

VALENCIA VOICE

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Halloween Horror Nights 18
Sneak peak at
Universal Studio's
highlight fall attraction

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'Nick and
Norah'
entertains

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Obama, McCain tussle over economic issues in debate

By Mark Z. Barabak and
Michael Finnegan
Las Angeles Times

NASHVILLE, Tenn. -- John McCain and Barack Obama tussled over taxes, diplomacy and personal judgment in an often testy debate Tuesday night that featured none of the raw character attacks that have lately dominated the presidential campaign

After another day of plunging fortunes on Wall Street, the two candidates picked up where their last encounter left

off. Obama blamed the nation's economic woes on the Bush administration -- aided and abetted, he suggested, by the Republican senator from Arizona.

"While it's true that nobody's completely innocent here, we have had over the last eight years the biggest increases in deficit spending and national debt in our history," Obama said. "And Senator McCain voted for four out of five of those George Bush budgets."

McCain again sought to distance himself from the unpopular incumbent at one point he dismissed a "Bush-Cheney energy bill" he opposed -- and portrayed himself as a prag-

matic problem-solver with a history of bucking Washington for the greater good. "I have a clear record of bipartisanship," McCain said. "Senator Obama has never taken on the leaders of his party on a single issue."

Addressing the global economic crisis, McCain offered one of his most significant proposals of the campaign, saying he would order the Treasury secretary to immediately "buy up the bad home loan mortgages in America and renegotiate ... at the diminished value of those homes, and

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Do mask sales pick the president?

The candidate whose Halloween mask sells best has won the election, so say some in the costume business.

| Election year | mask sales | Won election |
|---------------|-------------|--------------|
| 1980 | 60% Reagan | ✓ |
| | 40% Carter | |
| 1984 | 68% Reagan | ✓ |
| | 32% Mondale | |
| 1988 | 62% Bush | ✓ |
| | 38% Dukakis | |
| 1992 | 41% Clinton | ✓ |
| | 39% Bush | |
| 1996 | 56% Clinton | ✓ |
| | 40% Dole | |
| 2000 | 57% Bush | ✓ |
| | 43% Gore | |
| 2004 | 65% Bush | ✓ |
| | 35% Kerry | |
| 2008* | 67% Obama | |
| | 33% McCain | |

*As of Oct. 6, 2008
Source: Spirit Halloween, CNN, prnewswire.com, Newscom

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Altered economic bill passes Senate, House

By Dave Montgomery
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A \$700 billion bailout package designed to ease the nation's worsening economic crisis cleared Congress and was signed into law Friday after the House of Representatives approved a revised version of the bill that it had rejected days earlier.

Some 32 Democrats and 26 Republicans switched positions to vote for the Senate-passed bill, pushing it through the House by 263-171. President Bush quickly signed the measure, praising Congress for rallying behind the rescue package.

"By coming together on this legislation, we have acted boldly to help prevent the crisis on Wall Street from becoming a crisis in communities across our country," Bush said during a five-minute statement in the White House Rose Garden. Later, he walked next door to the Treasury Department, where he thanked Secretary Henry Paulson and the building's employees for their hard work during the financial crisis.

Stock prices slid on Wall Street despite the bill's passage as new data from around the world made it clear that the economic outlook is darkening rap-

idly. U.S. employers shed 159,000 jobs in September, the highest monthly number in five years, for example. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped another 157.47 points to close at 10,325.38.

Friday's vote reversed the House's rejection of the bill Monday on a 228-205 vote, and came two days after the Senate passed a revised version of the original plan by 74-25, including \$110 billion in unrelated tax breaks and other incentives

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Rescue plan revised

The Senate version of the federal financial rescue plan keeps the core of the plan rejected by the House, but adds new provisions.

