7 p.m.

Silent Auction

As required by State Law, there will be an auction of unclaimed lost and found items from all campuses. Proceeds from the auction will go to the Valencia Foundation.

Feb. 28
10 a.m. - 2 p.m.
West Campus HSB 105

Some items being auctioned are sunglasses, calculators, cell phones, umbrellas, costume jewelry, 1 bicycle and more.

There will also be "Personalized Postcards" so you can make one and send it to a friend in the snow belt.

Contact Student Development, 407-582-1607 for more information.

Stop Da Violence N' Roc Da Mic

Got Talent?

Sign up for Talent Tuesday Spring term

Location: SGA Office Building 4 or Contact Allen Collins:

acollins25@atlas.valenciac.edu

Prizes: 1st prize- \$250 & Rufus Hawkins II Trophy
2nd prize-\$150
3rd prize- \$100

Join SGA West Campus in our support of stopping violence in our communities. If you have any information or want to contribute please use contact previously stated.

Talent Tuesday returns March 11
SSB Patio 1 - 2 p.m.