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VALENCIA VOICE

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Performing Arts Center

East Campus

Pakistani leader seeks negotiations for peace

By Saeed Shah
McClatchy Newspapers

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan — The new top official in Pakistan's terrorism-racked northwest frontier has demanded that the United States end missile strikes in the country and called for negotiations with militants — an approach that would dramatically alter the American-inspired war on terror there.

Amir Haider Hoti, who took the oath of office Apr. 1 as chief minister of the North West

Frontier Province, said in an interview with McClatchy Newspapers that military action should now be used only as a "last resort."

"To some extent, the interests of Pakistan have been sacrificed to the war on terror. We've suffered a lot," Hoti said. The United States "should let us handle it, let Pakistan handle it."

Hoti's demands, if he carries them out, could severely undercut U.S. strategy in Pakistan. President Bush has relied on an alliance with Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf to

attack Islamic militants in the tribal areas.

But Musharraf's party was drubbed in Pakistan's February parliamentary elections, and there are growing concerns in Washington that the country's newly elected leaders will reverse the military-dominated strategy, which has caused an angry public backlash in Pakistan.

Under Pakistan's federal system, the nation is divided into four provinces, each with its own parliament and government.

The region now headed by the 37-year-old

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Photo by Marcel Evans / Valencia Voice

Speaker Randy Haveson relates to students at West campus talking about his college days and warning students the dangers of break.

Motivational speaker lectures West campus

By Shaneece Dixon
Valencia Voice

With a late Spring Break this year, students were really anxious to start on the festivities. And of course, Valencia is well aware of this and wants students to take precaution while having a fun and alcohol free Spring Break. On Thursday, March 27, Randy Haveson came to West Campus in Building 7-114 to speak to students about the precautions that they can take.

Unlike the usual "Just Say No", and "Don't Drink and Drive" statements that students have grown accustomed to, Haveson took a more contemporary approach

in speaking with students. A recovering drug addict and alcoholic, Haveson knows exactly it's like to live that type of lifestyle.

"I love to drink," said Haveson with a cheerful disposition, "Why would I say no to that one thing that helps me dance on the dance floor?"

As a teen, Haveson had experimented with drugs and alcohol. By the time he was 13, he was able to drink off a six-pack of beer with his friends. But it wasn't until he was 15 that he was first introduced to marijuana, a mere gateway drug at the time.

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Procrastinating tax-payers benefit from IRA

By Dan Serra
McClatchy-Tribune News

Last-minute tax filers usually procrastinate until the end either because they are lazy or they owe a lot to the Internal Revenue Service. However, waiting does have its benefits for those with Individual Retirement Accounts.

April 15 is also the deadline for making moves that could lower taxes or avoid penalties for IRA contributors. Thankfully, the IRS gives extra time to use an IRA to make adjustments to our 2007 taxes when everything else closed the books on Dec. 31.

Taxpayers who owe a lot can contribute to an IRA by April

15 to lower their 2007 bill, and those who already made contributions and realize now that that contribution won't lower taxes much can change their mind by converting it to a Roth IRA, which is tax-free for qualified withdrawals in retirement. Just notify the IRA account custodian to reclassify contributions as a Roth. The same goes for Roth contributors who discover a traditional IRA deduction could lower taxes. Conversions can go both ways.

Those who found their 2007 income ending up too high to be eligible for an IRA contribution can also ask their custodian to take the money out to avoid a penalty for non-eligible contributions. Or it is possible to

convert it to a Roth, which has higher income eligibility limits.

The account custodian or financial advisor can help make sure IRA transactions are conducted in the most efficient way.

No matter if you have a Roth or traditional IRA, if your adjusted gross income is under \$52,000 married or \$26,000 single, don't forget to take the Retirement Savers Contribution Credit on the tax form. In an effort to encourage retirement saving, the government allows tax credits for retirement plan contributions. This also includes contributions to employer accounts. File Form 8880 with your return and to find out how much can be credited.

— MCT Campus

Crocodile resides at University of Miami

By Mike Clary
South Florida Sun-Sentinel

CORAL GABLES, Fla. — On a typical spring afternoon on the leafy campus of the University of Miami, many of the 15,000 students are in class, others are romping around the athletic field, and a few are seeing how close they can get to a 6-foot American crocodile sunbathing with its mouth open.

"They apparently don't realize how dangerous this thing is," said security guard Roberto Heredia as he warned curious collegians away from the toothy reptile. "Some people think it's fake."

School officials, including President Donna Shalala, want the crocodile expelled.

The problem: "We can't catch him," said university Police Chief David Rivero. "We're playing a cat-and-mouse game with this croc."

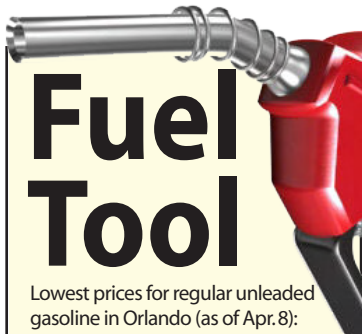
There may be more than one crocodile on campus. Heredia, 52, often assigned to baby-sit animals that crawl out of Lake Osceola, said there are at least three, ranging in size up to 8 feet.

Rivero said he believes all but one croc has been locked out of the lake by new fences and grates being installed at points where canals link the lake to the Gables waterways and Biscayne Bay.

What is clear is that the population of once-endangered American crocodiles is growing. Last year the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service upgraded the reptiles' status from endangered to threatened, meaning a species once on the brink of extinction is now only likely to become endangered. And South Florida is the only place in the United States

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Page design by Sarah King



Fuel Tool

Lowest prices for regular unleaded gasoline in Orlando (as of Apr. 8):

\$3.15⁹ Costco 9498 South Orange Blossom Trail Orlando, FL 32837
\$3.21⁹ Sam's Club 7701 East Colonial Drive Orlando, FL 32807
\$3.23⁹ 7-Eleven 83 East Colonial Drive Orlando, FL 32801

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



Photo by Shaneece Dixon / Valencia Voice

Students Kenny West, Darrell Linzy and Aaron Dozier rocked the mic Tuesday as K Dub, Ghetto Poet and Dozier.

Talent Tuesday rocks West

By Shaneece Dixon
Valencia Voice

We all know that a typical Talent Tuesday is filled with performances from singers and crooners, rappers and poets. But Tuesday, March 18, was slightly different. Students in West Campus' cafeteria had an interesting lunch as a special promotional edition of Talent Tuesday took place in front of them. Due to weather conditions, the event had to move from the SSB patio, which is the usual area for the event. Instead of talent acts being lined up to perform, however, students were free to come up and display random talents of their own.

"I'm pretty amazed with the talent that was shown," said Gabe Lopez, an EMT student on West Campus, who was inspired to bring a ventriloquist act to next week's show.

Another member in the audience, Eric Ramsey, thought Tuesday's show was "neato-torpedo," but believed that audience members should have more of a say in the results of the show.

"I think the audience members should vote on who wins. I want to have my input," Ramsey said.

Of course, there were some Talent Tuesday veterans who couldn't stay away from the stage. First to perform was Melanie Bergerson, better known as Miss M among her peers, who sang the introduction of En Vogue's classic hit "Hold On." Excited to be a finalist for Talent Tuesday, Bergerson was glad to support SGA and their special version of the show.

"More people should come out and display

their talents," she said, "It's a good outlet to let go and relax."

Students got a special treat to watch another veteran of Talent Tuesday, Jordan Keyes, and Allen Collins, senator of marketing for SGA West Campus and host of the show, free-style for their audience. Having performed together before, the audience seemed to enjoy the performance. Collins was more than optimistic with his performance alongside Keyes.

"Every time that Jordan and I perform together, I feel that I have to step my game up," said Collins, who admitted that he might perform again for the Talent Tuesday final on Apr. 15.

Once again, Parris Baker went on stage again to promote his Hip-Hop discussion, which will be on March 25, in building 3, room 111, from 3-5 p.m. on West Campus.

For those of you who weren't aware, this week's show, on March 25, is the last week for anyone to qualify for performing in the final show. For first place, the lucky winner will receive \$250 and a trophy, the second place winner will win \$150, and the third place winner will win \$100. Another note made during last week's show was SGA's Movie Night, which will be on March 27 in building 6, room 202 on West Campus.

By putting a twist on Talent Tuesday, students were able to enjoy themselves and the variety show that SGA had to offer them.

"The show is very relaxing to watch while we listen to music and talk with our friends," said Laisa Simas, "We can just forget about what we have to do and just enjoy ourselves."

Spring Dance Concert captivates

By Sarah Soliman
Valencia Voice

Valencia's Spring Dance Concert started off with a beautiful, melodic barefoot performance that captivated the audience's attention at Valencia Community College's East Campus Performing Arts Center on March 28 and 29.

The audience ranged in ages and was not made up of only Valencia students, but rather, attracted the community as well. The concert consisted of four various performances all of which were unique and entertaining in their own way.

The first half of the show was relaxed and mellow and showed off more of the gymnast within the dancers. The peaceful ballet performances expressed the physical strength and proved how much passion the dancers share.

Contrary to the first half of the show, the second half of the performances was sassy and fun. The entire cast was involved in various numbers and the music was edgy.

The dancers showed a completely different side to them with their energetic choreography and their engaging facial expressions.

There were 15-minute intermissions following every performance, which left time for the audience to get some snacks located in the lobby provided by the dance program.

The incredible dancers at Valencia put on an amazing show; however, they were directed by three highly skilled choreographers, Lesley Brasseux, Pilobolus, and W. Robert Sherry.

Brasseux, who started her career in Georgia, went on to get her Bachelor's Degree from the University of Florida and her Master's Degree from Louisiana State University.

Since then, she has worked for numerous colleges and dance schools such as, University of Central Florida, Southern Ballet Theater, Rollins College, and none other than Valencia Community College.

