



‘Ruins’ lures viewers to theaters Page 7



‘Stop-Loss’ salutes American troops Page 8

# VALENCIA VOICE

Volume 4, Issue 12

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April 16, 2008

## Fast Finder

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As scientists find new planets and an alien solar system, they look toward a big year.

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## Important Dates

### Student Directed Plays

Wednesday, Apr. 16

1 p.m.

Black Box Theater  
East Campus

### Gallery Exhibit

Friday, Apr. 18

6:30 p.m.

East Campus

### Spring Strings Concert

Tuesday, April 22

7:30 p.m.

Performing Arts Center  
East Campus

By Christi Parsons and Mark Silva  
Chicago Tribune

MALVERN, Pa. — Hillary Clinton's camp complained Wednesday that Barack Obama was trying to buy the Pennsylvania Democratic primary with an extensive television advertising campaign, saying his rising popularity with the state's voters was partly the result of misleading ads.

Obama aides credited the Illinois Democrat's recent bus tour through the state for his rise in the polls, while also trying to lower expectations raised by the new data. But what was clear was that both camps were

confronting new numbers suggesting that Obama was narrowing Clinton's lead in the crucial Apr. 22 primary to within a few percentage points.

"We're running uphill here," said Obama strategist David Axelrod, noting Clinton's early lead, key endorsements and advantage with older voters who comprise a big slice of the state's electorate. "We've got a lot of work to do."

Given Clinton's advantage in Pennsylvania, early speculation was that Obama would not expend a lot of effort in the state, so that he could concentrate on May 6 primaries in North Carolina and Indiana — and so that a defeat wouldn't look so bad.

But Obama was back in Pennsylvania on Wednesday on the heels of a six-day bus tour around the state last week, and was also pouring millions of dollars into the television advertising that inspired a furious Clinton response, although a low-budget one, on the radio.

Obama leads Clinton in the number of pledged delegates awarded around the country so far this primary season, but Clinton is hoping that a solid win in Pennsylvania will help convince uncommitted superdelegates that she is better equipped to swing such states to the Democrats in the general election.

Clinton spent the day in the western part of the

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Photo by Sarah Soliman / Valencia Voice

Princess Project volunteers and Johnny, local radio personality from XL106.7 pose in the Clear Channel Communications lobby.

## Local radio station hosts dress drive

By Sarah Soliman  
Valencia Voice

If you've never listened to Johnny and Jayde in the morning on XL 106.7, now is a good time to start! Not only are they hilarious and will make your morning drive entertaining, but their also a heartwarming duo that recognize Central Florida's needs.

The Princess Project, organized by Johnny and Jade, collected 3000 prom dresses for the junior and senior girls in our area who cannot afford to buy a dress. The dresses were do-

nated by the individuals in the area who realize that prom is one of the most important days in a young girl's life.

The event took place in the Clear Channel Communications lobby in Maitland on Saturday, Apr. 12. The doors opened at 9 a.m. and the event went on until 1 p.m.

The girls were accompanied by a volunteer, or in this case a 'personal shopper', that aided them in choosing the right dress for their special night. Volunteers ranged from high school girls accompanied by their mothers, to college students, to middle

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## China stopped terrorist plan to kidnap athletes

By Tim Johnson  
McClatchy Newspapers

URUMQI, China — The International Olympics chief said Thursday that the Summer Games scheduled for August in China are in "crisis" amid protests following the Olympic torch, and the sense of emergency surrounding the games grew Thursday when China declared that it had smashed a Muslim terrorist ring that was plotting to kidnap Olympic athletes.

The Ministry of Public Security said it broke up a terror ring of 35 members of the East Turkestan Islamic Movement in this predominantly Muslim city in far west China. It said the group planned a variety of actions to disrupt the Aug. 8-24 games, including setting off bombs in Beijing and Shanghai.

The arrests occurred March 26 to April 6, Public Security Ministry spokesman Wu Heping told a news conference in Beijing, adding that police also seized 21 pounds of explosives, eight detonators and two explosive devices.

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## Colorado airline files bankruptcy due to credit card scam

By Terry Maxon  
The Dallas Morning News

DALLAS — Denver-based Frontier Airlines Inc. became the fourth U.S. airline in less than a month to file Chapter 11 bankruptcy papers Friday, joining Aloha Airlines Inc., ATA Airlines Inc. and Skybus Airlines Inc.

However, Frontier will continue flying its airplanes, the carrier said, unlike the other three, which have grounded their aircraft and ceased operations.

Frontier blamed an unnamed credit card company that had tried to "substantially increase" the amount of customer receipts the credit card company wanted to hold back and keep in reserve in case the airline ran into trouble.

The action, which was to begin Friday, "threatened to severely impact Frontier's liquidity," the carrier said.

"Frontier is committed to delivering exceptional customer service and we intend to continue delivering on that promise with normal operations throughout our reorganization process," Frontier president and chief executive Sean Menke said in a statement.

"To be clear, we filed for very different reasons than those of other recent carriers, and our customers and employees can be confident that we intend to keep on flying and providing outstanding service and products," he said.

Menke said Frontier "has continued to perform relatively well in this difficult environment, and contrary to the trend, we have not seen a decrease in consumer demand, as demonstrated by our record traffic and revenue in March."

The credit card holdback "would have made it impossible for us to continue normal operations," he said. The bankruptcy



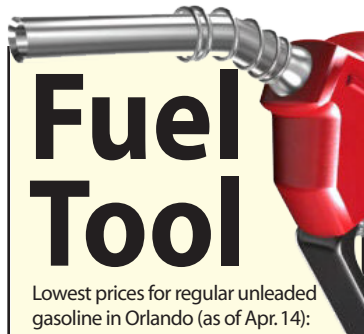
Photo by Mark Evans / iStockphoto

filing will prevent the card company from increasing the holdback, Menke said.

"We are prepared to litigate this issue if necessary," he said.

— MCT Campus

Page design by Sarah King



# Fuel Tool

Lowest prices for regular unleaded gasoline in Orlando (as of Apr. 14):

**\$3.18<sup>9</sup>**  
Sam's Club  
9498 S Orange Blossom Trail  
Orlando, FL 32837

**\$3.21<sup>9</sup>**  
Costco  
3333 University Boulevard  
Orlando, FL 32817

**\$3.24<sup>9</sup>**  
Sam's Club  
7810 West Colonial Drive  
Orlando, FL 32818

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



# Best of Orlando



A shot of Orlando’s number 1 entertainment hot spot.

Photo by Firkin & Kegler

## Coffee shop serves vegans, too

By Abigail J. Isham  
Valencia Voice

Where in Orlando can you grab a great cup of joe and a sandwich, unwind with friends over an import beer, find local art and music, study and rent a movie? Stardust Video and Coffee, of course.

Located at 1842 E. Winter Park Rd., Orlando, Fla., 32803 (near Corrine Drive), Stardust is way more than just a coffee shop.

No matter what your idea of a good time is—games, movies, open mic nights, or simply relaxing with a drink and surfing the free wi-fi internet—you’ll surely discover that Stardust has something for everyone.

If you’ve been to Stardust in the past, it may not look exactly as you remember it on the inside. What used to be a maze of movies has been condensed in the last year to open up the newly redeco-rated lounge area. You’ll still find the movies, but now you’ll also find a cozy spot to read, study or meet with friends.

Of course, you’ll also find an extensive beverage menu as well as some great food, like the “Grinder-man” sandwich, a delectable assembly of chicken, pesto, basil, goat cheese and hot sauce on pressed panini bread. And rest assured, vegans, that Stardust caters to you, too. Not only does Stardust offer a myriad of vegetarian and vegan plates, but many of their sandwiches can also be “veganized,” as the menu says.

For more information, check out Stardust’s MySpace page at <http://www.myspace.com/stardust-videoandcoffee> or call (407)-623-3393.

Stardust is open from 7 a.m. – midnight, Monday through Friday, and from 8 a.m. – midnight on the weekends, so there’s no excuse not to stop by and see what people are buzzing about.



Photo by Rachel Harris / Stardust Video & Coffee

Despite an empty parking lot, Stardust draws in a regularly large crowd.

## Family fun at Firkin

By Jordan Keyes  
ValenciaVoice

The title of Orlando’s Best Family Entertainment spot goes to... Firkin and Kegler’s. This place is a little bit of everything. With a sports bar, an arcade, a restaurant, a bowling alley and more; if you can’t find something to do here you’re probably brain dead. This large, 2-story complex on the east side of Orlando tries to be everything to all people, and it succeeds. Just past the front entrance, the place opens up into all of the aforementioned activity areas. The restaurant serves typical sports bar food, fish and chips, burgers etc.The food is good, nothing to write home about, but it’s affordable and tasty. The

bowling alley consists of a spacious room with an impressive line-up of 32 full-sized bowling lanes plus 6 smaller lanes for the kids who don’t quite have the arm strength needed to get to the pins. The arcade has both traditional games like “Dance, Dance Revolution” along with more advanced games like virtual reality golf for the adults who still want their chance to play. Upstairs is a 21-and-up nightclub that is adequate for your dancing/drinking needs. The overall atmosphere is very family-friendly without feeling cheesy or “un-cool”. This is one of those places that says it’s fun for all ages and actually is. So if you’re looking for a fun place to play, eat, drink, dance, and bowl, this is the place for you.

## Night club caters to diversity of local partiers

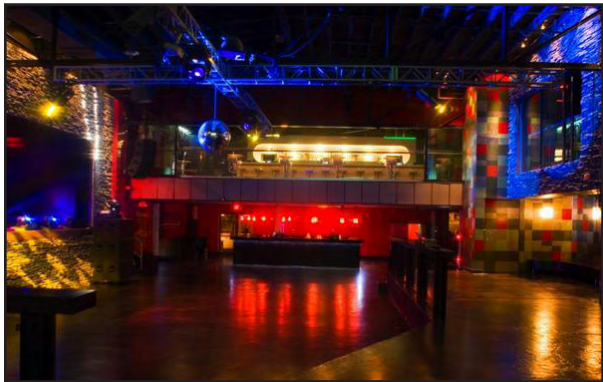


Photo by Club Firestone

The main floor of Club Firestone.

By Sarah Soliman  
Valencia Voice

Almost everyone knows that downtown Orlando is a constant party. But one night club in particular stands out and received the Valencia Voice’s “Best of Orlando” nomination. This honor went to none other then Club Firestone.

Firestone continues to be one of Orlando’s hottest party spots. Its diversity engages different crowds and satisfies the taste of more then one set music genre.

From indie, to rap, to techno, Club Firestone allows for different styles, attitudes, and tastes in music to intertwine and make for a good night out. With a huge main dance room, a smaller hip hop room, several bars, and an outdoor

lounge, Firestone offers a unique, yet comfortable setting in the heart of the city.

Firestone is one of the few view night clubs that doesn’t solely focus on a certain genre of music or a specific crowd. Instead, the club finds greater importance in drawing people together through music and dance, something everyone has a taste for.

Night clubs like Firestone are the start of a new, peaceful generation; a generation that looks beyond the typical stereotypes.

For these reasons, Club Firestone has been nominated for Valencia Voice’s “Best of Orlando’s” night club.

If you have yet to check out this spot, definitely gather some friends and plan a night out at Club Firestone. Trust me, you won’t regret it!

## CD store satisfies tune cravings

By Abigail J. Isham  
Valencia Voice

While Park Avenue CDs is no longer located on Park Avenue in Winter Park, its new location at 2916 Corrine Dr., Orlando, Fla., 32803, will not leave you disappointed. Not only is it easier to find parking at the “new” store, but venture inside and you will find that they’ve expanded to a larger venue, providing more room for all that Park Avenue CDs has to offer.