Senate additions

• **Federal deposit insurance** Temporarily raises cap to \$250,000 from \$100,000; allows FDIC to borrow from the Treasury to cover any subsequent losses



• **Taxes** Extends a number of expiring tax breaks, including allowing taxpayers to deduct state, local taxes on federal returns; credits for using renewable energy sources; tax relief for recent victims of severe weather and a fix for the alternative minimum tax

Original key points



• **Funding** \$250 billion made available for Treasury's use now, another \$100 billion on report to Congress, the final \$350 billion via congressional action

• **Asset buying** Treasury will use money to buy mortgage-backed securities, other troubled assets; companies can choose parallel insurance program instead of giving up bad assets

• **Oversight** Bipartisan commission to monitor program; president will have to submit legislation to recoup funds from companies if taxpayers suffer net loss after five years



• **Taxpayer equity** Creation of warrants, which allow government to share any windfall coming from participating firms

• **Executive pay** Restrictions on executive compensation for participating companies



• **Homeowner help** Government can facilitate modifications to mortgage loans underlying the troubled securities it buys

• **Judicial review** of Treasury's actions; actions will be posted online in real time

Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau
Graphic: Melina Yingling, Pat Carr

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Dennis Tennant, Newport News Daily Press/ MCT Campus
Democratic presidential candidate Sen. Barack Obama speaks at Victory Landing Park in Newport News, Virginia, Saturday, October 4, 2008.

Obama pulls farther ahead

Democratic candidate up by 7 points in poll

By Steven Thomma
McClatchy Newspapers

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Barack Obama has opened his biggest lead over John McCain of the fall campaign, according to a new Ipsos/McClatchy poll that puts him ahead nationwide by 7 percentage points.

Obama's gain appears to come from two key factors.

First, voters are ever more anxious about the faltering economy and trust Obama by a 15-point margin over McCain to steer it. Second, their confidence that McCain's running mate, Sarah Palin, is qualified to step into the presidency if necessary has fallen sharply.

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Black High Achievers look for funds, more members

By Trey McConnell
Valencia Voice

Clubs provide an opportunity for students to come together and share similar qualities while gaining experience for life-long goals.

For the Black High Achievers, grilling hot dogs and displaying today's popular music is a weekly club tradition where they represent this ideal.

"This is the most important time of your life and you need to get involved," said BHAC Vice President Yolette Waldrup. "If you lay down a foundation, you'll go to a bigger university and already have the feeling and experience needed to make it down the long run."

BHAC, founded in the fall of 1989, was established to provide encouragement and opportunities for the development of leadership and service within

the African-American student body while continuing to stimulate academic achievement. English professor Paul Licata and faculty member John Stover started the organization on the West Campus in the winter of 1989.

The club held its first induction ceremony on March 10 that same year.

President Janet Bryan and two vice presidents, Kwame Walker and the aforementioned Waldrup direct the club, which consists of 25 members. Since Bryan's induction in 2006, the club's foundation has been rerouted to include more than just the African-American community.

"There aren't all blacks in the club anymore," said Bryan. "We have inducted Hispanics, Arabs, and Whites. We are no longer a black club. I've changed the whole dynamic."

Every Thursday, club members meet on the Student Services Building patio and grill chicken, hamburgers, and hot dogs while listening to featured tunes.

They also sell snacks, beverages, and even basic school supplies.

Their main goal is to represent who they are to the students and potentially gain new inductees. "Black High Achievers is not about being black, it's about gaining recognition. We want all students alike to join," said Waldrup.

Sales from the food and supplies are helping them fund enough money for a club trip to either Tokyo or a joint expedition to London/Paris. They will be holding a car wash to raise money as well.

BHAC meets every Monday at 1pm and will be having their next induction Oct. 30 in room 105 of the Health Services Building.



Photo by Ashley Gonzales, Valencia Voice
BHAC members sell concessions to raise funds.



Photo by Erica Teamer, Valencia Voice
Senator Allan Collins faces all comers in a game of Hungry Hungry Hippos at Game Night.

SGA brings back Game night

The perennial West Campus event brings students together to relax and just play

By Shaneece Dixon
Valencia Voice

Returning to West Campus was the fun-filled event of Game Night. Students gathered together on Sept. 30, on the 2nd floor of the cafeteria from 5-9 p.m., playing free games such as Madden 2008, Soul Calibur, Halo II, and even board games ranged from old-time favorite Operation to "The Moment of Truth", a game based on the FOX television show.

"Basically you have these little game pieces and there are six levels in the game that you have to pass through. If you tell the truth, you go up one, if you lie, you go down one," said executive secretary Zia Ansari, who actually played the mock game version, "You pick a card with a question that you're asked. If your teammates think you're lying you have take the 'lie detector test' which basically measures your stress level and it says whether or not you're lying."