Dr. Sherry, whom teaches various dance classes at Rollins College, received his Bachelor's Degree from Indiana University, his Masters Degree from Southern Methodist University, and his Doctorate from Stetson University College of Law.

He has choreographed various plays, musicals, and industrial shows in the professional and academic scene. The third choreographer is an American dance company of international influence located in Connecticut called Pilobolus.

The company is known to perform not only for stage audiences, but also for television. But besides the actual dance, I couldn't help but notice the five wardrobe changes. The costume design was set by Seth Schrager. The wardrobes varied from beach wear, formal wear, footwear, intimate wear, and club wear.

The colors of the wardrobe matched the scenic design, set by Lauren Cushman. The vibe of the stage and lighting went hand in with the colors worn by the dancers.

The success of the Valencia Community College Dance Program can be credited to Dr. Suzanne R. Salapa, Director of Dance.

Dr. Salapa received her Bachelor's Degree in dance from Shenandoah University and her Masters Degree from Florida State University. She has been awarded the 2006 Dance Teacher Magazine Higher Education Teacher of the Year.

Her expertise has enhanced the program and encouraged dancers to follow their dream of dancing. If you think you would be interested in joining the dance program at Valencia, you may also want to consider Valencia's Dance Club, Art in Motion.

The club supports the dance major at the college and encourages dance students to create friendships and leadership skills within their passion.

If you would like more information on the dance program at Valencia Community College visit www.valenciaccc.edu/dance.

Teacher preaches liberty

By Sarah Soliman
Valencia Voice

With the United States undergoing a recession, it made sense to sit down and chat with Professor Jack Chambless, an economics professor at Valencia Community College.

In his 17 years of teaching, Chambless has witnessed students walk into his classroom "completely in the dark" as to what exactly is going on with government regulation. To open his students eyes to the idea of liberty and limited government, Chambless uses controversial issues such as the War in Iraq and poses questions like whether marijuana should be legalized or not. Chambless noticed that by engaging conversation in topics that personally relate to his students and their experiences, the more they participate and come to a realization of where the U.S. government stands on these various topics.

Chambless' debates and classroom discussions have not only made his students more aware of the importance of liberty, but actually impacted his students for years and led them to take action on various issues they do not feel government should intervene with.

Although professor Chambless believes that most young people veer more towards a liberal perspective, his classes consist of some conservatives as well. He states, "sometimes my conservative students who believe in having a war on terror and a war on drugs find themselves moving away from conservatism because they notice that conservatism can also mean more government in their lives".

With a generation that is used to websites like Youtube, Myspace, and Facebook, Chambless states that most college students "celebrate the individual and creativity" rather than the whole. He finds that most of his conservative students jump on the liberal boat fairly quickly when they hear economics taught similarly to what they relate to most, the celebration of individuality through the right to own property and the right of creativity.

The economics professor's liberal views was somewhat influenced by a speech given by Ronald Reagan during the late 70's, early 80's when the economy was poor. Reagan's speech addressed the issue of too much taxation and regulation

Teacher Feature



and Chambless found himself agreeing with the idea of limited government.

The American economy today is declining and with the upcoming presidential elections, Professor Chambless finds himself "more concerned then ever". He states, "I have never been more concerned or worried in my life than I am right now about our country". He disproves the way the Bush administration has handled government spending and the invasion of other countries that have not invaded ours. As far as this year's upcoming election, Chambless worries that Democratic candidates, Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton, both are proposing that government should mostly run the health care system when the government doesn't run anything very well at all. He states, "I think were entering what could be a 20 to 30 year period of creeping socialism into our country, especially because of the baby boomers."

Jack Chambless' belief of limited government is so strong that he even started a student organization at Valencia called Students for Liberty. It is a small club that advocates the importance of liberty and individual freedom through various activities and events. The club has had guest speakers and has organized activities on campus that make students more aware of what a liberal stand point is.

He states, "I think it is almost criminal that economics is not a requirement for every student that comes to Valencia". Politics and economics is a topic that everyone should comprehend so I encourage you to sign up and get a better understanding on what exactly the U.S. government is doing or should be doing to enhance your future.

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Photo by Elizabeth Robertson, Philadelphia Inquirer / MCT Campus
Larry Krayn and Krystal Longo play a quarter slot at Resorts Casino in Atlantic City, N.J., March 25. In a concession to the tough economy, Krayn, has abandoned the \$15 blackjack table for quarter slots.

Gambling intensifies despite economy

By Suzette Parmley
The Philadelphia Inquirer

PHILADELPHIA — All the doom and gloom over the economy has Tony Marty seeking sanctuary in a familiar place.

Behind a slot machine.
Marty, 41, has intensified his gambling habit during this economic downturn. He used to frequent the casinos in Atlantic City once a month; now, he's at a gambling hall in the Philadelphia suburbs at least once a week.

"I'm thinking anything can happen at any time ... at any spin," said Marty, who drove to Philadelphia Park Casino in Bensalem last week after his graveyard shift at a Cherry Hill, N.J., baked-goods company. "You never know. I could walk out of here able to pay off my house or car."

Experts say that gamblers such as Marty thrive in uncertainty and that an unstable economy only fuels their pastime — which helps explain high profits at the year-old Philadelphia-area slots parlors.

A recent sampling of more than half a dozen gamblers showed that they were making tough choices, like any consumer, on issues ranging from where to gamble to how often.

"Uncertainty is a realm that these risk-taking personalities thrive in and thrive on," said Frank Farley, a psychologist at Temple University who has studied risk-taking, thrill-seeking, and human motivational behavior for decades. "Uncertainty, by an economy going shaky on all of us or unsteady, is exciting to them."

"It just raises their arousal and gets their juices going," he said.

Robert Goodman, author of "The Luck Business" and an expert on economic development at Hampshire College in Amherst, Mass., said there were two types of gamblers during recessionary times.

"Some people — the more responsible ones — will cut back on gambling," he said. "But not the problem gamblers. They will likely increase their gambling ... and see themselves as investing in gambling to make up for the deficit in their incomes."

Stephanie Weyant, spokeswoman for the Pennsylvania Department of Revenue, which oversees that state's lottery, said the economic downturn was negatively impacting lottery sales — except whenever the Powerball jackpot was extremely high.

Total lottery sales were \$2 billion through the end of February, \$42 million less than the same period in 2007.

But lottery sales spiked around two occasions in the last fiscal year. First in July and August 2007, when the Powerball jackpot reached \$300 million, then earlier this month, when it was \$276.3 million.

Weyant said lottery sales for March 11 to 17 were up \$26 million from the previous week because of the Powerball jackpot, which was claimed March 15.

"Even when the economy is in a downturn, when Powerball has a large jackpot, people go out and buy Powerball tickets," she said.

Gambling, like dining out and shopping, depends on discretionary spending, experts say, and when that reserve is tapped out,

gamblers look for ways to cut back in other areas.

James Duffy did not want to pay the gasoline and tolls and log 300 miles on his leased car, so the 30-year-old computer-software salesman bought a one-way bus ticket from Washington to Atlantic City on Tuesday.

"I did the math," Duffy said as he took a seat at a \$10 blackjack table — down from his usual \$25 table — at the Atlantic City Hilton. "I get 30 miles per gallon on my car. That would have been 10 gallons, or over \$30 for gas. That didn't include all the crazy tolls in Maryland and Delaware. It was \$28.50 for the one-way bus ride."

Duffy's friends in Philadelphia drove him back to Washington the next day, saving him even more money.

Instead of a steak dinner and playing the \$15 blackjack tables in Atlantic City, Larry Krayn of Freehold, N.J., had a burger and played the quarter slot machines at Resorts on the Boardwalk last week.

"I'm not playing as much, and the wagers have gone way down," said the 22-year-old, whose girlfriend, Krystal Longo, 21, was at his side. "We're not going to go crazy like before."

Adding to the anxiety, Krayn said business had been "very slow" in his field. Krayn is an independent contractor who installs wiring for new industrial and commercial buildings. His phone has stopped ringing.

"We're down here for a couple days," said Krayn, who got a free hotel room, or "comp," from Resorts for being a regular there. "It helps you forget about the stress."

Joyce Copeland did not shop at all for clothes and designer shoes during her visit to Atlantic City last week from Portsmouth, Va. — unlike previous years.

"I can't afford to," said the 55-year-old, who took the bus to the seaside resort with her daughter, Dee Clark, 38. "I'm going to spend it all on slot machines."

Indeed, Copeland's entire \$300 to \$400 budget during her four-day, three-night stay at the Atlantic City Hilton went to slots. Her meals and hotel room were comped by the casino.

Joel Naroff, chief economist at Commerce Bancorp Inc., said the typical slots customer who frequented casinos tended to be in an income bracket that could get hit hard in the current downturn, "especially if we see rising unemployment rates and a weakening labor market."

Naroff said that this group tended to watch every dollar more closely and that issues such as higher gasoline prices were a huge factor.

It is pure calculation for Marty, the slots aficionado from Cherry Hill, who stopped frequenting Atlantic City's casinos this year because of gasoline prices, New Jersey's tolls, and the casino smoking ban there.

"That extra \$20 or \$30 that you spend on gas could be what it takes to win money on a penny machine," he said as he puffed on a cigarette at PhillyPark last week. "With that, you could walk over to a \$1 slot machine ... and win \$500 to \$3,000 at any time."

"I've seen it happen to people," he said. "It just hasn't happened to me lately."

— MCT Campus

Opinion

Students livid over gas prices

By Ashley Gonzalez
Valencia Voice

There is no doubt that gas prices have reached record highs and are posing a threat to the economy.

Many people say that the United States is going through a recession; a conclusion based, by some, on a single recurring event, the rise in gas prices.