The best thing about Park Ave CDs is their staff. Since I first discovered them in 1999, the customer service and the staff’s passion for music is what keeps me coming back. If you’re itching for some new music but are unsure what to buy, talk to the staff of Park Avenue CDs, who will be more than happy to talk tunes with you, provide some great recommendations, and then let you listen to the album before you decide to purchase it.

Park Avenue CDs is also a great place to feed your need to read about music, offering a great selection of music-related books and many import and domestic magazines. You’ll even find underground ‘zines and some hilarious greeting cards in addition to that rare album and band t-shirt you’ve been after.

Should you find they don’t have the album you’re after, just let the staff know and they’ll be glad to order it for you. A few days later (for most titles, anyway), you’ll receive a call from the store to let you know your music arrived and you can come listen to it.

Don’t let the store’s moniker fool you into thinking they only have compact discs; you’ll find one of the best vinyl selections Orlando has to offer at Park Ave. CDs, as well as a whole section of local music.

Album release parties are often held at the store, and many of these events come with goodies like posters or spe-



Photo by Ryan Fleming / Park Ave CDs

An evening photo of the new location of Park Ave CDs.

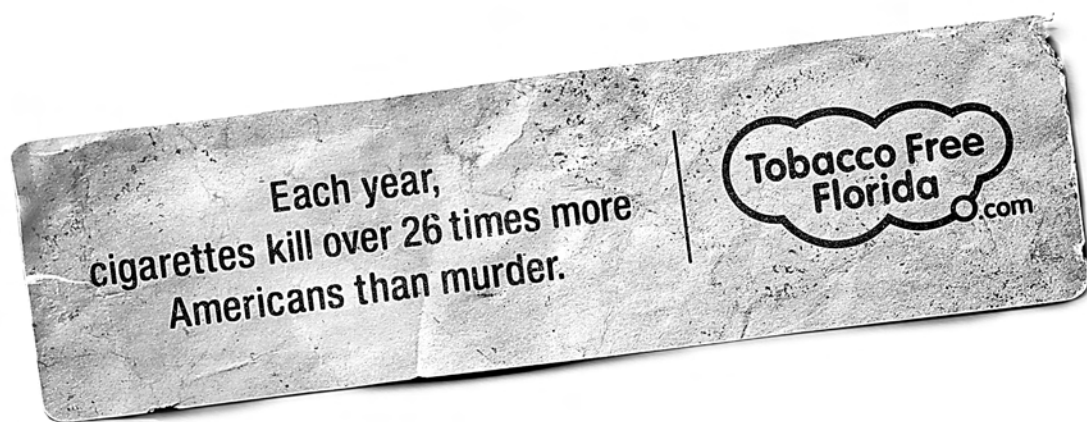
cial editions. Be sure to keep an eye out for one of the midnight sales Park Avenue CDs is known for having, like last week’s midnight sale/release of the Breeder’s new album.

And next time you’re on UCF’s campus, check out “Park Ave. CDs, Jr.,” as the website calls it, located in suite #102A of the Student Union building.

Call 407-447-PARK, or visit <http://www.parkavecds.com> to find out more about this great record store.

HOURS:  
Mon-Thurs: 10am - 10pm  
Fri-Sat: 10am - 11pm  
Sun: 11am - 8pm





Door locks won't work. Mace won't help. So, how do you fend off the nation's deadliest killer? Simple, don't smoke. By leading to lung cancer, heart disease and countless other ailments, smoking kills 438,000 smokers each year. If you never light up, you'll never be one of them. And if you'd like to save someone else, tell them to visit **[tobaccofreeflorida.com](http://tobaccofreeflorida.com)** or call the Quitline at **1-877-U-CAN-NOW** for free cessation aids like patches, gum and lozenges while supplies last.



Opinion

Students share study secrets

By Marcel Evans  
Valencia Voice

“Students fail to use their most valuable assets, each other,” T.J. Cole, president of the SGA.

Final exams for most are less than a week away. The stress of last minute projects, homework assignments and a barrage of tests have most students on edge. For perspective, below is a copy of the 8th grade arithmetic portion of the final exam for the class of 1895 in Salina Kansas. If you have the time, take a moment and a stab at 8th grade academia in the 18th century, unless of course you have an exam to go to.

Arithmetic (Time, 1.25 hours)

1. Name and define the Fundamental Rules of Arithmetic.
2. A wagon box is 2 ft. deep, 10 feet long, and 3 ft. wide. How many bushels of wheat will it hold?
3. If a load of wheat weighs 3942 lbs., what is it worth at 50cts. per bu, deducting 1050 lbs. for tare?
4. District No. 33 has a valuation of \$35,000. What is the necessary levy to carry on a school seven months at \$50 per month, and have \$104 for incidentals?
5. Find cost of 6720 lbs. coal at \$6.00 per ton.
6. Find the interest of \$512.60 for 8 months and 18 days at 7 percent.
7. What is the cost of 40 boards 12 inches wide and 16 ft. long at \$.20 per inch?
8. Find bank discount on \$300 for 90 days (no grace) at 10 percent.
9. What is the cost of a square farm at \$15 per acre, the distance around which is 640 rods?
10. Write a Bank Check, a Promissory Note, and a Receipt.

Smoky Valley Genealogical Society and Library in Salina, Kansas and reprinted by the Salina Journal.

For those of you who found the arithmetic test above a breeze you would have to be equally proficient in writing and reading in 1865 to graduate from middle school. Hopefully the consensus is final examinations aren’t what they used to be.

Whether you’re an A student or a student under distress take comfort in the fact that you’re not alone; you’ll live to see another day and possibly another final’s exam week.



“If you're going to study for a final, memorize terms, put them on flash cards to study between classes.”  
— **Steven Somwaru**



““Get in a study group; discuss study material with your teacher.”  
— **Jessica Moreno**



“Study an hour before the test.”  
— **Christina Herrea**



“Eat a good breakfast; good night sleep, don’t cram.”  
— **Anthony Do**



“Don’t rush your work don’t overwhelm yourself.”  
— **T.J. Cole**



“Take a cold shower before studying and study three hours at a time.”  
— **Ruth Nerius**



“Do not study in your bedroom.”  
— **Phylicia Matheson**



“Study in a group.”  
— **Ryan Tiemanguan**

Photos by Marcel Evans

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### Corrections

Page 5 of issue 11 was designed by Sarah King.

Page design by Ilona M. Horvath



Opinion

Our Position:  
*Unfair airfare*

The 80s were a simple time: Hulk Hogan was at the height of his popularity, “The A-Team” was Mr. T’s magnum opus, Guns and Roses were lighting up the Billboard charts, the Berlin Wall came crashing down, and movies were promising us the advent of flying cars in the near future.

Flash forward 20 some odd years- Hulk Hogan is a shadow of his former self, Mr. T is scrounging to make a living by doing World of Warcraft commercials, Guns and Roses dusted themselves off and are still hitting on all rusted cylinders, the Berlin Wall remains historic memory, and now airplanes are undergoing intense inspections which are in turn causing 1000s of flights to be cancelled nationwide.

The point being- airplanes are archaic, and where on the golden plated brilliance that was Mr. T’s magnificent necklace collection is our flying cars?

To be even more facetious, you could go further back to find the would-be, kooky idea of airborne automobiles- the 50s. But most of us weren’t even a glimmer in our father’s eye at that time, so that point is rendered moot.

To the point however, American Airlines this week announced that they will be canceling 100 more flights from last week’s 900 cancellations, due to faulty mechanical components.

Executives at American said, in an interview with the AP, safety was never compromised, and they suggested the nation’s biggest airline was the victim of suddenly stepped-up scrutiny by federal regulators.

American estimated that more than 100,000 travelers were booked in last week’s 1,094 canceled flights. Many had to scramble to book new flights and were stranded at hotels far from home.

The issue stems from an order that the Federal Aviation Administration gave airlines in September 2006- and gave airlines until last month to

meet- about the bundling of wires in the backup power system for the fuel pump of the MD-80 airplanes. The fear is that improperly bundled wires could rub, leading to an electrical short or even fire. However, no serious incidents have been blamed on the bundles, the FAA said.

The cancellations could hardly come at a worse time for American. Its parent, AMR Corp., is scheduled to report first-quarter earnings in two weeks, and analysts on Wall Street, as interviewed through CNN, are forecasting a loss of more than \$300 million. High fuel prices and the downturn in the economy are hurting the industry.

Suddenly those of us who were born in the 80s are looking so kooky after all. That generation had the right idea.

Take it a step further and shouldn’t we have personal jet-packs by now? America did go to the moon in the 60s, if you recall.

If you let this little stat simmer in your cerebellum for a hot minute, you’ll soon realize why we can’t have flying cars- since the start of the Iraq War, the average cost breaks down like this:

- \$4,681 per household.
- \$1,721 per person.
- \$341.4 million per day.

Roughly \$510,364,341,789 trillion has been spent since the very beginning of the current Middle East conflict, according to a Wall Street Journal report.

Staggering.

Imagine if that money had been spent of funding an alternative source of energy, or constructing a better infrastructure for the space program, or researching a means in which to manufacture cars that could fly...

The possibilities are as endless as the imagination.

Rest in peace ‘A-Team.’

Don Wright

The Palm Beach Post



Opinion:  
*Olympics lost their flare*

By Frank Tobin

Valencia Voice

Protested torches, would-be banning of the Olympic country of China, human rights activists and politicians like Barack Obama wanting to bar the USA’s participation in said Olympic Games, and all this before the games have even begun.

In lieu of this protracted protestation, let’s look at the history of the Olympics and why they have gone to bad seed in recent years.

First, we must analyze the origination of the games.

According to the AP, The Olympic Games are an international multi-sport event subdivided into summer and winter sporting events. The summer and winter games are each held every four years (an Olympiad). Until 1992, they were both held in the same year. Since then, they have been separated two years apart.

Uncovering, and retracing, the Olympic tradition even further-the Olympic Games quickly became much more important throughout ancient Greece, reaching their zenith in the 6th and 5th centuries BC.

The International Olympic Committee explains the history of the games in more detail on their website, illustrating that the Olympics were of fundamental religious importance. They were contests alternating with sacrifices and ceremonies honoring both Zeus (whose colossal statue stood at Olympia), and Pelops, divine hero and mythical king of Olympia famous for his legendary chariot race, in whose honor the games were held.

The number of events increased to twenty, and the celebration was spread over several days. Winners of the events were greatly admired and were immortal-

ized in poems and statues (not to mention they could have all the high-class prostitutes they could ever desire). The Games were held every four years, and the period between two celebrations became known as the Olympiad. The Greeks used Olympiads as one of their methods to count years.

This is when the men were men (women weren’t allowed to participate) and the sheep ran scared.

Back then, the winners were looked at as gods. These days, the winners are just your average run-of-the-mill “athletes,” not like the best-in-the-world competitors we have here in America in our own professional sports (the NBA and NFL, NHL and MLB).

So what’s the big deal then? Why should the Olympics be allowed to exist anyway? And why the uproar over the “desecration” of the hollowed tradition of the passing of the torch?

1936 was the year when the torch relay was introduced; Adolf Hitler was the one who initiated it. Should that still be a hollowed tradition?