Probably for the guys, the big game of the night was Madden 2008, where players can choose their favorite NFL football teams to compete against one another. T.J. Cole, president of West Campus SGA, couldn't help but size up his competition playing against him in his favorite game.

"The Madden games are intense but I want to see more," said Cole, "So for the next Game Night, we're going to have a Madden tournament. We're going to need 32 people or more in order to participate."

And of course, another highlight of the evening was the free giveaways. Participating students received a ticket and were automatically entered in the raffles. Around the end of every hour, prizes were given to the person whose ticket

number was called. Prizes included USB flash drives and sunglasses.

But the main purpose of Game Night was for students to really relax and enjoy themselves. Amanda Dagiau, Executive Secretary for West Campus' SGA, was really happy with the success of the event.

"We displayed excellent communication in setting up Game Night," said Dagiau, "but my favorite part was just getting to relax and have fun with my SGA family."

One surprise that many students are probably not expecting is that due to the huge success of this semester's Game Night event, there will be another on Oct. 21, perhaps with a few changes.

"I'm really impressed by the turnout. In fact we're thinking of relocating the event to fit all the students and the equipment. Game Night is a West Campus original, and our vision came to life in Game Night," Cole said.

So students be on lookout for SGA's next Game Night event this month. Students that attend are invited to bring their favorite sports apparel.



Photo by Erica Teamer, Valencia Voice
SGA provided food for the students who got hungry.

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East Campus update



Photo by Ashley Gonzales, Valencia Voice

Students attending the third annual Civic Leadership Day were treated to food, fun, and an intriguing debate between Dick Batchelor, a political consultant, and state university system Board of Governors member Tico Perez.



During the course of the event over \$2000 was raised to benefit the Nicole Ganguzza Foundation.

Photo by Rachel Masri / Valencia Voice

Dodgeball enthusiasts help local charity

By Aaron Holcomb
Valencia Voice

What’s your idea of a Saturday morning well-spent? The members of Orlando Baptist Church and roughly 400 athletes and spectators spent their Saturday intentionally hurling rubber gym balls at one and other all for the sake of charity.

That’s right folks, charity dodge-ball. An event sponsored and organized by the members of Orlando Baptist and The Independent Dodge-Ball League in support of the Nicole Ganguzza Foundation; a fund set up in memory of the late UCF student murdered June 10, 2008.

“Our church has always wanted to organize a dodge-ball tournament for the community, though it was Kristi Strampach (former classmate of Nicole’s at the University of Central Florida) that suggested a charity event for Ganguzza,” Said Brittany Walsh. “There is a \$500.00 prize to the winner of the tournament and a \$100.00 prize to the second place team, after that all proceeds and cash go to Nicole Ganguzza Foundation.”

As one might guess, this event was festooned with all the usual suspects: sweat bands, knee-high socks, and hot-head attitudes typical of any dodge-ball tournament. Dodge-ball is a team-based sport watched primarily for the humorous accidents and injuries that occur to every contestant. And in the case of this tournament, each match had its fair share of the classic peltings, the well-placed accidental face blocks, and the colorful team names such as: Shake-n-Bake, Chuck Norris, The Team for the Children Who Can’t..., and the winners, Probably the Best Team Ever.

Though even in light of this comically painful competition, it was obvious that each team understood what they were playing for.

“I am doing this for Nicole and her foundation...the tournament...all of this is for her,” said Kyle Underwood, a member of The Flying Dutchmen.

Each team of the total 50 teams in the tournament contributed a \$50.00 donation toward the charity, along with all the proceeds from food and raffle sales. In total, over \$2000.00 was raised as the first

deposit in support of the N.P.G. Foundation Inc.

“We needed to do this,” said Youth Pastor Derek Janney, “for Nicole, and for the entire community as a whole. It is our mission as a church to reach out to and impact the lives of our UCF and Valencia college students.”

“I am so grateful for everything that has been done in honor of Nicole’s memory,” said Brendan Ganguzza, husband of the late Nicole P. Ganguzza.

Following the tournament, Brendan Ganguzza was found shaking hands and exchanging words of gratitude with the winners ‘Probably the Best Team Here,’ and Orlando Baptist’s youth pastor.