The only people that are happy about it, perhaps, are the oil companies. They make the most profit and much of that profit does not get back into the economy in a good way.

The amount of drivers on the road rises significantly in the summer due to tourism and family outings.

The idea is to get people to believe that gas is at an all-time low. We are not the only country that is short on gas. Yet we use the gas of other countries to support our fuel "shortage" as a temporary fix.

It seems as though these past months present themselves as the perfect time to raise gas prices.

Will they continue to rise? Will our government surprise Americans? Perhaps we will all wake up one morning to gas being \$1.50 per gallon for regular unleaded.

Gas hasn't been that cheap in years.

According to USA Today gas has gone up this past weekend. Its approximately 6 cents higher than last week in different areas. The total of the rise is a record high of 58 cents higher than last year.

For now, Americans have no choice but to simply conform to the paying more for gas.

Without the luxury of one passenger vehicles on the road transportation will change. People will lose their jobs, discontinue school, and stop participating in extracurricular activities.

In the meantime, do not expect gas prices to come down.

Experts say that they'll rise to \$4.00 a gallon for regular unleaded fuel as summer draws near.

Valencia Voice asked students for their opinions on the rise in gas prices and for the dollar amount that they will discontinue to purchase gas.



"Gas prices are outrageous but even if it hits \$5.00 I don't see myself carpooling or anything. Everyone has a different schedule. It's convenient to drive your own car. Gas is a necessity."

— **Katrina Santayana**



"Gas is real Bananas!! Sometimes I ride my bike to work just to save on gas. If it keeps going up I'm going to start walking."

— **Jerell Hines**



"I hate high gas prices! Ours are getting really high and I'll probably stop buying it soon."

— **Eric Abreu**



"It is crazy how much we are paying for gas right now! \$3.50 has reached my budget limit as a student. I don't think we should be paying even a dollar more for our governments mistakes. I have a bike and I promise to ride it to school this summer."

— **Isabela Maia**



"It's ridiculous but everywhere I go is long distances. I don't think I'll stop buying gas. My limit is \$4.00 but I guess that's going to go out the window by the time summer comes."

— **Rebecca Eugene**



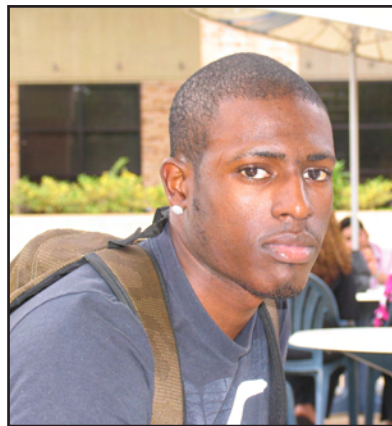
"I think it's getting ridiculous. The U.S. should choose one gas station to boycott. If we do that the others will lower their prices. Hopefully it creates a domino effect from there."

— **Sam Santiago**



"I was going to stop buying at \$3.00... too late! I guess \$4.00 will be my peak."

— **Hardeley Butler**



"The gas prices aren't really outrageous.... All I want to know is why we are using gas from other countries. We have our own reserve. It doesn't make sense to me. We use their gas. We're hurting ourselves. Even if the gas reaches \$10.00 I'll still pay for gas. I don't want to be a bum!"

— **Mervin Butts**

Photos by Ashley Gonzalez

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Corrections

The date on page 3 of issue 10 was the date of issue 9.

On page 8 of issue 10 the state Wisconsin was not provided after Milwaukee.

"Smash Bros." was missing a period in the skybox on page 1 of issue 10.

Ashley McBride is the editor of Valencia's magazine.

Opinion

Our Position:
American scheme

In this “Rat Race” that is life, there are certain choices, and chances, that must be taken; certain goals, both long term and short term, that must be made. There is no such thing as “getting rich quick”, unless you win the lottery or inherit a fortune.

The odds are not in your favor in regards to such a fortuitous arrangement. Therefore, you work hard and pay your dues in the hope that you will someday be successful, happy, and fat (metaphorically speaking).

Unfortunately, this outlook is far too prevalent in today’s pop culture obsessed, and over-sexed society; hence the activities of the ProScout company earlier this week at the Florida Hotel and Conference Center at the Florida Mall.

The mission statement for this scouting company reads as follows: “ProScout’s primary goal is to provide the best opportunity for aspiring actors and models to be discovered by the best agents and professionals in the business. The same professionals that manage the careers of Gisele, Heidi Klum, Jessica Simpson, Hilary Roda, Nate Parker, Tal Lee and Miley Cyrus.”

You can practically feel the glitz, and hear the glamour now.

“We want to offer people a direct line to the top agencies and recruiters of the world,” said Marwan Yehya, top ProScout agent.

“We provide aspiring models and actors the avenue in which to pursue their dreams.”

These people are practically saints.

It starts off innocently enough: you’re treated to a rosy reception by the “top scouts” of the company, followed by a snazzy video about how you could be America’s next top model (catchy), where it finally ends with the audition process. The latter being a one-on-one, 30 second interview where

you’re pressured into attempting to “wow” the professional scouts.

Once you’ve completed your monkey-dance act, you’re then told if you have the right stuff for the industry (because remember, these people are professionals). By this time, the 100 people who originally attended are dwindled down to a mere 75 (you’re so lucky to have made it this far).

It’s at this point you’re treated to another video about how you can be successful in modeling, but with a little bit of a twist.

You have to understand, these pro scouts are granting you an opportunity; an opportunity to meet with professional agents from around the global modeling and acting community (which is true); an opportunity that, after you’ve paid \$795 dollars (you heard right), will only permit you a 25 percent chance of actually getting called back.

There’s a word for such an event: scam.

What’s sad: starving actors, overly-stressed parents who missed their golden ticket while they were still young and fresh, and cute-as-a-button children all fall prey to this “promise” of great wealth and exposure.

The reality: if you have what it takes to make it in the industry, you sure as a sparrow flies do not need to pay X-amount of money in order to get exposed to the right people (see “reputable agencies”).

If you’re dumb enough, or too disillusioned, to not see these money-hungry shams for what they are, then you deserve no pity from your fellow man.

Live well, work hard, raise a family (if that’s your cup of tea) and retire comfortably (see the “American Dream”).

Don Wright

The Palm Beach Post



Spring Break:
terrible timing

By Carlos Minet
Valencia Voice

I’m sure there’s a logical reason
Why our vacation was so late
Though I’m sure we still enjoyed it
I’m sure it’ll be great

But the question still remains
Why was it delayed
Why when all schools were out
Our vacation was delayed

Should we get to the bottom of it
Should we write a letter
Or just accept the possibility
All the other schools are better

Well I can’t speak for all of you
But one thing I don’t mind
Is we’ll all be on vacation

And get to hear everyone else whine

They complain all day long
About how they wished they were still out
While they sit in class looking through the window
They can look through and hear me shout

“Haha I’m going to the beach”
While their smiles turn upside down
We’ll all party every night
We’ll all go downtown

Plus when we come back
Classes are almost done
But when the other kids get back
They’ve got 2 months left, fun!

So if you’re upset about our vacation
And think other schools know best
Remember that we’ll be out partying
While they sit through 2 months more at UCF

Don Wright

The Palm Beach Post



MCT Campus

Opinion:
Salacious news

By Anita Creamer
McClatchy Newspapers

Anything to distract us from what’s really serious.

It’s a clever nickname, but I forget which disgraced politician from the Northeast is supposed to be the “Luv Gov.”

Is it Eliot Spitzer, who resigned as New York’s governor almost two weeks ago in the midst of scandal after he was linked to an alleged high-priced call girl ring?

Is it his replacement, David Paterson, who spent his second day on the job confessing publicly to running around on his wife while saying that she’d been unfaithful, too? (Way to overshare, governor. And now he’s giving interviews about the drugs he’s done, as well.)

Or is it former New Jersey Gov. James McGreevey, who left office in 2004 after confessing to gay affairs and was last week alleged to have had three-way trysts during the marriage that ended after he came out of the closet as, in his words, “a gay American”?

Honestly, it’s all gotten so confusing.

You can see why women are so drawn to men in power: They’re genuinely decent, courageous and honorable people who focus above all on the greater good and will do anything to protect their wives and families from public humiliation.

Right? Unfortunately not.

There’s nothing like a politician to turn sex into something that’s really too icky to discuss in polite company. They’re dragging us all down in the muck with them, the narcissistic monsters.

They use their wives as damage control, and even more appalling, their scandalous behavior results in panels of TV commentators speculating not only on the political fallout but also on the psychological subtleties of the infidelity at hand.

This is precisely what led us not long ago to the expert analysis of syndicated radio scold Dr. Laura Schlessinger claiming on “Today” that it’s really women’s fault that the men in their lives cheat on them.

Shame on her.
Americans will simply never attain the world-

weary sophistication of the French about extra-marital flings if we’re stuck dealing with the likes of Dr. Laura and ex-Gov. Spitzer, moralizers without much in the way of real morality.

Also, try as we will, we lack the Gallic flair for wearing scarves really, really well.

Sanctimony so often hides sin, as we were reminded last summer, when Idaho Sen. Larry Craig _ who went on TV in the late 1990s to chastise President Clinton as “a bad boy, a naughty boy ... a nasty, bad, naughty boy” _ was arrested on suspicion of public indecency in an airport men’s room.

He subsequently pleaded guilty to disorderly conduct, announced that he would resign from office, tried to withdraw his guilty plea and then refused to resign.

A foolish consistency, as Emerson said, is the hobgoblin of small minds.

Sometimes, people in power are a little too fascinated by all that nastiness and naughtiness, and not in a particularly interesting way.

And because sleaze is quite a bit easier for the public to comprehend than potential avenues for government intervention in the foreclosure crisis or policy differences in the presidential candidates’ positions on health care, we dive right into the latest scandal along with them.