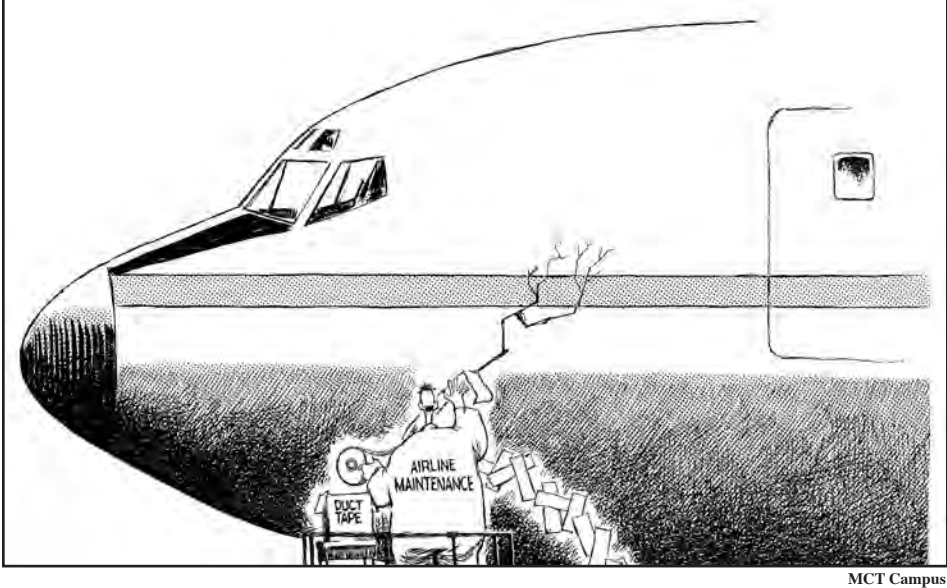
If you want to make the Olympics interesting again, why not bring back some of the games that were primordially exciting- like naked wrestling, and life-threatening chariot races.

We want to see the blood, sweat and tears that made the games so thrilling to begin with. Now the games are simply a flag-football-touch-fest for each country, vying for faux supremacy in the global community; a supremacy that is mocked on an annual basis by those who actually give a hoot.

Unless more high-class prostitutes are being passed around to the winners (and they might be, who knows?) then the Olympics will forever remain uninteresting, and benign. Period.

Don Wright

The Palm Beach Post



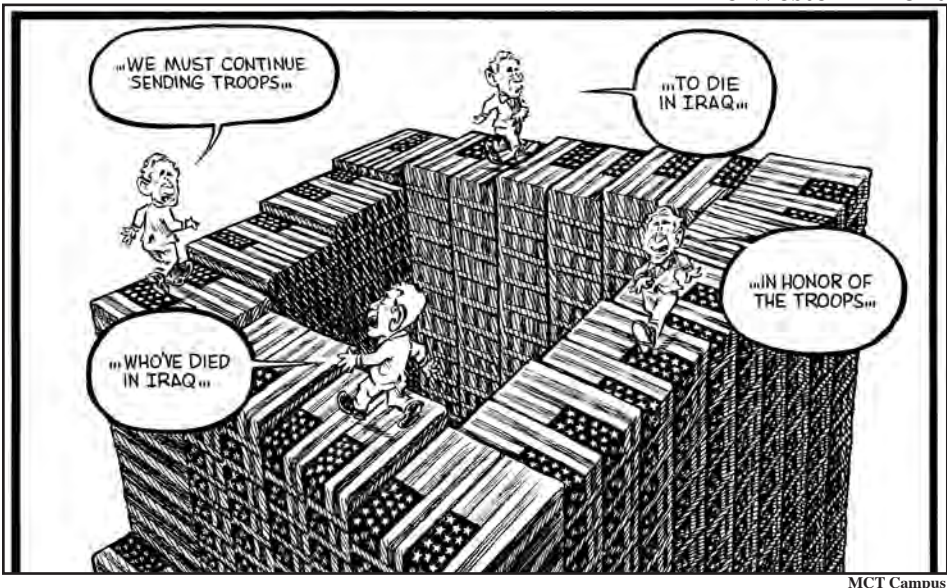
Nate Beeler

The Washington Examiner



Terrence Nowicki

The Western Front





# Protests mar Olympic torch relay

By Philip Hersh and Evan Osnos  
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO – Laying down an ambitious route around the globe, China planned the torch relay for the 2008 Olympics to go well beyond the event’s normal role as an inoffensive, symbolic reminder that the next games were fast approaching.

This year, the record-breaking global circuit was intended to be an audacious preview of an Olympic Games that Beijing has designed to show off the best that a rising China can offer.

But after two days of raucous protests in London and Paris, during which officials had to extinguish the flame five times Monday to protect it, the latest relay risks devolving into a defiant, four-month slog that could put China into daily public-relations combat with its critics.

A decision to halt the relay through Paris on Monday clearly embarrassed Olympic and Chinese officials. And they were taking steps to head off another firestorm when the torch makes its lone North American stop Wednesday in San Francisco.

U.S. Olympic Committee Chairman Peter Ueberroth will leave Olympic meetings in Beijing earlier than planned so he can help San Francisco officials cope with expected demonstrations there. On Monday, three protesters climbed the Golden Gate Bridge and tied the Tibetan flag and two banners to its cables.

One of the banners read “One World One Dream. Free Tibet,” playing off the Beijing Olympic motto of “One World One Dream.”

The Beijing Olympics long had been expected to spark protests because of what many feel are China’s abuses of human rights both domestically, especially in Tibet, and in its trade relationship with Sudan, which critics say has contributed to genocide in Sudan’s Darfur region.

Tibet has been a particular focus since demonstrations began March 10 in the regional capital, Lhasa, and spread to other places in western China, leading to violent clashes with govern-



Protestors scaled San Francisco’s Golden Gate Bridge to protest the imminent arrival of the Olympic torch.

ment forces. The official death toll in Lhasa alone was 22, a figure that Tibetan activists said was a fraction of the actual toll.

The Olympic torch became a target of anti-China protests at the March 24 lighting ceremony in ancient Olympia, Greece, and the growing intensity of the demonstrations in London and Paris has made for an unprecedented spectacle as the torch relay heads toward the Aug. 8 opening ceremony in Beijing.

It led IOC president Jacques Rogge to go beyond what he had called “silent diplomacy” in dealing with China.

In an address Monday to the Association of National Olympic Committees, Rogge said, “The International Olympic Committee has expressed

its serious concern and calls for a rapid peaceful resolution in Tibet. Violence, for whatever reason, is not compatible with the values of the torch relay or the Olympic Games.”

The depth of expressed anger toward China may lead more heads of state to consider boycotting the opening ceremony, as German Chancellor Angela Merkel has said she will do, and as French President Nicolas Sarkozy has publicly suggested.

While there has been some talk of having athletes boycott the Beijing Games, there seems to be almost no support among any nation’s political or Olympic leaders for such an action.

But Olympic officials clearly have been taken aback by seeing the torch turn into a symbol of

animosity toward China, which had billed the relay as the “Journey of Harmony.”

“The Olympic flame belongs to the world and these actions are a serious violation of the Olympic spirit,” Beijing Olympic officials said in a Monday press release on their official Web site. “They are bound to fail and will surely arouse the resentment of peace-loving people who support the Olympic Games.”

On Sunday in London, demonstrators tried both to grab the torch from one of the runners and to put the flame out with fire extinguishers, leading officials to make last-minute changes in the route. Some torch bearers were jeered for participating in the relay.

Officials canceled Monday’s final leg of the relay in Paris after they purposely extinguished the torch and put it on a bus five times rather than risk having it snatched by angry crowds. Protesters threw water at the torch, chained themselves to railings and hung banners on the Eiffel Tower and Notre Dame Cathedral that showed the Olympic rings as handcuffs.

“We respect the rights of those who wish to gather and peacefully express a point of view, just as we expect the rights of those who are participating in the torch relay to also be respected,” USOC spokesman Darryl Seibel said Monday.

The very design that was intended to make China’s Olympic torch relay go down in history now makes it especially vulnerable to protests.

The route is a record-breaker, with 21,880 relay runners sprawling across six continents, and a controversial stop on the peak of Mount Everest. A second lantern has been set aside in preparation for a moment, likely in May, when the climbing conditions would allow a team to make an attempt on the world’s highest peak.

Beijing Olympic authorities gave no hint that they will change the route, which is expected to draw further protests during stops in India and Australia. The Chinese undoubtedly will be relieved when it enters what are called “Chinese provinces” May 4.

— MCT Campus

## Protestors cause relay route change

By Mary Anne Ostrom, Patrick May and Jessie Mangaliman  
San Jose Mercury News

SAN FRANCISCO – It might be forever known as the torch relay that wasn’t.

At least that was the case for the thousands of spectators and protesters who lost out in San Francisco’s hide and seek game played all Wednesday afternoon with one of the world’s biggest icons.

As the Olympic torch bounced all over the city, leaving a wake of thwarted protesters, bewildered cops, and thousands of sightseers denied a peek at the prize, a debate was already brewing over San Francisco’s, take your choice, deft handling or embarrassing bungling of international protocol on the road to the most bitterly contested Olympic Games in recent history.

“The Mayor made a game time decision, based on information he was receiving from the police chief and law enforcement personnel around the city,” said Newsom spokesman Nathan Ballard. “He knew he had to protect the safety of the torchbearers, and the safety of everybody in San Francisco.”

“Actually, it was a relief,” said torchbearer Molly Last of San Francisco when she and the other relay participants learned of the new route. The torchbearers even stood in the bus and cheered at the news, she said.

But there were plenty of people who said Mayor Gavin Newsom and Olympic organizers blew it.

“I’m very disappointed,” said Simon He, who waited for six hours and didn’t get a glimpse of the torch. “I think the mayor is a coward. Why did he have to change the route?”

“When they remember the torch of 2008 in San Francisco, they will think about the number of protesters and the fact the torch was snuck through the city on secret routes,” said Supervisor Chris Daly, a regular vocal critic of Newsom.

Dean Karnazes, a marathoner who ran with the torch for a short stretch along the Marina Green, spoke for many when he called the experience “incredible, surreal.” He felt badly for those who had waited hours in vain to see the torch but thought the day was a victory on some fronts.

“We got the job done, it was a success even if there were some dicey moments.”

— MCT Campus



Protestors crowded the streets of San Francisco as the Olympic Torch was carried stealthily through the city.

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# ‘Ruins’ mixes horror, drama for killer finale

By Zina Thomas  
Valencia Voice

A trip to Cancun, Mexico changed the lives of four American friends. The film’s setting is in a remote archaeological dig in the jungle, where something more than just ancient history resides.

This movie opens up with a girl clutching a busted cell phone, and screaming at the top of her lungs for help in what appears to be a dark cave. The friends meet a group of German tourists and after a night of getting drunk, and an almost lustful affair that emerges between Amy (Jenna Malone) and Mathias (Joe Anderson), the group embarks on an adventure to a



The group of tourists, Jeff, Dimitri, Mathias, Eric and Stacy stand before the Mayan ruins that are to be their final resting place.

secluded Mayan ruin. Although the path was hidden, the diverse group manages to make their way to the pyramid ruins that are covered in vines and red flowers. With hopes of finding Mathias’ love struck brother Henrich, an entire Mayan village confronts the tourists.

They are then forced to the top of a pyramid, only after witnessing the murder of a pleading Dimitri (Dimitri Baveas), a member of the team. Upon reaching the top and doing a little searching for signs that would confirm that Henrich was once there, they find other corpses covered by the vines that inhabit these evil ruins.

The ringing of what appears to be a cell phone lures Mathias down the shaft of the ruin using a man made rope and crank. After the rope breaks and Mathias is hurt, one of the girls is forced to go to his rescue.

Blood, guts, and horror are splashed across the screen as the group realizes that with each cut and open wound they become less likely to get home. The Mayans are keeping them at the top of this ruin to quarantine the spread of this infection that the vines have so discreetly spread amongst them, the Mayans even kill their own when need be.

With medical student Jeff (Jonathan Tucker) in charge of the survival of everyone atop this infectious pyramid, crucial decisions are made. Mathias loses both of his legs after being di-

agnosed as paralyzed from his fall and his legs area amputated so that death and infection won’t take over.

Yet without the sterile environment of a hospital, he dies and the vines carry his body away to be used as nourishment. After Stacy (Laura Ramsey) is infected through a cut on the inside of her thigh she to allows the vines to take over her body.

The vines take on human characteristics and call each one left to their demise. Eric, (Shawn Ashmore) one of the American tourists, dies at the hands of his beloved girlfriend after she butchers her self to get rid of the vines that have invaded her body, and she begs to be killed after she realizes what she has done.

This movie is a lesson that shows that love overcomes all fears and that it can ultimately bring one to their death. It shows the compas-



Amy (Jena Malone) and Jeff (Jonathan Tucker) seek comfort in each others arms as they face off against the flesh-eating vines in “The Ruins.”

sion that a young college student had for his girlfriend, and how he was willing to lay down his life for her.

This movie is worth the eight dollars spent on it, because it produces horror and a love story that doesn’t end the way any one will ever suspect. This film comes through with quality horror, and elicits a few screams from the crowd that that kept their eyes pealed to witness the destruction of human life by the carnivorous plants that live in “The Ruins.”

# Scorsese’s Rock doc declares ‘Rolling Stones’ best ever band



Band members Mick Jagger (lead singer), Keith Richards (first guitar), Ronnie Wood (second guitar) and Charlie Watts (drummer) performe one of many tracks included in the documentary.

By Kevin Norris  
Valencia Voice

The Rolling Stones have rightfully been deemed the “greatest rock band” for the past 40 years, and in Martin Scorsese’s latest documentary, “Shine a Light,” it becomes more apparent than ever before. Sure their gaunt faces wear the harsh effects of sex, drugs, rock n roll and even age, but damn do they still know how to rock.

Scorsese shot the performance in late October 2006 at the Beacon Theater in New York where The Stones proved to a sold out crowd that despite their age they are still the most exciting, fierce, and hip band to ever grace the stage.

The film takes off, thrusting the viewer right into the musicians’ faces with huge intimate close-ups and several interviews. By the end of the first three mind-blowing songs, Scorsese has the film running smoothly over the fuming

guitars and pounding drums. The concert plays out like an opera, as Scorsese conspicuous close-ups are intensely wild and vivid, especially on the IMAX screen.

The chosen set list demonstrates the idea that The Stones are some of the greatest songwriters to ever live: the lively “Jumpin Jack Flash” and “Satisfaction,” the kind-heartedness of “Loving Cup,” and the fan favorite “Sympathy for the Devil” all come alive as lead singer Mick Jagger vibrantly dances around. Aside Jagger is the mysterious Keith Richards who exercised his demons with his frantic guitar work, while second guitarist Ronnie Wood and drummer Charlie Watts both serenely acted as the backbone of The Stones. Along with several surprise songs, guest players, Buddy Guy, Jack White and Christina Aguilera were on hand to make the night even more monumental.

Overall, Martin Scorsese’s “Shine a Light” is a pretty damn impressive concert movie. It takes off like a rocket ascending into outer space, “Shine a Light” is a roaring, awe-inspiring rock ‘n’ roll ride that never slows down leaving the audience in question whether or not they actually just witnessed the greatest rock band in their prime.

# NES’ latest in Mario sequels promises classic quality gaming

By Frank Tobin  
Valencia Voice

Eating mushrooms in order to make yourself larger, ingesting red flowers that grant you flame-throwing abilities, stomping on the heads of Goombas (racial slur?), and rescuing little toad men who have a propensity to say one thing, and one thing only: “Our Princess is in another castle.”

If you weren’t born before the year of 1987, or if you’ve been living under a rock since the day of your birth, then you may not know of the game that is being presented.

If the latter is the case, then stop reading, slap yourself in the face, pick up an NES (Nintendo Entertainment System) controller, and learn your roots.

Go ahead, this review can wait... Are you back? Did that game change your life? Isn’t Mario one little sadistic Italian plumber? Welcome to the retro gaming revolution that is Super Mario Bros. You are now saved.

It feels like Mario has been around since before the invention of the light bulb and those who played it back in the day feel even older still. But this game stands as a true test of gaming perfection, and to this day remains blisteringly challenging, and rewarding upon completion.

Beginning as the brain child of Shigeru Miyamoto, the inventor of the greatest game ever seen by the eyes of man (God’s game), Super Mario was the compilation of many of the conventions in gaming that had been perfected since the early days of Atari (Google it if you don’t know what it is).

Jumping from platform to platform, running to beat a time limit, gathering green “1-up” mushrooms, and collecting gold coins in order to increase your high score; all of these regulars of the gaming lexicon were present, but unpolished, before the advent of the red-clad plumber with the porn-star mustache (and what a magnificent mustache it was).

Mario went on to garner critical, and commercial, acclaim, selling more than 200 million copies worldwide.

Read that again if you need to: 200 million copies sold, worldwide. Mario was the Hannah Montana of its day, only not as annoying and jailbait worthy.

Onto the actual product review starting with the graphics: fresh, vibrant, colorful, and detailed, Super Mario Brothers stunned the world with its charming and dazzling 8-bit presentation.

Mario is clearly detailed, enemies are colorful and stand out very well, power-ups flicker and glow and it’s sure a sight to behold grabbing the Invincibil-

ity Star for the first time (you sparkle like you’re a superstar in a Hollywood movie).

However, this game does not utilize the full powers of the NES, as you can see by comparing it to its sequels, Super Mario Brothers 2 and 3. The most evident “offense” to this claim is Mario himself, and some of the ground tiling. Mario looks rather blocky and square-ish, as does the ground, which is just a single block repeated endlessly. Granted, this was a launch title with the NES, so of course it’s not going to look as good as later games, but don’t let that fool you. Super Mario Brothers is a very richly detailed world and quite a sight to behold.

Any classic, true, gamer worth his/her salt will tell you that graphics pale in comparison to the true test of a game’s longevity: game play.

Fear not, true believers, for Mario has this area on lockdown.

20 years in the future could we have foreseen this game etching out its place among the more technologically advanced games of the current timeframe? Of course we could, because hindsight is a beautiful thing.

If this isn’t perfection, then this review might as well be cataloged in the recesses of journalistic ineptitude. This is one fun game: 32 levels of non-stop Goomba and Koopa smashing action.

Mario’s actions are limited to running, ducking, jumping, shooting fireballs, and swimming in the water levels, but that’s all he needs to kick serious turtle and Goomba tail.

You will have to clear various obstacles such as large gaps by leaping over them, or clearing out a row of enemies with a Koopa shell, or just blasting them with a fireball. There are even hidden bonus stages filled to the brim with coins underground and up in the sky, so search high and low. Only after clearing through all 8 worlds will you find the true head-honcho.

Yes, Mario may be “old,” but an increase in age has only solidified his standing as the greatest gaming character, and hero of the greatest game, of all time. Do yourself a favor, stop reading this (again) and buy yourself a Nintendo Wii console, and download this game for five measly dollars (yeah, most of us actually paid \$50 dollars for this game... and would gladly do it again).

You will not be disappointed... unless of course you can’t cut it as a Mario master, in which case you shall receive no sympathy, and you will be laughed at as a mere mortal who understands not the zenith of gaming’s lore. In other words, for you, “our princess is in another castle.” Classic.



# Actor Joseph Gordon-Levitt dishes the dirt with VCC



Joseph Gordon-Levitt solemnly strums a tune on his guitar during his short-lived visit home in “Stop Loss.”  
Paramount Vantage

By Ashley McBride  
Valencia Voice

“And anytime anybody says to me, ‘well you’re an actor so you have to expect to be a celebrity,’ I refuse to accept that. I don’t think it’s true,” said Joseph Gordon-Levitt in a conference call with college students on March 7. “The history of being an actor is not glamorous or rich or famous at all. But I think because the United States has abolished the monarchy and royalty, the role had to be filled somehow. And it landed on actors and singers and stuff. There’s really no fundamental link between being an actor and being rich and famous. It’s just kind of been created in the last 100 years or so.”

Gordon-Levitt was discussing his new movie, “Stop Loss,” that opened March 28. Gordon-Levitt has recently appeared in such films as 2007’s, “The Lookout,” as well as 2005’s, “Brick.” Ryan Phillippe (“Breach”), and Channing Tatum (“Step Up”) star in “Stop Loss” along side Gordon-Levitt. To prepare for the film, the actors went through military training.

“And the first thing we did actually was, when we got to Texas was the simulated boot camp. We went out into the sticks in Texas for a week. And there were five of us actors and four real soldiers making up a squad of nine. And there were three drill sergeants

this movie called Operation Dreamland. And it’s a documentary about a unit of guys in Fallujah. And it’s just really real. It’s just the cameramen hanging out with these guys. And you just get a really good sense of what it’s like a day to day life of being over there and doing the job.”

Gordon-Levitt also discusses what it was like to play a soldier. “I mean every character’s different of course. But, I’ve never played a soldier before and in my life have never considered what being a soldier would be like. I think, you know, most of us when we think about what a soldier is and what (they) accomplish in Iraq is we think about it from the point of view of politicians and news commentators and CNN and MSNBC which pretty much gives no account to the actual human subjectivity of a soldier. We never really hear what it’s like to actually be a human being over there. We’re told of soldiers in terms of numbers and in terms of politics. And the fact is that, you know, the guys over there, men and women over there, they’re not just numbers and they’re not just policies. They’re human beings. And that’s what “Stop Loss” is all about, is trying to get people to consider it from the point of view of the human beings that are in the midst of this as opposed to the, you know, the systems and the money and the oil and all the other things that we hear about day

after day.”

Gordon-Levitt also discussed the U.S. military and how his feelings about the military change depending upon how he thinks about it. “The US military, often times when you think of it, you think of this entire force that’s being run by a few powerful old men in Washington DC. And when I think about it that way I’m pretty dissatisfied. I think they’re messing up. And I think, you know, they’re messing up at best. If you give them the benefit of the doubt, they’re making a mistake. And if you don’t give them the benefit of the doubt then they’re doing some evil deeds.”

“But if you talk about the US military, not as one entire big organization, but as a group of individual people, so many of the men and women I have met who are in the military are such honorable, brave, smart, cool people. And I have the utmost admiration and respect for them. The politicians like to make an alliance between themselves and the troops. They like to say, ‘well if you don’t support my political cause then you are not supporting the troops,’ which is nonsense of course. Because every soldier that I have ever talked to, if you ask them about, you know, what political cause they align themselves with, they are like no, that has nothing to do with it. I am just over there. I am trying to make sure my buddy survives, and make sure that I survive. We are just trying to get home safe. Any of that politics has nothing to do with me. I am just doing my job and trying to stay alive and I admire that so much. And I admire the fact that they are everyday, well, maybe not every day, but all the time, risking their lives for the safety of their friends. I think it is just about the greatest thing any human being can do, and I respect it greatly.”

Gordon-Levitt also discussed being a blue state or being a red state.