It’s like we’re a nation of badly socialized 12-year-olds fixated on sex to the point that we don’t mind peeking through the blinds into other people’s bedrooms.

We’re living in a culture oversaturated with scandal, more interested in degradation than intimacy, and the best we can do is speculate about politicians’ marital transgressions.

Surely, there will come a time when Americans grow tired of the sideshow of sleaziness, this exploration of the fine line separating the lurid from the cheesy.

Until then, we might do well to elect more women to public office.

For some reason, power doesn’t seem to make women more appealing to men. To the contrary, it just frightens men away.

—MCT Campus

Nate Beeler

The Washington Examiner



Page design

MCT Campus

Temco Inc.'s latest proves worthy of Dragon Sword

By Ashley McBride
Valencia Voice

When playing games like those in the “Brain Age” series, Nintendo DS gamers have gotten used to occasionally flipping their DS on its side, like a book, to answer the questions. In “Ninja Gaiden: Dragon Sword,” gamers will have to do the same thing.

A risky move, having a non-stop action game played sideways and relying predominantly on the stylus to maneuver, ‘Gaiden’ starts the player off as a female ninja, Momiji, which allows gam-

ers to get the feel of how the game is played.

The beginning feels almost like a tutorial that will show you the moves you will need in order to take down the bad guys. Soon into the game, however, the hero from the previous “Ninja Gaiden” game, Ryu Hayabusa makes his appearance.

The cinematics in the game are beautifully done, and the enemies you fight throughout the game are illustrated very well. Moving Ryu or Momiji around in the game is similar to how you would move Link around in “Legend of Zelda:

Phantom Hourglass,” or how you would move around whatever character you managed to create in “Drawn to Life.”

The DS ‘Gaiden’ comes out months before the Xbox 360 ‘Gaiden,’ which hits stores on June 4. Maybe the DS version is to get gamers prepared for the Xbox 360 version?

The biggest challenge in “Ninja Gaiden: Dragon Sword” is getting past the maneuvering with only the stylus. The Xbox 360 version may be easier to maneuver because it will use the control pad, and ‘Dragon Sword’ may have been a lot easier with using the controls pro-

vided.

Using the stylus does give the game a more realistic feel and that may have been the goal of Tecmo, Inc.

After figuring out the stylus, the game is action-packed fun. One helpful device in the game is shurikens, or ninja stars. By tapping on an enemy, Ryu will send the stars flying.

Whether you played the original “Ninja Gaiden” for Xbox, or if you remember the game, “Shinobi” from the original Sega system, suit up and battle it out as Ryu Hayabusa in the quest to discover the origin of the Dragon Sword.

Join us as we raise our glasses in support of learning



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Hollywood actor shoots the breeze in student teleconference



Ryan Phillippe, as Sgt. Brandon King, sits back and relaxes with a cold one on his visit home.

By Ashley McBride
Valencia Voice

“A ninja,” Ryan Phillippe jokingly answered, when which career he would most likely see himself pursuing, besides his current acting career.

“I really think about that sometimes. But yeah, I’ve kind of always said a teacher and I know it sounds kind of predictable or boring. My father was someone who was really schooled. He was about to be a teacher at a certain point. But the idea of affecting children in a positive way, I think it would be something along those lines.”

The 33-year-old New Castle, Del. native participated in a conference call with college students on March 13. He talked about everything from life in Delaware, to which presidential candidate he supports to how he prepared to play Sgt. Brandon King in his new movie, “Stop Loss.”

As a Delaware resident, Phillippe still manages to make time to visit where he grew up.

“I do come home a lot. I’m coming home in a few days, but when I think about growing up there and also as I get older and I spend more time out in L.A. and stuff I really miss the seasons. I miss like, the snow. But you know what I love about Delaware? I love how close it is to the beach and how close it is to so many other great places too. So it makes a pretty good location on the East Coast. I love it. It’s where I’m from and it’s where my family is still.”

His new film, “Stop Loss” opened March 28. Phillippe plays Sgt. Brandon King, a war hero, who after finishing his tour of duty tries to lead a normal life until the army orders him back to Iraq.

“I responded to this film only because it gave me a chance as an actor to work with a director I was inspired by, to play a character that had so much range.”

“I think firstly that our film is really differ-

ent that the rest of those in regards to it dealing with the humanity, the human side of coming home from war and what happens to these guys, as they try to kind of get back into their lives. I think it’s relevant to a slightly younger audience also because those films that have come before like “Born on the Fourth of July,” or “Deer Hunter,” those films were also made in hindsight, you know, after 10 or 15 years post the war. And this is happening now and this is happening to a lot of people around the country, and their family members. And I think it’s the fact that it’s a little more personal and maybe has a younger edge to it, separates it from the rest of those films. And I think it’s incredibly relevant. I mean, we have our presidential candidate who is talking about being in Iraq for 100 years and this means a lot more people are going to be put into this situation.”

Phillippe also talked about how he feels towards the war in Iraq. “Well, I mean, I think for myself, I can only really speak and that, I want this to end. I feel like it is not what we were led to believe it was about and I want to support a candidate who was against the war and who wants it to end. And I’m pretty vocal about being an Obama supporter and I’m pretty excited about the idea of a President who is going to kind of, do something with this situation, doesn’t allow it to get worse and doesn’t waste more lives. And when you meet the individuals who are in this and are put through this and then, a lot of parents are now questioning why their children’s lives are at risk. What is it really about? I think there’s a great unrest and I think that’s going to factor into the choice for President. I really would hope it would.”

“I think this film doesn’t push anyone in any specific direction. It just tells the truth about what is happening to the people who are giving their lives to service of the country and I think it’s not antiwar necessarily. It doesn’t preach to you that way but it is in my view kind of pro-military. It shows the bond and it shows the courage and that duty and I think it pays a respect to the men and women who serve.”

Phillippe explains what inspired the director, Kim Peirce to make this film.

“Kim’s brother was in the Army and signed up after 9/11, and it was a really controversial thing in his family because they’re pretty liberal and that. And he went over there and one of his best friends in his unit was a guy, Harvey, who really inspires this story. Harvey’s wife had given birth while he was away on his second tour and he was supposed to get out and come home, and have his wife and child. And they stop lossed him and that was sort of the inspiration.”

On a lighter note, Phillippe also describes one way he got into his Texan character.

“It was pretty funny to me initially and I kind of made everybody sick because I would listen to nothing but country. I mean, I’m really hip hop. Like, that’s where I grew up and that’s what I listen to most but I got myself in the mindset and I felt like it was so different from me that I don’t even really own a pair of blue jeans in my wardrobe but I wore them everyday with cowboy boots when I was there. I think that sometimes the fun you can have as an actor is like I get to be an adult and pretend I’m someone completely different. I would do that and I would listen to music and I never thought I would be listen to like Toby Keith and Kenny Chesney, but there’s a whole mentality down there that I think you do have to connect to portray it somewhat realistically. I find that Texan’s think different and they’re proud of it and they’re got a whole unique thing going on down there.”

Future projects for Phillippe include a movie called “Franklyn.”

“Well, I finished a movie this fall in London that I think is going to be really cool. It’s a film called ‘Franklyn’ and it’s with Eva Green and this actor, Sam Riley, who is a really great young British actor. And it’s really like nothing else you’ve ever seen. That’s the kind of stuff I try to find. It’s really original. The closest description I heard was like ‘Batman’ meets ‘Maggie’ so it’s like really kind of interesting.”

Acting legend, Charlton Heston, dies in home at age 83

By Carrie Rickey
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Charlton Heston, a larger-than-life man who portrayed larger-than-life men such as Moses and Michelangelo, died at his home in Los Angeles late Saturday night at the age of 83, his wife of 64 years by his side.

While no cause of death was given, in 2002 the Hollywood legend announced that he had been diagnosed with symptoms consistent with Alzheimer’s disease.

On screen, Heston parted the Red Sea in “The Ten Commandments, drove the Moors from Spain in” El Cid, painted the Sistine Chapel ceiling in “The Agony and the Ecstasy, baptized Jesus in “The Greatest Story Ever Told, and gave Him a drink of water in “Ben-Hur.

And on the seventh day, Heston did not rest.

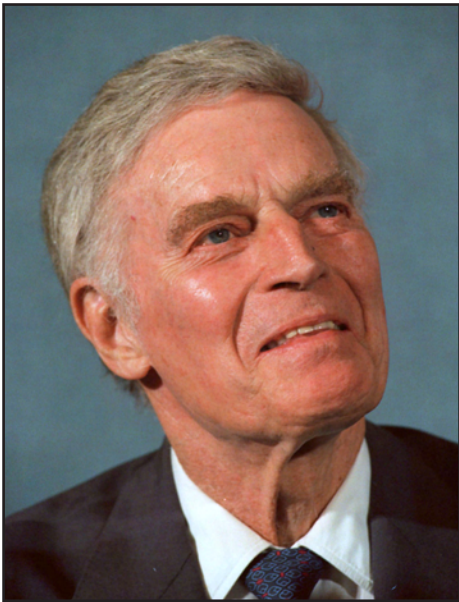
A longtime champion of civil rights, of government support of the arts and of gun ownership, the perennial activist — and Oscar winner, for “Ben-Hur — may well have been the only pro-NEA, pro-NRA voice in Hollywood.

Where his contemporary, Gregory Peck, likewise a monument of a man who played monumental men, was Hollywood’s pillar of liberalism, Heston was the pillar of conservatism, a figure who stood up and spoke out for his beliefs.

The classically trained actor came to Hollywood in 1950, just as movie acting was being transformed by the naturalism of Montgomery Clift and Marlon Brando.

From his earliest performances in films such as “The President’s Lady (1953), the first of his two portrayals of Andrew Jackson, Heston was a throwback, the hero braving an onslaught of antiheroes. If Brando represented the scratch-where-it-itches-school, Heston carried the standard for the fists-to-the-mat school.