“There is this story that gets told on the news every night about the Blue States and the Red States and that there is this great divide. And, you know, where I am from, I was born and raised in L.A. and I live in New York, and the people that believe this story that’s on the news every night, there’s a real divide--there’s almost a bigotry sometimes. You know, people in the cities that I’ve lived

in believe that other people in the middle of the country are, you know, are all these close minded, you know, racist, homophobic people who, you know, and it is their fault that George Bush is the President and all these things. And the truth of the matter is, in my experience, is that there are just as many close minded people in California and New York as there are in Texas and Kansas. And I have spent my fair share of time in the middle of the country. I mean, I didn’t grow up there, but I’ve worked there and I have traveled around there. And I’ve met just as many cool, smart, open-minded people in Texas, as I ever met in California.”

“And I think that the story of the Blue States and the Red States and the great divide in this country is made up. And the reason it is made up is because it divides us. Because it allows those with the power to keep the power. And that’s the whole--same old story, divide and conquer. It works, ever since, you know, forever. It goes far back as you can look up, and they are still doing it. And the truth of the matter is, we are actually quite a bit more united and in tune with each other than the powers that be would like us to believe. And, if you I think, if you stop watching CNN and MSNBC, and start, like, going online and just checking out what people have to say, for themselves, I think you will see a lot more of that unity than the major media lets on.”

It wasn’t a completely political conversation, but the controversial film starring both Gordon-Levitt and Phillippe brings up the very controversial and very current events of the war in Iraq to the attention of moviegoers, from the eyes of the soldiers who live it. In order to get into character, Gordon-Levitt took a very similar approach to Phillippe’s.

“One thing I always do for every part that I play is I come up with a bunch of music that I can listen to that will put me in the right mood. I made a play list for Tommy Burgess, the character I played in ‘Stop Loss,’ and put on MC5, this old punk band and Operation Ivy, another old punk band. And Rage Against the Machine, and System of A Down, and Metallica, and bands like that would get me going and get me into the right mood to play a character.”

## ‘Stop Loss’ flick puts new spin on today’s current affairs



Abbie Cornish and Ryan Phillippe order up a stiff one at the bar in Dreamworks/Paramount’s latest film, “Stop Loss.”  
Paramount Vantage

By Ashley McBride  
Valencia Voice

In 1999, a film came out that told the true story of a woman named Teena Brandon, played by Hilary Swank. Teena was a sexually confused female who went to great lengths, even wrapping her breasts in gauze to make her appear flat-chested and stuffing her pants, to look like a man; Teena thoroughly enjoys life as Brandon Teena and, while living as a male, she falls for another woman.

Everything seemed perfect until a group of men discover her secret. What does “Boys don’t Cry” have to with “Stop-Loss?” Well that both films are directed by critically acclaimed director, Kimberly Peirce.

“When I started interviewing soldiers, I kept thinking ‘I should not be making a movie about the war; this is not what I should be doing.’ But I remember telling myself that before: ‘I should not be making a film about a girl who cross-dresses as a boy.’” said

Peirce in an interview with Entertainment Weekly.

Leading the cast in Peirce’s latest film is Ryan Phillippe as Brandon King, a soldier in the Army. King, after serving in Iraq, believes he has fulfilled his duty and just wants to get back to a peaceful life in Texas. But then he is stoploss, or ordered back to Iraq, and he must decide whether to serve or whether to be a fugitive and cross the border.

This film gives a shocking look at what the soldiers go through when they go into battle. Channing Tatum (“Step Up”), is King’s best friend and a fellow soldier, Steve Shriver. Joseph Gordon-Levitt plays Tommy Burgess, another one of King’s friends and fellow soldiers.

Each man deals with the re-introduction into civilian life differently. Their reactions are shockingly real, as in the scene when Shriver digs a ditch in his front yard, and he’s convinced he’s back on the battlefield.

A very heartfelt look at the lives of the soldiers that protect our country, “Stop-Loss” makes one thing very clear: believe in the war or not, but without a doubt support the soldiers that are fighting; albeit of their own free will or a stop-loss.

## Danity Kane stands test of time with ‘Welcome to the Dollhouse’

By Shaneece Dixon  
Valencia Voice

Already having a double platinum album for their debut, Danity Kane, the five-girl R&B/Pop group has done it again with their sophomore album, “Welcome to the Dollhouse.” Many people may remember these young women from MTV’s Making the Band 3, where the girls were few among many girls that competed to be a part of the female group created by music and fashion mogul, Sean “Diddy” Combs. Working with music producers such as Bryan Michael Cox, this album is truly phenomenal. And even the sales have

proven it. With over 236,000 sales within the first week, the group held the biggest number of sales for a female group since Destiny’s Child in 2001.

When the group first came out on the music scene, I was a fan but seeing their growth and progression in their vocal abilities as well as the concept of their music, I am an even bigger fan. Already holding the number one hit, Damaged, directed by producer Syndrome, under their belt, there are several other interesting tracks on this album that showcases the girls’ ability as true performers. “Two of You” has a very raunchy vibe. With the rock inspired guitar riffs and drums, the beat to this song is to

die for; it’s very upbeat. It talks about being truly enamored with someone while still being very attracted to them as well.

Another hit on the album is the hidden track “Ain’t Going,” which features Combs’ new protégés, the all male R&B band, Day 26. Danity Kane already has some chemistry with this group, especially after the debut of MTV’s Making the Band 4, Season two, which was more of a Battle of the Bands special, where each group had to live in the same house and work on their separate albums, competing to make the better one. However, on this track, the competition wasn’t evident whatsoever. Ev-

eryone’s voice is distinct, but together, with all the different harmonies and vocal riffs, the vocals, from both the guys and the girls, mesh very well.

Of course, the group has their ballads as well as the hit tracks with the upbeat tempos. One of them is known as “Poetry,” which speaks on how a boyfriend’s cold demeanor and emotional abusiveness contradicts the love in the relationship. It is truly a song that every almost every girl can relate to.

As one of the top selling albums of the year so far, getting this album to add to your music playlist is a must and is surely not to be a regret.



# New space discoveries lead to big year

By Robert S. Boyd  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The year 2008 is turning out to be stellar for astronomy. New discoveries in the sky are popping up like fireflies.

Recent highlights include a whopping haul of new planets around faraway stars. A baby planet caught in the process of forming. An alien solar system that bears a remarkable resemblance to our own. Two stars merging. The littlest black hole ever detected. Organic molecules — the possible stuff of life — discovered on a moon of Saturn and on an alien planet.

On Apr. 1, astronomers reported the discovery of 10 extrasolar planets trillions of miles from Earth. That boosts the roster of alien planets to 287 since the first two were identified in 1996.

Using robotically controlled telescopes in Spain, South Africa, Australia, Arizona and Hawaii, an international collaboration known as SuperWASP — for Wide Area Search for Planets — measured slight dips in the brightness of certain stars. The dips were caused by planets that passed in front of the stars, blocking some of their light.

The new planets range from half the mass of Jupiter, the largest body in our solar system, to more than eight times bigger than Jupiter. One planet zooms around its star — its “year” — in a little more than a day. None is Earth-size or likely to support life.

“The flood of new discoveries from SuperWASP will revolutionize our understanding of how planets form,” said Tim Lister, an astronomer at the University of California in Santa Barbara.

Also on Tuesday, American and British astronomers using radio telescopes found what appears to be a “protoplanet” orbiting a young star in the constellation Taurus. The object is a bright clump of material in a dusty disk surrounding the star. If it proves to be an embryonic planet, it would be the youngest such object yet detected.

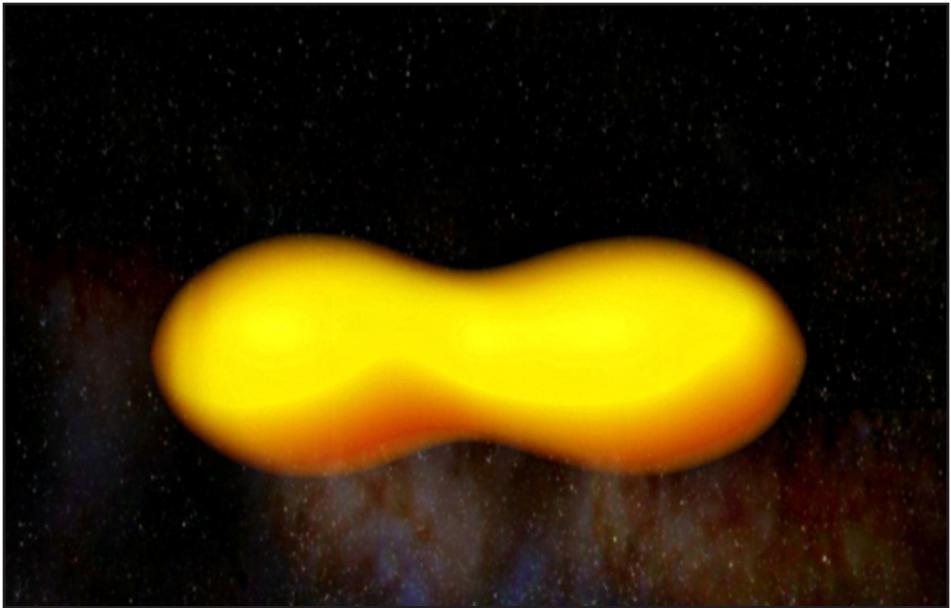


Photo by Ohio State University / MCT Campus  
This giant “peanut” is actually a photo of two very bright yellow stars orbiting each other so closely that they share some of their contents. Each star is 15 to 20 times bigger than our sun. The combo, never before seen, dwells in a small galaxy called Holmberg IX in the Big Dipper.

“We see a distinct orbiting ball of gas and dust, which is exactly how a very young protoplanet should look,” said Jane Greaves, an astronomer at the University of St. Andrews in Fife, Scotland. “In the future we would expect this to condense into a gas giant planet like a massive version of Jupiter.”

Another surprise reported last week was an unusual pair of stars in the Big Dipper that are so close together that they share some of their contents. In combination, they look like a big yellow peanut.

“When two stars orbit each other very closely, they share material, and the evolution of one affects the other,” Jose Prieto, an astronomer at Ohio State University, reported in the *Astrophysical Journal*.

Also last week, NASA scientists reported the smallest known black hole, an object so heavy

that nothing, not even light, can escape from it. This little monster is 15 miles wide but weighs almost four times as much as the sun.

“This black hole is really pushing the limits,” said astrophysicist Nikolai Shaposhnikov at the Goddard Space Flight Center in Greenbelt, Md. “For many years, astronomers have wanted to know the smallest possible size of a black hole, and this little guy is a big step toward answering that question.”

Last month, NASA and the European Space Agency announced that the Hubble Space Telescope had found methane — an organic molecule that may be associated with life — on an extrasolar planet for the first time. The gas was detected on a Jupiter-sized planet in the constellation Vulpecula (“Little Fox”).

On Earth, methane, a combination of carbon and hydrogen familiarly known as “swamp gas,”

is produced by living organisms such as livestock and termites, but also comes from nonbiological sources.

“The planet’s atmosphere is far too hot for even the hardest life to survive,” said the European Space Agency’s Giovanna Tinetti. “It’s highly unlikely that cows could survive there.”

But Mark Swain, of NASA’s Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., said the methane discovery was “a crucial steppingstone” to understanding planets “where life could exist.”

On March 12, a NASA spaceship detected methane when it flew through a plume of watery vapor on Saturn’s little moon Enceladus. The plume contained at least five additional organic molecules, precursors of the complex chemicals that combined to give rise to life on Earth.

NASA scientists said it was unlikely, but theoretically possible, that microbes would be living beneath Enceladus’ surface.

On Feb. 15, another international astronomical team announced the discovery of a planetary system around a star 30 trillion miles from Earth in the constellation Sagittarius. The system contains smaller versions of Jupiter and Saturn.

The inner planet has about 70 percent the mass of Jupiter, and the outer one is 90 percent as massive as Saturn. Smaller planets may lurk undetected closer to the star.

The system “bears a remarkable similarity to our own solar system,” team leader Scott Gaudi of Ohio State University reported in the *Journal of Science*.

So far, astronomers have spotted 26 multiple-planet systems, but none of them is as similar to our solar system as this one is.

“One of the outstanding questions has been whether or not planetary systems like ours are common, and it appears they may well be,” said Michael Briley, a program manager in the National Science Foundation’s Division of Astronomical Sciences.

—MCT Campus

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Photo by Barbara L. Johnston, Philadelphia Inquirer / MCT Campus  
Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Barack Obama (D-IL) greets supporters at the beginning of his town hall meeting at Great Valley High School in Malvern, PA., Wednesday, Apr. 9.

## Obama's record less radical than rhetoric

By Margaret Talev and David Lightman  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Barack Obama says that if he were president, he'd take politically courageous stands while forging the consensus needed to enact universal health care, immigration revisions, global warming legislation and a withdrawal from Iraq.

His three-year record in the Senate, however, offers little evidence that he can do what he's promising. His party was in the minority for his first two years, and in the third he began campaigning for president and missed lots of time on Capitol Hill. He was absent from or only partly involved in some key bipartisan efforts to head off stalemates on judicial nominations, immigration and Iraq war policy.

"He is asking us to believe he can do something he has yet to do," said Michael Fauntroy, an assistant professor of public policy at George Mason University.

Being one of a hundred senators, especially a junior one, is very different than being president, of course, and Senate records — impressive or mediocre — haven't always been good indicators of a candidate's fitness or readiness for the White House.

Obama, 46, an Illinois Democrat, was a

leader on a significant bipartisan ethics bill that passed. He co-authored successful government-transparency legislation with one of his most conservative colleagues, Sen. Tom Coburn, R-Okla.

However, he's advocated ambitious health-care expansion and largely staked out Senate positions with or to the left of his party's leaders. National Journal, a respected research publication, rated him the most liberal-voting senator of 2007. Hillary Clinton ranked 16th. The public policy magazine found Obama's votes the 10th most liberal in 2006 and the 16th most liberal in 2005.

Obama's aides take issue with the rankings because they're based on selective votes, and the standards for what's considered liberal or conservative are subjective.

Colleagues from both parties acknowledge his magnetism and respectful style, and consider him a serious student of public policy.

"I appreciated his patience," said Sen. Ron Wyden, D-Ore., who's neutral in the Democratic presidential contest, with his state set to vote on May 20. "By his own admission, he hadn't been in the Senate a long time, so he was willing to learn."

— MCT Campus

## McCain claims hasty decisions may trigger big consequences



Photo by Chuck Kennedy / MCT Campus  
Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) delivers his opening statement before Army General David Petraeus, top commander of U.S. forces in Iraq.

By Steve Kraske  
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS City, Mo. — Amid the ghosts of World War I Monday, Sen. John McCain raised the specter of a reinvasion of Iraq.

The "hasty, reckless and irresponsible withdrawal" proposed by his Democratic rivals will have dire consequences, he warned.

Backing out now would trigger massive unrest that would require the U.S. to storm back into the country to restore order, the Arizona Republican predicted to an audience of veterans at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City.

He blasted senators Barack Obama and Hillary Clinton for a "failure of leadership."

"To promise a withdrawal of our forces from Iraq, regardless of the calamitous consequences to the Iraqi people, our most vital interests, and the future of the Middle East, is the height of irresponsibility," McCain said.

Obama quickly returned the volley using some of McCain's own words, calling it "a failure of leadership to support an open-ended occupation of Iraq that has failed to press Iraq's leaders to reconcile."

The U.S. military is now badly overstretched and the American people "less safe," said Obama, an Illinois Democrat.

Clinton said the senator's "Groundhog Day approach" to Iraq "means four more years of the Bush-Cheney-McCain policy of continuing to police a civil war while the threats to our national security, our economy, and our standing in the world mount."

"We simply cannot give the Iraqi government an endless blank check," the New York Democrat said. "It is time to end this war as quickly, as responsibly, and as safely as possible."

McCain insisted that the Democrats' approach was tantamount to placing politics before the national interest.

"Doing the right thing in the heat of a political campaign is not always the easiest thing," McCain said.

— MCT Campus

## Clinton camp attempts to court female voters

### New York senator depends on support from core constituency in bid for White House

By Kirsten Scharnberg  
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — In a recent Hillary Clinton fundraising video, the cameras purposely zoom in on the faces of enraptured female supporters. They pan to signs in the crowd: "Pennsylvania Women for Hillary," "Our Mamas for the Mama" and "The Butler Girls (heart) Hillary." The spot focuses almost entirely on women.

"She is a symbol for the females," one Pennsylvania woman says into the camera. "I'm 60 years old, and I want her to win."

From the beginning of her historic run for the White House, Clinton has worn with pride the mantle of the first viable female presidential candidate, citing how women who were born before they had the right to vote routinely send her letters of encouragement and envelopes of money. During the earliest days of her campaign, she talked about breaking "America's highest glass ceiling."

Yet the Clinton campaign also has had to tread carefully on the topic of gender to avoid alienating male voters who may still struggle with envisioning a female commander in chief, as well as some as well as some female voters who, many analysts believe, worry that Clinton is too polarizing a figure to successfully represent their gender.

But the Pennsylvania Internet video — along with get-out-the-vote rallies aimed directly at women and a slew of recent comments on sexism from Clinton's surrogates and recent events that have highlighted the intersection of gender and politics in the campaign — is evidence that Clinton's focus on her role as a female candidate is becoming more overt than ever.

Some analysts suggest that as her chances of winning the nomination grow slimmer, the Clinton campaign has little to lose and will increasingly focus on gender as a way to motivate her base and increase campaign contributions as well as to explain how unfairly they believe she is being treated by the news media and the Democratic Party.

Former President Bill Clinton told a crowd in North Carolina, "Apparently it's OK to say bad things about a girl." Madeleine Kunin, the former governor of Vermont and a Clinton supporter, fumed over recent calls for the candidate to quit the race, saying, "It seems a bit patroniz-

ing to say, 'Honey, you've got to drop out for the good of the party.'"

A Clinton campaign strategist said the New York senator had previously not made regular appeals from the stump involving gender, although she would sometimes frame the issue in talking about "how historic this election is for the party and the country."

But her campaign now is appealing more directly to women, particularly in light of what the campaign says are the negative reactions of females to calls from some Democrats, including those aligned with rival Sen. Barack Obama, for Clinton to exit the race, said the adviser, who asked not to be identified because he was not authorized to speak publicly on strategy.

"We hear from a lot of women who are upset by the call from Obama supporters for Hillary to quit," the adviser said. "We are appealing more directly to them at this time. ... We've been flooded with e-mails from women and hear about it at events every day."

Former Colorado Congresswoman Patricia Schroeder, who considered a run for president two decades ago, has watched with fascination as the Clinton campaign grapples with "the gender card." Schroeder, who has endorsed Clinton, said there still is no blueprint for how a woman should act when running for the White House, particularly when the odds grow long.

"For a man, if you need him to be more powerful, you put on a blue blazer, a white shirt and a red tie," she said. "If you need him to be more accessible and down to earth, you lose the jacket and loosen the tie or throw on a casual shirt with rolled-up sleeves."

"For women," Schroeder said, "there is still no formula for how to appear as a credible political candidate. They usually either look like a Vogue model or an unmade bed."

Clinton supporters say the increasing charges of sexism among the candidate's surrogates are to be expected because Clinton has been looked at through a lens of gender that would never be applied to a male candidate. Everything from her pantsuits to her laugh to her "thick ankles" have been critiqued. At one rally, a man yelled at Clinton, "Iron my shirt!" And the moment in New Hampshire when her eyes misted over as she talked about her hopes of winning the nomination was fodder for analysis for weeks.

"I had really thought we had moved beyond the crying thing," said Schroeder, who was criticized for breaking down in tears when she decided not to make a bid for the White House in 1987. "But clearly that's not the case. Women politicians apparently still can't show the softer side."

— MCT Campus



Photo by David Swanson, Philadelphia Inquirer / MCT Campus  
Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-NY) speaks at a YMCA in west Philadelphia, Friday, Apr. 11.



# Sex column launches career

## Yale University student writes instant success

By Erica Dietsche  
The Record

“(I’m) v. noticeable,” Natalie Krinsky wrote in an e-mail as we confirmed our coffee date. She wasn’t kidding. Krinsky, 23, has earned national attention and acclaim for her writing. While a student at Yale University, she penned a sex column called “Sex and the (Elm) City” that received hundreds of thousands of Internet hits, landed her a feature in The

“When you say you’re a sex columnist, it’s easy for people to say you’re a whore.”

— Natalie Krinsky

New York Times and earned her a book deal with Hyperion. The book, “Chloe Does Yale,” a fictional account of the life of a Yale University sex columnist named Chloe Carrington, comes out in paperback Tuesday.

Now she’s turning her book into a screenplay, writing a second novel and working on television development projects. All this makes her the Candace Bushnell of the twentysomething set.

“Oh, I’m so flattered when I get comparisons to her,” she says, beaming. “She makes great money and has great shoes.”

On a cold, windy Friday recently at Joe, a tiny coffee shop where she likes to write, Krinsky seems warm, smart, the kind of woman everyone wants as her best friend. She is articulate, thoughtful and intelligent, but not above saying “That’s hot!” and laughing when a strand of her curly, dark red hair falls into her mouth.

“Sex and the (Elm) City” began in 2001 when Krinsky was a 19-year-old sophomore. A friend of a friend who edited Scene, the Friday entertainment section of the Yale Daily News, asked her to submit a few sex columns as a favor.

“He had never seen my writing, we never talked about writing,” she recalls. “I figured I’d write a column or two until he found someone else.”

The editor, Chris Rovzar, did not need to look elsewhere; her column was an immediate success. “We had no idea what a stir it would create and the reach it would have,” Krinsky says. “We were exploring, there were no expectations. Now, there are expectations.”

She’s referring to the mass proliferation of sex columns on college campuses across the country that followed her column’s success. “It’s nice to be credited with starting a trend,” Krinsky says. “But everyone brings their own spin to it.”

Does she consider herself a role model? Krinsky looks surprised. “No one has ever asked me that before,” she says, and pauses a minute before answering. “No, I don’t consider myself a role model. I’m more of a prototype than a role model.”



Photo byDaniel Loisel / iStockphoto.com

Krinsky was not the first college student to write a sex column, but she was the first to take an “average bear” approach to writing about sex and relationships. “I’m just normal. I wasn’t, and I’m not, any more or less experienced than anyone else,” she says. She aimed to be inclusive, eschewing columns bashing boyfriends or being graphic just to shock people. She wanted to capture an accurate look at collegiate relationships. Krinsky credits her success with the fact that she was careful to avoid stereotypes. “It wasn’t ‘girls are that way, guys are this way,’ it was something that everyone could relate to.”

Of course, not everyone appreciated her efforts. She received many insulting e-mails and comments. The ones that were the most hurtful, she recalls, criticized her upbringing.

“You can judge me,” Krinsky says, “but

taking it to the next level is wrong.”At first, she says, her parents “freaked out” that their daughter was the school sex columnist. “But they never said, ‘You can’t do this.’ They were just worried about my well-being. Eventually they came around. They are very supportive. They certainly didn’t think it would lead where it did.”