With his Olympian build, laser-blue eyes and an oracular baritone that made the simplest greeting sound like a proclamation, the 6-foot, 3-inch actor was every inch and decibel the hero. He had the majesty of a sequoia — and could laugh heartily when critics said he was just as



The late and great Charlton Heston who died Saturday at age 83 in his L.A. home.

wooden as one. Few men and even fewer actors understood their strengths and their limitations as well as he did.

John Charles Carter was born in 1924 in Evanston, Ill. Before long, his parents moved to St. Helen, Mich.—big-tree country, he lovingly recalled in his 1995 memoir,” In the Arena: “I liked chopping wood, as did Abraham Lincoln, Kaiser Wilhelm and Ronald Reagan, though I adduce no trickle-down virtue from this.”

He was “devastated” by his parents’ divorce in 1933, but grew close to his mother’s second husband, Chet Heston. He took his stepfather’s surname “to hide what still seemed to me the unspeakable secret of my parents’ divorce.” His mother, Lilla, called him Charlton, her maiden name, also a contraction of Charles and Heston.

In his memoir, he described himself as “a nerd before the word had ever been invented — shy, short, pimply and ill-dressed.” As with so many actors before and since, theater gave him a place to try on other personalities, which in turn gave him confidence. His work with the

Winnetka Community Theatre in Illinois, where the Hestons relocated, earned Charlton a scholarship to Northwestern University, where he broke his nose playing football. A lucky break, as it turned out, because it gave him the profile of an eagle.

He told The Inquirer in 1995 that when he entered the university in 1941 he was “struck by two bombshells.” First was classmate Lydia Clarke’s assault on his heart, followed by the Japanese assault on Pearl Harbor.

In 1943, he enlisted in the Army and proposed marriage to Lydia —weekly. He argued that if they married and he got killed, she would be the beneficiary of \$10,000 in life insurance.

Unpersuaded by his pragmatism, she married him for love in 1944. In 1995, he calculated that the \$12 he paid for the wedding ring worked out “to less than 25 cents per annum” of their years together. In interviews, Heston called his wife his “lodestone,” in his memoir, she emerges as his lodestar.

After the war, the newlyweds spent a few months with a theater in Asheville, N.C., before seeking their fortunes in New York. Lydia enjoyed greater success. “She was just a better actor than I was,” he said.

By and by, Heston joined Katharine Cornell’s company, appearing on Broadway as Caesar’s lieutenant in “Antony and Cleopatra and winning television parts and a role as a gambler in the Hollywood movie “Dark City.

Likening himself to the movie character Forrest Gump, Heston told The Inquirer his greatest talent may have been being in the right place at the right time.

One morning, the male ingenue on the Paramount lot gave a hearty wave to Cecil B. DeMille, who took notice and cast Heston as the rough-hewn circus manager in “The Greatest Show on Earth (1952) and then as Moses in “The Ten Commandments (1956).

The cavalcade of historical roles followed. Something distant and chiseled about Heston made directors think he was ideal to play chiseled figures of distant eras.

One of the actor’s rare contemporary roles was as Detective Vargas, a Mexican drug-bust-

er, in Orson Welles’ sly” Touch of Evil (1958), which Heston’s participation enabled the director to finance.

Few other performers could challenge Heston’s authority as Moses, Michelangelo and yes, God (in “Almost an Angel). Here was a hero with muscles and brains, even if when his Judah Ben-Hur was orating, it looked as if he’d rather be driving a chariot —and vice-versa.

It may be heretical to say that for all his beloved performances in official epics, Heston was looser and more engaged in beloved B-movies such as “Planet of the Apes (1967), “The Omega Man (1971) and “Soylent Green (1973). In these films, it seemed as if he shed the weight of a marble mantle to play men of flesh and blood.

That said, it may also be hypocritical to mourn the fact that at the precise moment Heston ceased playing heroes, Hollywood replaced El Cid and Ben-Hur with antiheroes such as The Graduate and Butch Cassidy.

Heston struggled with this contradiction. While in “Planet, he enjoyed yelling, “Take your stinking paws off me, you damn, dirty ape!” he also thought the trend toward anti-heroism was “bad for society.” Which is one reason he turned down the Burt Reynolds role in “Deliverance.

The liberal actor who marched in 1963 with Martin Luther King in Washington in 1969 turned down Democratic pols who drafted him to run for the U.S. Senate. “I’d rather play a senator than be one,” he said in an apparent dig at actor-turned-pol Ronald Reagan, whom he would later support.

“The Democratic Party slid to the left right out from under me,” the self-described “Kennedy-Stevenson Democrat” said in 1995, explaining his apparent swing to the right in the 1970s. In 1998, the actor who as a child had enjoyed hunting in the Michigan forests was elected president of the National Rifle Association.

Heston is survived by his wife; his son, Fraser; his daughter, Holly Heston Rochell; and three grandchildren. Memorial services will be private.

Experts modify how brain processes smell

By Jeremy Manier
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — The little electrical shocks that Wen Li gives subjects at her Northwestern University neuroscience lab feel less painful than a bad jolt of static electricity, and more like the mild snap of a rubber band on skin.

But getting just seven of those shocks trained people in a new study to distinguish between extremely similar odors, offering a new and perhaps potent way of changing a person's power of perception.

Psychologists have used the basic conditioning technique for decades to alter the behavior of people and animals. But experts said the Northwestern study went further by actually modifying how the brain processes the sensation of smell.

The new report, published in Friday's issue of the journal *Science*, illustrates the power of emotions like fear to shape how we learn and even perceive the world, said Dana Small, a neuroscientist who studies odor and taste at the John B. Pierce Laboratory in New Haven, Conn.

"I think the study is important for understanding learning in general," Small said. "We often don't appreciate just how malleable the brain is, and how much perception depends on learning."

One possible implication of the work could be new insights into phobias and conditions like post-traumatic stress disorder, which can increase a person's sensory sensitivity. The group's conditioning regimen could even lead to new therapies to alleviate the sensory overload of such patients.

The study used 12 college-age people who were hooked up to tubes that brought scents to their noses. They were exposed to two smells emanating from substances that are virtually identical in their chemical structure. Each person took the test while in a brain scan machine, to show how their brain activity might change in response to the training method.



Photo by Jon Schulte / iStockphoto

Recent study show how a form of shock therapy can train people to distinguish between similar odors.

At first, none of the subjects could tell the difference between the two smells.

Then the researchers gave some of the smell-testers a small shock from electrodes attached to the leg whenever they were exposed to one of the scents. The brain scanner showed that the brain area that process and perceives smells changed its activity pattern as a result of the shocks. Once the conditioning was over, the subjects who had received shocks were much better at distinguishing the two similar odors.

"These subjects have moved to a level of sensory processing that we normally don't have. That's pretty unheard of," said David Zald, an associate professor of psychology and psychiatry at Vanderbilt University.

The findings may reveal some of the tools that evolution has given humans and other creatures to adapt quickly to new surroundings and

sensations, said Li and one of her co-authors, Northwestern researcher Jay Gottfried.

In nature, an animal's survival might depend on learning the difference between two similar scents — say, the smell of an ordinary cat and that of a leopard. Normally those sensations might be indistinguishable, but an emotional event — like nearly being killed by a leopard — could quickly train an animal to tell the difference.

Humans have a relatively weak sense of smell compared with animals such as dogs and rats, but the shock could be an urgent signal for the brain to handle certain smells differently, said Pamela Dalton, an olfaction researcher at the Monell Chemical Senses Center in Philadelphia.

"The olfactory system probably evolved more as a warning system than an attracting system, so it's biased toward detecting things with negative consequences," Dalton said.

Brain scans showed that as people were conditioned to distinguish between the smells, they had more activity in brain areas linked with emotional responses. The Northwestern team believes that may prompt the part of the brain that identifies smells to process signals from the nose in a more complex way.

People often train themselves to enhance their senses, even without the help of a lab conditioning experiment. Wine aficionados can learn fine points of difference between vintages, while music-lovers can pick out instruments and melodic lines from a cacophony of sounds.

Yet smells can be uniquely tied with memory and learning experiences, and our perception of smell may be unusually flexible, experts said.

Phobias and post-traumatic stress disorder demonstrate how emotional experiences can powerfully distort the perception of smells. Dalton said she once talked with an emergency response worker who developed PTSD after dealing with decomposing bodies. In the aftermath of that traumatic experience, the worker had a fear of all dank basements and other places that recalled the horrible smell of corpses.

That type of disorder is the flip side of the Northwestern experiment. Instead of using pain to develop a finer sense of different odors, traumatic experiences can remove sensory distinctions so that everything with a remote resemblance to the feared scent triggers the same dread.

"It's a breakdown in the process of updating and refining how the brain represents this sensory information," said Li, the lead author of the Northwestern study.

Li said she plans to study ways of using conditioning to reverse the effect her study found, and restore the subjects' original sensitivity to smells. She said that kind of technique also could allow new therapeutic approaches for PTSD patients, who might benefit from less sensitivity to sensations linked with painful memories.

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Amir Haider Hoti, the new chief minister of the North West Frontier Province in Pakistan.
Photo by Saeed Shah / MCT Campus

Leader requests end to war

Coninued from Page 9

Hoti runs along the Afghan border and, in recent weeks, has seen a sharp escalation in U.S. missile attacks from Afghanistan on suspected Islamic militants. Hoti insisted that this tactic must end.

“We will be making a request to the U.S. government, that please stop this thing because it is only adding to the problem,” Hoti said. “There is a general hatred in (the province) against certain policies, especially against these strikes. We will consider it as an open violation, interfering in internal affairs.”

Hoti’s comments seem to fly in the face of Washington’s assessment of the threat. On Sunday, CIA Director Michael Hayden warned of a “clear and present danger” to the West from militants in Pakistan’s border area with Afghanistan. He said the area had become a “safe haven” for terrorists.

Hayden, speaking in a U.S. television interview, described the last peace deal struck by Pakistan’s government with militants in 2006 as “absolutely disastrous.” He charged

that the agreement allowed the warriors to regroup and attack NATO forces in Afghanistan.

Hoti said his government would use the traditional forum for negotiations – called the jirga – among the Pushtun people of the northwest province to talk to the extremists. His approach has been echoed by Pakistan’s central government, which formally has jurisdiction over the Federally Administered Tribal Area, the sliver of land sandwiched between the province and Afghanistan.

The war on terror “wasn’t handled properly,” Hoti said. “They used force as a first option, never went in for a proper dialogue. They made a lot of errors. Force should be used as a last resort.

“Pushtuns, we have our traditions. We have our own history and dialogue. Through jirga we have been able to sort out our own problems.”

— MCT Campus

Campus croc can’t be caught

Coninued from Page 9

where these crocodiles are found.

As their numbers increase _ from an estimated 200 when declared endangered in 1975 to more than 2,000 today _ crocodiles expand their range. And the range includes a sunny strip of grass just a few feet from the Rathskeller, a popular on-campus bar and grill.

Lake Osceola serves as the scenic heart of University of Miami’s richly landscaped campus, and around it are many inviting places to sit, read and contemplate. The lake is also surrounded by busy walkways, and when a crocodile is out sunning, several hundred students are bound to notice.

“I wanted to go down there,” said Briana Grazioso, 19, a freshman from Delray Beach, Fla., and one of many students Heredia kept away from the crocodile on Tuesday.

“Not to pet it. Just to see,” explained her twin, Lauren.

Last week, Heredia said he saw a campus visitor approach a basking crocodile and lift up its tail while a friend took his picture. “If that thing grabs him with its mouth, what it’ll do is pull them into the water and start turning over and over in circles until the person drowns or it tears off an arm or something,” Heredia said.

Signs posted along the lake urge caution and advise that it is “unlawful to feed or harass” crocodiles.

But warnings may only heighten the appeal of the fearsome beasts.

“The idea that they can survive in Miami is fascinating,” said Eric Hurley, 19, who finds no crocs in his New Jersey hometown. “I think it’s nice that we provide this haven.”

The resident University of Miami crocs also have gained some fame on YouTube. In a video posted in February, the student television station got film of a nighttime commotion when a crocodile crossed a main campus street, and then fought with another croc when it returned to the wa-

ter.

A second video posted in February shows a foolhardy student retreating from the lakeside as a crocodile splashes into the water.

Unlike the common alligator, crocodiles cannot be baited, hooked and fished from the lake by trappers. Federal rules say that crocs can be caught only while on land, and they cannot be injured.

And the crocs are wily. “We have been there a number of times,” said Lindsey Hord, alligator and crocodile response coordinator for the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission. “We get very close to it before it jumps into the water.”

In recent years, local trapper Todd Hardwick of Pesky Critters has captured other crocodiles at Lake Osceola, including a 200-pounder in 2004. He also has been called out several times to catch the current occupants.

“I think I’ve dealt with the same ones. They get relocated, but they love the area,” Hardwick said.

Mike Cherkiss, a University of Florida biologist, said crocodiles like bodies of water that are protected from wind and waves, and have plenty of fish and birds for food. So Lake Osceola is perfect habitat.

Hord and Rivero now plan to train a University of Miami police officer as a trapper.

According to Hord, there has never been a documented attack on a human by an American crocodile.

And Rivero does not want that streak ended on the University of Miami campus. The urgency of his croc-catching task was brought home just a couple of weeks ago, he said, in yet another e-mail from Shalala asking, “David, when are you going to catch the croc?”

Said Rivero, “We spend more time addressing the croc issue than I could ever imagine as a police chief.”

— MCT Campus

Former addict opens up

Coninued from Page 9

“My life totally changed,” said Haveson about his first time with marijuana, “My sister and her friend Cheryl were sharing a joint. Everyone told me that if I smoked marijuana that I would go crazy.”

But after taking his first hits of the drug, despite the warnings of his parents and Officer Dan, he graduated to a new craze of drugs and alcohol, including cocaine at age 17. With his experimentation with drugs, Haveson found life a lot easier to handle. He became the star player on his high school baseball team, was an A student, and easily became popular among his peers.

Yet everything changed for him during college. Going to notorious party school of the time, Oregon State University, Haveson soon lost control over his grades and eventually dropped out of college to become a rock star. But even that was short-lived due to his problems with drugs and alcohol. He eventually went back to California with his family and started going to San Diego State. No longer was he the cool, popular kid with all the girls and charisma. And yet again, his grades put him in jeopardy, as

he received his second letter of expulsion from school.

“I was trying to see if I could slit my other wrists after I did the first one, or just slit my throat,” said Haveson, “I would tape a note that said ‘Call 911’ on the door and just do it over the bathtub so I wouldn’t make a mess.”

But for some reason, he didn’t let suicide become his last option. Instead he reached out for help. Now, Haveson is a nationally acclaimed speaker that talks to college kids all over the country. To help kids enjoy their Spring Break, he came up with the “Zero, One, Two, Three Rule”, which gives kids guidelines on how to drink moderately. The rule goes as follows: Zero is your best option in any given situation. Drink no more than one drink per hour, Drink no more than two times per week, and do not drink more than three drinks.

Having been sober for 24 years, Haveson sought to help troubled teens seeking treatment. So he created the nation’s first Recovery House in Atlanta, Georgia, which gives such teens a safe environment to live in while they seek treatment and a better life. He is hoping to open more recovery houses in Colorado and California.



Guest speaker, Randy Haveson, teaches students how to have fun and be safe.
Photo by Marcel Evans / Valencia Voice

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TRUE PILSNER BEATS

Effects of energy drinks trigger possible ban for minors

Large caffeine quantities reported to cause children's anxiety attacks

By Howard Cohen
The Miami Herald

MIAMI — Energy drinks charged into the U.S. market in 1997 with Red Bull and its claim: “Improves performance ... increased concentration ... stimulates the metabolism.”

At 66.7 mg of caffeine per 8.3-ounce can, that would be a mere blip in the bold new world of energy drinks. A cup of coffee, by contrast, has 107.5 mg.

Today, provocative handles like Cocaine (since changed to No Name, owing to a 2007 FDA ruling against naming a product after an illegal drug), Blow, Bawls, Monster, Rockstar, Pimp Juice, Dopamine, SoBe No Fear and Spike Shooter abound. Caffeine counts of 350 milligrams – the equivalent of 10 cans of Coke – are common. The slogans scream: “Feel the freak.” “Get spiked!” “Party like a rockstar.”

The \$2-per-can drinks buzzed \$4.7 billion in sales in 2007, up from \$3.5 billion in 2006, according to market research firm ACNielsen.

The drinks, with their high caffeine content, have caused concern among health professionals – especially when kids consume them. Studies have linked excessive caffeine in children to elevated heart rates, hypertension, anxiety, headaches and interrupted sleep patterns.

Last month, four students at Falcon Cove



Photo by Laura Morton, Seattle Times / MCT Campus

Energy drinks, whose sales are booming, typically have as much sugar and three times as much caffeine as soda.

Middle School in Weston, Fla., were taken to the emergency room of Memorial Hospital West/Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital with racing hearts and body sweats. They said they shared a can of Redline.

ANXIETY ATTACKS

“We have been seeing lots of kids coming in with anxiety attacks – it has gone up in the last year and a half,” says Dr. Deanna Soloway, assistant medical director of the pediatric emergency room at Hollywood, Fla.'s Joe DiMaggio Children's Hospital.

“One of the routine questions we ask them is about their intake of energy drinks. Many kids are using them. I believe there is some connection between the use of energy drinks and hypertension, elevated heart rate, jitters. We had to monitor these four kids for several hours and put them on hydration.”

The Florida Poison Control Center at the University of Miami/Jackson reports that 39 people ages 2 to 20 had symptoms of caffeine overexposure between January 2007 and March 2008. The signs were serious enough that it led to the center's tracking of this data. Statewide, the number was 125 during this period.

“It's grown because of the popularity of these products,” said Dr. Richard Weisman, the center's director.

Another popular concoction with older teens and college students – vodka mixed with energy drinks – also alarms health experts. The stimulant effect of caffeine masks the depressant effects of alcohol and can lead individuals to carry out activities, like driving, while impaired.

In addition to caffeine, the berry-flavored Redline contains yohimbine, used in treating erectile dysfunction, and vinpocetine, used in Europe in the treatment of Alzheimer's, according to David Schardt, senior nutritionist for Center for Science in the Public Interest, a health advocacy group.

Taurine, first isolated from ox bile by Austrian scientists in the 19th century, and guarana, another form of caffeine, are also common additives.

Redline's bottle contains a warning that it's not for use by individuals younger than 18, those pregnant or nursing, or if there's a family history of heart disease, high blood pressure, depression, caffeine-sensitivity, glaucoma and other ailments. Monster, Rockstar, Spike Shooter and SoBe No Fear contain similar printed warnings. Miami-based Bawls' Web site suggests moderation for consumers who fit any of these profiles.

The Food and Drug Administration regulates the caffeine content in soft drinks, but not in energy drinks. For colas, the FDA has set the maximum concentration of caffeine at 32.4 milligrams per 6-ounce bottle or 65 milligrams per 12-ounce.

“The FDA could challenge such products but we have generally refrained to do so if amounts to be consumed were not higher than the levels consumed from coffee,” FDA press officer Stephanie Kwisnek says. An 8-ounce coffee, in general, contains about 100 mg of caffeine.