Neither did she. “I was never worried. I never realized what I was doing. I never thought to use a pseudonym, never thought that it would impact my own life in any way.”

The column did not affect her grades or damage her reputation on campus. “My work was never brought up in the classroom,” she says. “Occasionally, a professor might say that they were a fan of my column, but it never went beyond that.”

Though Krinsky helped make writing about sex for college publications acceptable (and potentially very lucrative), its stigmas linger.

“When you say you’re a sex columnist, it’s easy for people to say you’re a whore. College is about finding out who you are. Sex and dating are one of the ways, granted prominent ways, that help us do that. Going into college, who we are and what we expect are very different things. Mitigating those differences is the ultimate goal, the ultimate challenge and the ultimate success,” Krinsky said.

Krinsky, who speaks the way she writes, isn’t convinced that she rocketed to fame because

people were surprised to hear of sexual escapades at an Ivy League school. “Ivy League students are just like anyone else, maybe with higher SAT scores.”

One of her theories about her work’s appeal is that “college is a place that people are afraid to explore.” It can’t hurt that “Chloe Does Yale” features many of the columns that caught people’s attention, though Krinsky is quick to say that she is not Chloe and that she is not necessarily her column. “That voice is more out there, defined, opinionated,” she says.

Does she have any regrets? “None. I’m too lucky,” she says, smiling.

And while sex is the theme of her work, she says she’s learned more about people than anything else. “I’m no better in bed now, at least I don’t think so,” she says with a laugh.

— MCT Campus



Photo by Lisa Mertins / MCT Campus

## Liquid love

By Kathy Flanigan  
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

You’re used to getting advice from all sorts of places, but the Aluminum Can Council might be the most unlikely. A recent survey the council funded reveals what your favorite beverage says about you.

Canned beer drinkers (77 percent) and those who opt for a mix of alcohol and canned energy drinks (70 percent) describe their romantic demeanor as “friendly and open.” Men and women who prefer energy drinks also define themselves as “super sexy” (11 percent) and “smooth as silk” (12 percent).

If you can’t spot the drink in hand, observe how your potential date is acting. The canned beer drinker (36 percent), the energy drink drinker (38 percent) and the wine drinker (34 percent) describe themselves as the life of the party.

Here’s what the council found might happen should romance occur:

Bottled beer drinkers tend to be more open to the idea of committed relationships and have the personality of a bartender. They talk to everyone.

The average canned beer drinker is single, friendly and open and is most often a hard-working, younger professional.

Those who prefer canned energy drinks consider themselves the sexy Casanovas of the 21st century.

Wine drinkers most often are white-collar women who are considered the “ultimate hostess.”

Suave and sophisticated folks who like drinking alcohols such as scotch are typically white-collar divorcees.

Those who like non-alcoholic beverages are often widows or widowers with teenage children.

— MCT Campus

# Getting equation right means getting lucky

By Michael Precker  
The Dallas Morning News

All those years you slog through math class, struggling with cosines and quadratic equations and such, wondering what possible use this could have in real life.

Finally, a couple of British guys with calculators and what must be a really big blackboard have the answer:

Math can help you get girls. It’s all right there in the latest Proceedings of the Royal Society of London, a biological sciences journal eight pages in print and a 56-page electronic appendix. There are lots of terms such as “orthogonal strategies” and “derivation of the equilibria,” as well as complex formulas.

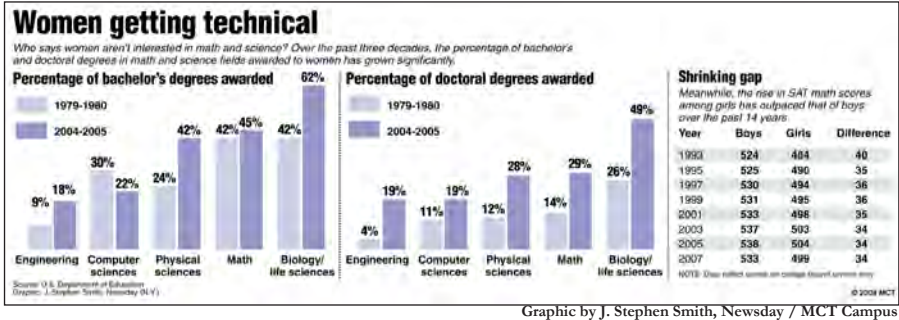
Capiche? Yes, Dr. Peter Sozou and Dr. Robert Seymour of University College London have crunched the numbers and deduced that the best way to woo women is to buy them expensive dinners.

“The whole thing took us four years, off and on,” Sozou says. “It turned out to be more complex than we thought, but the basic result was in line with intuition.”

Sozou is kind enough to try to explain this to a liberal arts graduate, though he surely knows that most of his wisdom is whizzing through the trans-Atlantic phone line and right over my head. (Hey, at least I

can calculate percentages, which vaults me ahead of many colleagues. I can also tell you the temperature in Celsius almost immediately, except when it’s below zero.)

But he notes that higher math is being used more and more in tandem with economics and biology, and this work fits right in.



Graphic by J. Stephen Smith, Newsday / MCT Campus

He got the idea reading a story in the local paper about a fellow who paid for a woman’s rent with amorous intentions that she did not share.

“He eventually found out she had a real boyfriend, and it all ended in tears,” Sozou reports.

The theory was that she strung the sap along for the sake of the rent. Had the sugar daddy just bought her fancy dinners, “She might not have wanted it to go on so long and spend so much time with a guy

she wasn’t keen on.”

What’s the difference? No matter how great the meal, the next day you’re hungry again. Rent, on the other hand, is a gift that keeps on giving, which might persuade an ill-intentioned recipient to hang around.

Now get out your chalk.

“If you start with a biological question,

you can represent it mathematically and look for an equation,” Sozou explains. “It’s really quantitative common sense.” He and Seymour built mathematical models representing gifts, attractiveness and mating decisions. Then they applied game theory, potential outcomes and the Nash equilibrium (named for John Nash, the schizophrenic Nobel Prize winner in “A Beautiful Mind”), among other things.

The winner: costly but worthless (in terms of residual value) romantic gifts. If

the fellow keeps ponying up for dinner, and the gal keeps accepting, the numbers say they’re headed for a successful relationship.

“Of course, the complications arise in what kind of gift is costly and what kind is worthless,” Sozou says.

Jewelry, he notes, falls somewhere in the middle: It has some residual value at the pawnshop but usually not nearly what the buyer shelled out.

There are some potential flaws, of course. The animal-kingdom pattern of males bearing gifts to mate with females doesn’t always apply to Homo sapiens. Humans don’t always do what mathematical models dictate. (“It’s called the ‘trembling hand’ in game theory,” Sozou says.)

It also must be pointed out that Sozou is single (“the math groupies haven’t been flocking to me just yet”), nor has he ever been to Dallas, where such behaviors might need a whole different set of equations.

Nonetheless, you can’t argue with numbers, can you?

“The economic analysis would say if a man takes a wad of \$50 bills and burns them in front of the woman, that would be the perfect gift,” the mathematician concludes. “Of course, there is a dimension that when you’re trying to impress females, you impress them that you’re sane as well.”

— MCT Campus



# Florida Everglades celebrate birthday

## Glades suffer from drastic nature changes

By Curtis Morgan  
McClatchy Newspapers

SNAKE BIGHT, Fla. — Everglades National Park marked its 60th anniversary in December. But the dazzling wildlife and unspoiled isolation mask a bigger, not-so-pretty picture.

A once-vast system shaped and linked by a broad slow-flowing sheet of fresh water has been diked and diverted, shrunk by half by encroaching cities and farms. From polluted Lake Okeechobee to parched Shark River Slough to algae-plagued Florida Bay, much of the Glades suffers alternating cases of too much water, too little water or water tainted by mercury and the various contaminants flowing off sugar fields, suburban lawns and strip-mall asphalt.

Despite a restoration effort hobbled by interagency disputes, spiraling costs and dwindling federal dollars, so does the goal of reviving what is left — at least with park managers and scientists.

“It is not optional for us,” said Superintendent Dan Kimball. “We have to figure out a way to restore this place.”

Still, the park holds the best of the remaining Everglades. All the varied



Photo by Joe Rinkus Jr., Miami Herald / MCT Campus  
A pelican, one of many animals who call the Everglades home, glides across the water.

habitats - from sawgrass marshes to the last large stands of pine rock-land woods - remain defiantly alive, although not necessarily in the same places, sizes or condition.

“There is a big misperception that when the Everglades changes, it means it all goes belly-up,” said Dave Hallac, chief of biological resources. “The ecosystem has been re-arranged.”

Large portions look much the same as they did in 1947, when visionary

Miami conservationist Marjory Stoneman Douglas wrote “The Everglades: River of Grass.” But some of its most isolated reaches have been radically transformed. The casual observer might not notice them, but to scientists, the changes are red flags of ecological upheaval.

“You may like going there, but it’s not the Everglades anymore,” said Robert Johnson director of the South Florida Natural Resource Center. “It’s

a different system.”  
Changes are even more troubling north of Tamiami Trail, where state-owned water conservation areas hold levels higher to augment supplies for coastal cities. The deep water has drowned hardwood hammocks, or tree islands, that are wildlife havens, and thinned the population of snail kite, an already-endangered bird.

Park scientists do see one good thing in the transformation: the ability of the Glades to adapt to abuse, which holds promise that it can restore itself.

While the state has pumped some \$2 billion into restoration from 1999 to 2006, exceeding expected contributions by \$250 million, the report found federal funding fell “significantly short” - by \$1.4 billion, to be exact.

For environmentalists, it adds to fear that restoration is falling way short and way behind. And pressure is only mounting on the state and federal side, both under budget crunches, to scale back. Some expect the state to complete its eight projects and declare the Everglades restored.

Johnson, the park’s chief scientist, has come to expect prolonged delays.

After 18 years, the Corps has yet to decide how to overhaul the Tamiami Trail, a project he considers the single most critical step for reviving the park’s dry center and hyper-salty Florida Bay. It’s the final step in a plan Congress approved in 1989 but road-work, not to mention water, remains years away at best.

— MCT Campus

## Disney displays real Florida

By Tim Povtak  
Orlando Sentinel

POINCIANA, Fla. — Don’t let the Disney name discourage you. Mickey Mouse won’t be taking this hike anytime soon. If he does, he likely would become dinner for a red-shouldered hawk. There is nothing touristy about it.

The Disney Wilderness Preserve is a 12,000-acre sanctuary of natural communities just outside Poinciana that is owned and managed by the Nature Conservancy, which has been restoring the land for the past 15 years.

Disney provided the property as a trade-off that allowed it to expand on wetlands near its theme parks, providing room here for more than 300 wildlife species, including 16 that are endangered or threatened today. It also became a nice place for an easy 2.5-mile hike for anyone looking for a little exercise in the great outdoors. If you need more of a challenge, take a second lap on this circular hike. A good pair of walking shoes, a little water and some sunscreen is really all you will need.

In the midst of a maddening urban sprawl, it’s an oasis in southwest Osceola County, Fla.

“The more people get to see the real Florida like this, the better,” said Erica LaSpada, operations assistant at the Wilderness Preserve. “It’s typical Central Florida eco-system. It’s just a nice way to spend a little time.”

As a working restoration project for the Conservancy, it means taking out anything that isn’t

native or natural, like drainage ditches, bahia grass and anything artificial that came with the cattle ranch. The hike starts on a concrete path, but it quickly turns to packed gravel and then into the woods as it turns through dense thickets of saw palmetto. Unlike the state forest hikes, the path here is generally wide, flat and forgiving.