“If there is a public health risk with energy drinks or with any other beverage, FDA will take the appropriate action deemed necessary to protect the public's health,” she adds.

BAN CONSIDERED

The attention surrounding the Weston incident – the students recovered – prompted Broward, Fla., School Board members to consider banning energy drinks from school campuses. This potential move was welcomed by Davie, Fla.-based Redline CEO Jack Owoc, who has offered the district \$25,000 toward enacting a ban. Owoc feels that minors should not be taking these drinks.

Pediatricians agree.

“There is no real therapeutic benefits as-

sociated with these energy drinks,” said Dr. Steven Lipshultz, chairman of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Miami Miller School of Medicine. “If you're a 200-pound adult, an 8-ounce bottle of something that contains 250 mg of caffeine may not be a big deal, but if you weigh 60 pounds and are getting the same dose” it's a problem. “We dose medicines based on weight and size. Caffeine's a medicine and nobody has done anywhere the clinical studies needed.”

The University of Florida's Department of Pathology, Immunology and Laboratory Medicine conducted a study analyzing the caffeine content in energy drinks and other beverages. Publishing their work in the March 2006 edition of the Journal of Analytical Toxicology, researchers concluded that “there are important health concerns that cannot be ignored with regards to the amount of caffeine contained in these drinks. Children should be considered vulnerable to excess caffeine.”

The study found that children and adolescents consuming caffeine in high concentrations suffered from caffeine-induced headaches and interrupted sleep patterns. Warning labels “would be prudent.”

Elevated caffeine poses particular risks for those in warmer climates.

“Every couple of years, in the humid heat of summer, you hear of high school athletes having adverse effects,” Lipshultz says. “The heat is up, your heart rate is up. Caffeine is a diuretic. It increases the kidney's disposal of fluid from the body. If you take a bottle of this stuff, thinking you are getting hydrated, you're getting DEhydrated.”

Bones also are strengthened during the teenage years and kids need more calcium, something not found in these drinks.

CALCIUM NEEDS

“At the largest point in life where bone mineralizes, during the teen years, that's when we see the least amount of milk and other calcium bone substrates coming into play,” Lipshultz says. “Instead of taking calcium and other things needed for bone formation, they start substituting this energy drink in those years.”

“The issue with these energy drinks is that they are the ‘sexy’ beverages of the 2000s, the ‘cool’ beverage for today's generation,” says Dr. Bruce Goldberger, a co-author of the University of Florida study. “In my 25 years of experience I've only seen two or three overdoses on caffeine.”

“You aren't going to die from ingesting too many Red Bulls. But there are certain at-risk populations of people that should avoid caffeine. Those would include people with cardiovascular problems, people who are anxious or have a mental disorder, people with hypertension or a propensity for cardiac arrhythmia.

“I see no place in school for these types of beverages.”

— MCT Campus

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A WORLDWIDE NETWORK OF CAMPUSES

Local dentist perseveres against elements



Dr. Velling works on the facial features of a sand sculpture in the sandbox at his Federal Way, W.A. home, Feb. 22.

By Bill Hutchens
McClatchy Newspapers

TACOMA, Wash. — Give Michael Velling 20 cubic yards of sand and maybe a little water to mix with it, and he’s as happy as a kid with a pile of mud.

But Velling, a Federal Way, Wash., dentist and world-class sand sculptor, takes his earth-and-water mixtures past simple mud pies.

When he’s not filling cavities, Velling often is found in his large sandbox at home or on a Northwest beach creating intricately detailed works of art for fun and competition.

“One simple rule can help you if you’re interested in sand sculpting,” he said. “Never leave the beach without building something.”

Velling caught sand-sculpting fever in 1990 while watching a competition.

Since then, he’s won all three major sand sculpting events in the Pacific Northwest at least once, which include competitions in Long Beach in Pacific County, Ocean Shores in Grays Harbor County and Cannon Beach, Ore. And, he has won the world sand-sculpting championships, held annually in Harrison Hot Springs, B.C., as both a solo artist and as a member of a team.

“He’s done some pretty outstanding work,” said Bob Bell, world championships coordinator and general manager of the Harrison Hot Springs Sand Sculpture Society. “I’d say he’s one of the top five in the world today.”

“Top five” is relative, Bell added. Inspiration strikes, and any individual or team can blow away the rest of the competition in any given year. But Velling is consistently impressive, he said, “He’s always a crowd pleaser.”

Building sand sculptures isn’t just about creating castles (Velling said those get “boring” after a while). He and other sculptors try to outdo each other with scenes that seem to “come to life.” Among his past works are several fairy tale scenes, a mining camp and sculptures depicting precocious and mischievous critters, such as thieving pandas.

In May, Velling will team with a sculptor from Venice, Italy, for the third annual tournament of champions at Harrison Hot Springs. Those sculptures will be on display until after the world championship event this fall, and visitors can vote for their favorites.

INFLUENTIAL SCULPTOR

Working in his sandbox at home, Velling pulls out a picture of Napoleon Bonaparte astride a rearing horse. “I love sculpting horses,” Velling said. “I’d love to try something like this at some point.”

Perhaps he’ll give it a go in August when he travels to Quebec to join other sand sculptors in celebrating the 400th anniversary of the founding of Quebec City. In addition to sculpting competitively, Velling also does commissioned and contract work. He’ll join about 30 other artists to create commissioned

work for Quebec.

“I would venture to say he is probably one of the most influential people in sand sculpting in the Northwest if not the world,” said Alan Baker, a long-haul trucker from Ilwaco, Wash., and a long-time member of Velling’s sand sculpting team.

Baker met Velling while the dentist was competing at a contest in Cannon Beach, Ore. He was amazed at how sand sculptors take their creations beyond simple sand castles. He asked to join Velling’s team, thinking he could at least help “schlep around water and sand.” But it wasn’t long before Velling asked him to help with design at various competitions. Baker quickly realized he was a decent sand sculptor.

“Quite a few people, myself included, had no idea that we had any sort of talent. But under Michael’s tutelage, we’ve expanded our horizons.”

Velling often works overtime at competitions, volunteering as an instructor and offering free seminars to anyone who wants to learn more about the art of sand sculpting. He dons his trademark red-white-and-blue plastic pith helmet and sets up class right on the beach for hands-on training. He said he considers the demonstrations payback for the crowd’s enthusiasm during the “performance art” of competition. “I really don’t mind sharing my secrets with them,” he said.

Sculpting sand requires more than a plastic bucket and a scoop. Velling uses a variety of large and small metal trowels and knives to carve out big slabs and make tiny cuts. A flat cement trowel helps compress and smooth the sand where needed. And Velling usually keeps a spray bottle at his side.

“People insist he has glue in that bottle,” said his wife, Frances Velling.

“But it’s just water.” A mural painter who also creates smaller watercolor pieces, she has filled the walls of their home with color. And she helps with the sand sculpting when she can. “She’s my inspiration,” Velling said. “She always has an interesting way of looking at things and seeing something I don’t see.”

IN THE SANDBOX

On a recent sunny day, Velling worked on a sand pile about 5 feet high in his sandbox at home. He set to sculpting a human figure framed by a rippling arch. He carved thin lines to make the statue’s lips and wavy hair and then used a straw to blow the excess sand out of the gaps. Eyes, ears and nose took shape in the same manner, with Velling gently blowing sand away from the figure’s face.

Although the sculpture, made of sand that is much finer than typical Northwest beach sand, looks as though it’s as solid as concrete, Velling warns that the appearance is deceptive.

“A bird could come and sit in the wrong place on this wavy arch and send the whole thing crashing,” he said.

His home sandbox mostly is just for practice, for working out ideas he might

use in competition. Inspiration often strikes at the beach, but it’s good to have some kind of plan in advance, he said. It’s better to have a gravity-defying sculpture fall apart at home than in front the crowds and judges — although public disasters do happen.

A crow once landed on the branch of a sand tree he was building for a competition. The branch broke off. “I didn’t know whether to be upset about it or flattered because maybe the crow thought it was a real tree,” Velling said.

When catastrophe strikes, he tries to incorporate the mess into the overall design. One year, a panda stealing a personal watercraft fell apart. The panda became a pile of sand, but the nose of the watercraft was still intact, so Velling made it look as though it was half sunk in water. He has photo albums filled with spectacular successes, sculptures that have won competitions all over the

Northwest and at the world championships. But he’s not embarrassed to show how he improvised his work after disasters, such as with the crow and panda.

Maybe that’s due to his attitude about the hobby in general. When a competition is over and the tide starts rolling in, Velling said he doesn’t feel remorse as he watches the water tear away at his creations.

“The medium is transient by nature,” he said. “I have my pictures, so I can just turn my back and walk away. I’ve got to let it go.”

THE SAND MAN IN ACTION

Michael Velling will participate in several sand-sculpting events during the next few months. You can catch him in action at: The Harrison Hot Springs Third Annual Tournament of Sand Sculpture Champions May 7-11, Harrison Hot Springs, B.C.; www.harrisand.org

— MCT Campus



Photo by Russ Carmack, Tacoma News Tribune / MCT Campus
In this family photograph, an award-winning sand sculptor on the theme of gold panner, created Dr. Velling, is seen in the sandbox at his Federal Way, W.A. home.

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Kansas wins BIG!



Photo by David Eulitt, Kansas City Star / MCT Campus

The Kansas Jayhawks celebrate their 75-68 overtime victory over the Memphis Tigers April 7 in the NCAA Men's Basketball Championship in San Antonio. It was Kansas' first national title since 1988 and third overall.

Missed free-throws cost Memphis title

By Manny Navarro
The Miami Herald

SAN ANTONIO — This time, the freshman didn't get 'em.

The Kansas Jayhawks, who once fell victim to Syracuse freshman Carmelo Anthony in the national title game, fought off first-year player Derrick Rose and the Memphis Tigers to win their first national title in 20 years in a thrilling 75-68 overtime victory at the Alamodome.

Kansas' Mario Chalmers scored 18 points and made the biggest basket of the game when he hit a fadeaway three-pointer over two defenders with 2.1 seconds left in regulation to send the game to overtime tied at 63.

"I got a good look," Chalmers said. "They gave me a good pass. When it left my hand it felt good, and I was just glad it went in."

Said Kansas coach Bill Self: "We got the ball in our most clutch player's hands, and he delivered."

The Jayhawks (37-3) then scored the first six points of overtime on a Brandon Rush layup, Darrell Arthur dunk and a Darnell Jackson layup before grinding out the victory.

But it wouldn't have happened if not for some poor free-throw shooting by Memphis (38-2) and a frantic Kansas rally.

The Jayhawks trailed by nine with 2:12 left. "A lot of us thought the game was over," senior forward Darnell Jackson said. "But Coach kept telling us to believe."

It is the first title for Kansas since 1988, when Danny Manning, now an assistant coach for the Jayhawks, led them to an upset of Oklahoma and the program's third overall.

But Rose, the 19-year-old freshman who could end up being one of the top players taken in the next NBA Draft — along with teammate Chris Douglas-Roberts — couldn't clinch a win at the free-throw line.

The Tigers, who battled free-throw woes all season, missed four consecutive foul shots in the final 16 seconds — three in a row by Douglas-Roberts and one by Rose — allowing the Jayhawks a chance to tie the score after Rose made his last free-throw attempt with 10.8 seconds remaining.

"I really can't explain what happened," said Douglas-Roberts, who finished with 22 points. "I just missed them."

Chalmers, who was named the game's most outstanding player, then drilled the game-tying three-pointer and became the hero.

Rose was on his way to earning that title before then. With his team trailing, Rose took over the game in the second half, scoring 14 of Memphis' 16 points during a six minute stretch to lift the Tigers to a 60-51 lead.

Rose finished with 18 points, six rebounds and eight assists. But the Tigers, who set an NCAA record for wins in a season and recorded 104 wins in its past three seasons combined to tie Kentucky (1996-98) for the NCAA record for victories in a three-year period, went home without its first crown.

Kansas set a school record for victories and has won 85 of its past 95 games in its past three seasons combined.

It was the Tigers' first appearance in the national championship since it lost to UCLA in 1973 and Kansas' eighth trip to the final and the first since it lost to Anthony and



Photo by Jeff Siner, Charlotte Observer / MCT Campus

Kansas coach Bill Self cuts down the net following a 75-68 victory over the Memphis Tigers.

Syracuse in 2003.

Kansas' calling card all season was defense. In the semifinals April 5, the Jayhawks held North Carolina's second-ranked scoring offense to a season-low in points and field goal percentage. On Monday, they slowed down Rose and Douglas-Roberts, who were averaging more than 20 points a game, and forced the duo to shoot a combined 14 of 33 from

the field.

It was only the seventh time the national championship went into overtime and the first since 1997 when Arizona beat Kentucky 84-79.

"Coach Self did a great job in the huddle," Russell Robinson said. "He kept telling us to believe and to keep playing hard. We were able to make plays when we had to."



Photo by Jeff Siner, Charlotte Observer / MCT Campus

A Memphis player hangs his head after the loss.

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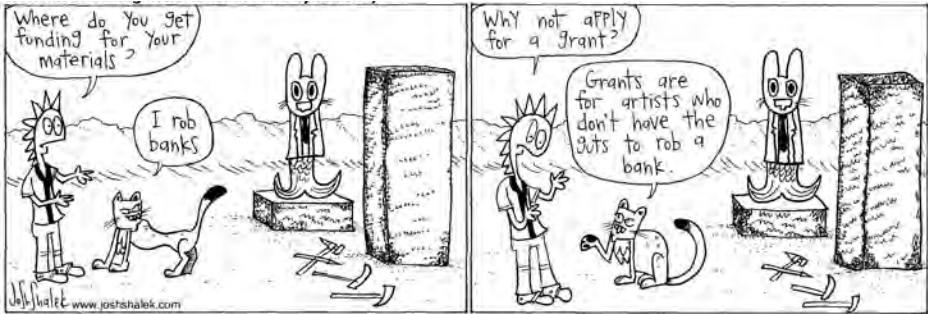


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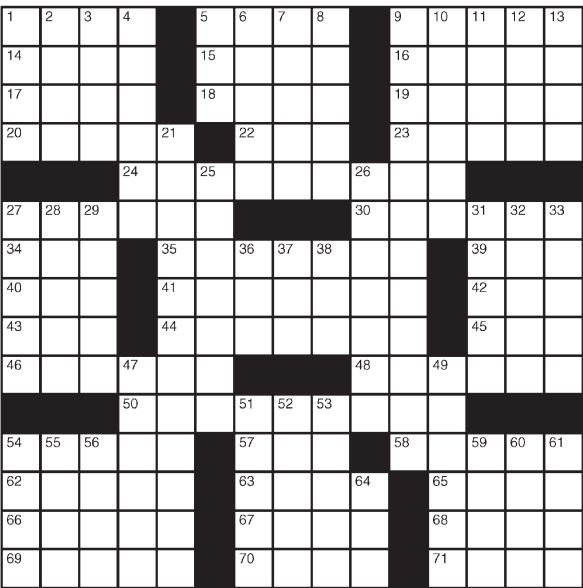


Paul by Billy O'Keefe



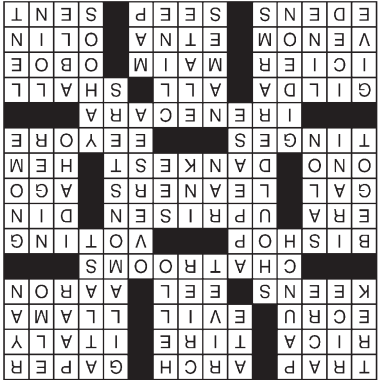
Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Golf course hazard
 - 5 St. Louis landmark
 - 9 Rubbernecker
 - 14 Costa
 - 15 Run out of gas
 - 16 Europe's "boot"
 - 17 Hosiery shade
 - 18 Wicked
 - 19 Peruvian beast
 - 20 Loudly laments
 - 22 Cave-dwelling fish
 - 23 Composer Copland
 - 24 Online hangouts
 - 27 Chess piece
 - 30 Casting a ballot
 - 34 Bullpen stat
 - 35 On one's feet
 - 39 Noisy disturbance
 - 40 Guy's honey
 - 41 One-pointers in horseshoes
 - 42 In the past
 - 43 Lennon's Yoko
 - 44 Most dark and dreary
 - 45 Stitched border
 - 46 Hints
 - 48 A.A Milne character
 - 50 "Fame" star
 - 54 Radner of "SNL"
 - 57 Every last one
 - 58 "I __ return!"
 - 62 Less cordial
 - 63 Cause bodily harm
 - 65 Clarinet relative
 - 66 Animal toxin
 - 67 Sicilian volcano
 - 68 Lena of "Chocolat"
 - 69 Perfect places
 - 70 Ooze
 - 71 E-mailed
- DOWN
- 1 Arduous journey
 - 2 Chop into tiny pieces
 - 3 Cornfield measure
 - 4 Belly
 - 5 Goddess of criminal folly
 - 6 Transfix
 - 7 Tearful one
 - 8 Name-tag word
 - 9 Desert lizards
 - 10 Finally!
 - 11 Jack of talk shows
 - 12 Sailor's patron saint
 - 13 Nolan or Meg
 - 21 Drill sergeant's command
 - 25 Propitiate
 - 26 Transoceanic
 - 27 Engendered
 - 28 Qom resident
 - 29 Beauty parlor
 - 31 Western state
 - 32 Chad's neighbor
 - 33 Fairy-tale figure
 - 36 Managed
 - 37 India or indelible
 - 38 Visualize
 - 47 Israelite hero
 - 49 Boors



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Solutions



Announcements & Classifieds

Casino Night at Osceola campus
You are invited to the annual Osceola Campus Casino Night sponsored by the Student Government Association.
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Valencia Community College's music department will host a series of free musical performances throughout April. Dates, times and locations are as follows:

Contemporary Ensemble and Commercial Music Ensemble Concert
Thursday, Apr. 10
7:30 p.m.
East Campus Performing Arts Center
701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando

Spring Band Concert - Symphonic Band and Jazz Band
Tuesday, Apr. 15
7:30 p.m.
East Campus Performing Arts Center
701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando

Sophomore Voice Recital
Tuesday, Apr. 15
7:30 p.m.
East Campus Building 3 Atrium
701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando

String Ensemble Concert
Thursday, Apr. 17
1p.m.
East Campus Building 3 Atrium
701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando

Valencia Ensemble Spring Concert
Sunday, Apr. 20
2:30 p.m.
St. Michael's Episcopal Church
2499 N. Westmoreland Drive, Orlando

Voices of Valencia Concert
Tuesday, Apr. 22
7:30 p.m.
East Campus Performing Arts Center
701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando

Opera-Theatre Workshop Performance
Friday, Apr. 25
7:30 p.m.
East Campus Black Box Theatre
701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando

Opera-Theatre Workshop Performance
Saturday, Apr. 26
7:30 p.m.
East Campus Black Box Theatre
701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail, Orlando

All concerts are free and open to the public. For more information, contact Mr. Alan Gerber at 407-582-2329.

CLASSIFIEDS

The Army is currently offering sizeable bonuses of up to \$40,000. In addition to the cash bonuses, you may qualify for up to \$73,836 for college through the Montgomery GI Bill and Army College Fund. Or you could pay back up to \$65,000 of qualifying student loans through the Army's Loan Re-payment Program. To find out more, call 407-345-8701.

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