The jewel of the hike is beautiful Lake Russell, which requires a short jaunt off the main trail, through a path that looks like a tractor and plow have torn a wide swath through the brush.

It’s actually the markings of wild hogs — which are not native to the area — who have become unwanted guests on the preserve as they root around like a bulldozer.

More welcomed on the preserve are the deer, the gopher tortoises, snakes, bobcats, sandhill cranes and alligators.

One of the last lakes in Central Florida to be completely unspoiled by development, Lake Russell is lined by cypress trees and fed by Reedy Creek. It drains south through the marshlands to the Kissimmee River, eventually feeding the Everglades.

After leaving Lake Russell, much of the hike is through pine flatwoods with little shade. It’s well marked and almost impossible not to follow.


The hiking instructions coming into the park: “For your safety, avoid contact with poisonous plants and animals,” sounds a little more adventurous than it really is on this hike.

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Photo by Roberto Gonzalez, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus  
A zebra swallowtail perched on a flower at Disney’s Wilderness


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Photo by Bonnie Weller, Philadelphia Inquirer / MCT Campus  
Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama greets well-wishers after a campaign shopping stop at The Shop Right Store in Norristown, PA., Wednesday, Apr. 9.

# Clinton claims Obama buys support

Coninued from Page 1

state with retired military officers and local veterans, holding a town hall meeting where she outlined ideas for strengthening the U.S. military. She proposed allowing troops at least one month at home for every month they spend in the field and ending the policy by which the military extends the service of combat troops beyond the terms of their initial enlistment.

Obama was in eastern Pennsylvania, bracketing his day with appearances at high schools in Malvern and Levittown. At the gleaming Great Valley High School in Malvern, Obama urged the largely white crowd to support investment in the education of all students, not just their own.

“Half the work force is going to be black or brown” in a few decades, Obama said. “If those kids are not educated ... they’re the ones who are supposed to be paying our Social Security. If we haven’t taken care of them, they won’t take care of us.”

Obama also went after John McCain, the presumptive Republican nominee, arguing that he would continue “Bush-Cheney-McCain” economic policies.

“His solution to the struggles of working people is reflected in his answer to the housing crisis,” Obama said, “which is to sit by and hope it passes as millions face foreclosure.”

Republicans fired back immediately.

“Obama is trying to distract voters from his

own tax-and-spend economic policies by misrepresenting McCain’s domestic agenda,” said Amber Wilkerson, a spokeswoman for the Republican National Committee. That plan includes “a balanced approach of lower taxes, transparency and accountability to help homeowners across America,” she said.

Meanwhile, the Clinton campaign called on Obama to drop a TV ad in which he declares himself free of oil company money, noting that while it’s illegal to accept money from corporations themselves, Obama has accepted about \$200,000 in donations from oil company executives and employees.

Obama has collected \$213,884 from people in the oil and gas industry as of Feb. 29, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. Clinton has collected \$306,813 from the same sources.

Robert Cavnar, listed as a bundler, or fundraiser, who has raised between \$50,000 and \$100,000 for the Obama campaign, is chairman and CEO of Mission Resources Corp. of Houston. George Kaiser, a bundler in the same range, is chief executive of Tulsa-based Kaiser-Francis Oil Co.

Clinton communications director Howard Wolfson said Obama has spent \$6.5 million on TV ads in Pennsylvania, while the Clinton campaign has spent \$2.5 million.

“He is doing everything he can to win in Pennsylvania,” Wolfson said. “And if he doesn’t win, it will be a significant defeat for him.”

—MCT Campus

# Explosives seized before attack

Coninued from Page 1

“The violent terrorist group plotted to kidnap foreign journalists, tourists and athletes during the Beijing Olympics and, by creating an international impact, achieve the goal of wrecking the Beijing Olympics,” Wu said.

“We are facing a real threat from terrorism,” Wu said, declining to take questions.

At the same time, International Olympic Committee President Jacques Rogge acknowledged that protests of the Olympic torch during the past week have been tough on the Olympic movement.

“It is a crisis, no doubt about it,” Rogge told other Olympics representatives meeting in Beijing as he urged them to reassure athletes that the games “will be very well-organized.”

The Olympic torch moved from San Francisco to Buenos Aires, Argentina, where some 1,200 police were on hand to stop the kind of disruptions that marred the relay earlier in the week in London and Paris amid protests over China’s rights record.

A sense of crisis surrounding the Beijing Olympics intensified on other fronts. In Brussels, Belgium, the European Parliament voted 580-24 to

urge European Union leaders to consider a mass boycott of the Olympics opening ceremony unless China enters direct negotiations with the Dalai Lama.

The Dalai Lama, the exiled spiritual leader of Tibetans, said he supports the Beijing Olympics and opposes violence around the torch relay, but he warned China that pro-Tibetan activists are entitled to speak out.

“Nobody has the right to say ‘shut up,’” the Dalai Lama said in Japan, where he was on a stopover on the way to a speaking tour in the United States.

Thousands of Tibetans launched an uprising that jolted wide swaths of China last month, but they aren’t the only ethnic minorities chafing under China’s rule. Some Muslim Uighurs in China’s far west are also unhappy, and Beijing raised a new red flag Thursday over what it said were the violent intentions of that minority.

China has repeatedly accused the Dalai Lama of instigating unrest among Tibetans in an effort to spoil its bid to host the best Olympic Games ever.

— MCT Campus



Map of China where the 2008 summer Olympics are being held. iStockphoto.

# Princess Project makes prom dreams come true

Coninued from Page 1

aged women who remember how important their prom was to them. In general, every person in that lobby on Saturday had the same intention, to make young girls’ dreams of a perfect prom come true with the perfect dress.

Johnny, Jayde, the rest of the XL 106.7 crew, and the volunteers witnessed unforgettable smiles throughout the Princess Project as the girls and their families left the building with their prom dresses.

But XL 106.7 didn’t only collect dresses from the community; shoes and small handbags were also donated and available for the high school girls. There were also gift bags donated by Sephora for the first 100 girls to come in. Also, dry cleaning certificates were donated for those dresses that needed it.

Johnny and Jayde are so passionate about the community and are so thankful for those who volunteer their time and support the causes they feel are important as well. To show how grateful they

were, the station gave away free gifts to the volunteers. Gifts involved, concert tickets and certificates to restaurants and if that wasn’t enough, lunch was provided for the volunteers as well.

This event attracted the entire community’s attention and was even broadcasted by FOX 35 Orlando and WESH news stations.

The Princess Project proved to be one that brought the community together and made dreams come true for high school girls attending prom.

Johnny and Jayde’s generosity and thoughtfulness has earned them the Valencia Voice’s “Best of Orlando’s” radio station. The Voice recognizes the station’s good deeds and would like to thank XL 106.7 for continuously making dreams come true across Central Florida.

If you missed out on this spectacular event, don’t threat! Johnny and Jayde have plenty of dresses that still need a home and are thinking of redoing the entire project on Saturday, April 26. Tune in to Johnny and Jayde in the morning for more details on the second attempt of Princess Project!



Photo by Sarah Soliman / Valencia Voice  
DJ Alex Diaz takes down local shopper’s information regarding the “special dress.”

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Page design by Sarah King



# Season trends confident in coming success

Erin White  
McClatchy Newspapers

Is it safe to say that spring is here? We hope so--we're ready to put away the shades of gray and black, and brighten up our wardrobes. But what to shop for to freshen up your look for spring '08? We've rounded up some trends that you can use. TREND- NEO-HIPPIE

This doesn't stray too far from the boho trend that's been popular for a while, but



expect to see more vibrant colors and more prints.

Spotted: At Anthropologie, which never really moved on from boho chic.

Tips for wearing it: Accessories can be key to this look. Gina Kelly, fashion editor at Seventeen, suggests picking up a pair of gladiator sandals, a summer scarf or a slouchy hobo bag.

TREND ... SATURATED, BRIGHT COLOR

Look for bright blues, yellows, purples, greens, pinks--shelves and racks look like Skittles-bag explosions. This season is all about color.

Spotted: On everything from bright yellow patent shoes to hot pink dresses. Preppy J. Crew and Ralph Lauren are especially awash in color.

Tips for wearing it: Choose your hue. Match a bright blue dress with yellow patent shoes as in the J. Crew catalogs for a vibrant, youthful look. Not sure you can handle that much color? Pair that dress with blue print sandals that echo, but don't compete, with the hue of the dress.

TREND- FLORALS

No matter how you like your flowers--small and dainty or candy-colored and large--you can find them this season. "Florals are everywhere," Borelli says. "Designers found their green thumb."

Spotted: Big, red poppies at Ann Taylor and feminine little buds at the Gap.

Tips for wearing it: Temper florals in eye-catching colors with a dose of a neutral, such as black or white. Pair floral frocks with edgy accessories to keep from looking too frumpy. We recommend modern silhouettes for these floral fabrics, like structured minidresses.

TREND- CONTEMPORARY ART-IN-



Photos by Ross Hailey / MCT Campus

On our model: Young Essence sea-green top, \$76; Karen Kane jeans, \$128.

SPIRED

Think stained-glass and beautifully blocked geometric patterns. Or look for fabrics that look like they've been painted with brush strokes. Again, color rules.

Spotted: In Vera Wang's line for Kohl's. Tips for wearing it: A little bit of this trend goes a long way, Caruso says. Pick one thing.

— MCT Campus

## Dior line commemorates 40s style

Ellen Warren  
Chicago Tribune

Most of us don't have a "lifestyle." We go to work, pick up the kids, fold the laundry, catch the 'L,' watch a video, collapse into bed--or variations on those themes.

Living, yes. Lifestyle, don't think so.

But if somehow you did acquire a lifestyle, here's the handbag you'd carry as you pursued it.

Clearly this is not the purse for you if you need to carry much more than a credit card, some cash and a cell phone.

But if you're enjoying a glass of Champagne, lunching at the club or meeting friends for tea at The Four Seasons, slip this little darling on your wrist and you are way better than good to go. You're enjoying "an essential step in the new look lady."

That's an excerpt from the information provided by the Christian Dior couture house celebrating its limited edition Samourai 1947 line of accessories. And it's a tribute to the sensation-

al "New Look" silhouette that shook the foundations of Paris fashion in the post-World War II era.

This particular clutch is lambskin, shaped to echo the spirit of the '40s with a soupcon of Japanese tradition--the elaborate, knotted wrist strap and the ribbon weaving, said to derive from the traditional weaving on samurai armor.

Now if that sounds like a lot to deliver for a little yellow purse, consider that the dangling logo tag is an "iconic Louis XVIth medallion in enamel tortoise-shell finish" in the original typeface used when Dior opened his luxe fashion house six decades ago.

Despite the \$2,700 price tag, this bag was a sellout; others from the line are available locally at Saks Fifth Avenue.

Most striking of all the features of the handbag is the snake curling pertly atop the frame. It's designer John Galliano's wink at Monsieur Dior's love of gardening and animals.

However, if you suffer from ophidiophobia (fear of snakes) you'll want to slither in a different fashion direction.

During the 1950s, Christian Dior was indisputably the world's most famous fashion designer; his label alone accounted for half of France's haute couture exports.

Other phobias that might make the new clutch a scary fashion choice include microphobia (fear of small things) and xanthophobia (fear of the color yellow).

— MCT Campus



Photo by Bill Hogan, Chicago Tribune / MCT Campus

This yellow little Christian Dior purse is sure to help even the modern housewife become the belle of the ball.

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