“Nicole was a real prize winner. This is just the start of the good things that will come from this foundation,” said Ganguzza.

To keep up with the upcoming events taking place at Orlando Baptist’s FUSE Ministry, you can look them up on www.fuseorlando.org, or to follow the future events and current status of the Nicole Ganguzza Foundation please go to www.npgfoundation.com.

World’s Largest Drum-Off Celebrates 20th Anniversary

By Megan Brandt

For 20 years, Guitar Center has been committed to providing drummers across the country the opportunity to pursue their musical aspirations and achieve their dreams by way of the world’s largest drum competition: Guitar Center Drum-Off.

Starting August 1st, drummers can sign up for their chance to win over \$45,000 in cash and prizes, joining over 5,000 drummers from across the country to compete for the title of Guitar Center’s Drum-Off Champion ‘08.

Local competitions start September 23rd in all 214 Guitar Center locations nationwide, with store finals held in all locations on October 14.

One winner from each store will be chosen to move up to district competitions (24 locations), followed by regionally hosted semi-finals (6 locations) and culminating in the final championship Drum-Off in Los Angeles in January of 2009 (exact date and venue TBD).

The preliminary competitions took place September 23rd, September 30th, and October 7th.

Like all Guitar Center music programs,

Drum-Off is designed to provide developing artists with support-based opportunities that vastly improve the potential for their success as professional musicians. Drum-Off inspires up-and-coming drummers to further their musical aspirations, while at the same time encouraging the local music community and providing a platform for local musicians to network and be discovered.

Guitar Center’s Drum-Off ‘08 champion will win an impressive package of prizes, including \$25,000 cash, a Roland TD-20 kit, and a custom designed drum kit by DW, Pearl, Gretsch, Tama, or Orange Country Drums as well as a drum, stick, cymbal, and drum head endorsement deals, be featured in Modern Drummer magazine, and in a Guitar Center ad campaign, along with a VIP appearance @ NAMM 2009 and shopping sprees with Levi’s, Converse and Guitar Center.

A Monster Energy Drink endorsement deal is also part of the prize package, making the total prize package worth over \$45,000.

In addition, Sabian, Zildjian, Remo, Pro-Mark, Vic Firth, Evans and Rhythm Tech are all proud sponsors of Drum-Off ‘08.

Several winning alumni from Guitar

Center’s previous Drum-Off competitions have gone on to have incredible drumming careers, including Cora “CC” Dunham (Prince; Drum-Off ‘02 Champ), Eric Moore (Bobby Brown, Sly and The Family Stone, Infectious Grooves; Drum-Off ‘03 Champ), Tony Royster Jr. (Jay Z; Drum-Off ‘95 Champ) and Thomas Pridgen (The Mars Volta), who became the Guitar Center Drum-Off champion in 1993 when he was just 9 years old!

Following the regional finals on December 2, finalists will be headed for Los Angeles in January, where they will perform before a panel of celebrity judges (past judges include, Stewart Copeland (The Police), Travis Barker, ?uestlove (The Roots), Taylor Hawkins (Foo Fighters), Stephen Perkins (Jane’s Addiction), Josh Freese (NIN), Kenny Aronoff, Joey Castillo (Queens of the Stoneage) Vinny Appice (Black Sabbath), Steve Smith (Journey) and Alan White (Yes) in the final Guitar Center Drum-Off competition to see who will become Drum-Off ‘08 champion.

For more information on Guitar Center Drum-Off ‘08, please contact Girlie Action: Pam Nashel Leto 212-989-2222, x111 or by email at pam@girlie.com.

Climate change hurting Florida ecosystems

Global warming drastically affecting local flora, fauna

By Kelly Zyskowski
Valencia Voice

Climate experts are meeting this week in Orlando to discuss global warming affects on Central Florida’s wildlife. They will discuss ways in which endangered species can survive with the gradually rising temperatures and sea levels.

In our environment, some species are flourishing and some are waning due to these climate changes.

In central Florida’s marshes and wetlands, Burmese pythons are thriving—where they gorge on endangered birds and threaten other wildlife. These snakes are native to Asia but are spreading rapidly throughout the Everglades.

Scientists worry that since the pythons thrive in warm climates, they will begin to invade wetlands throughout the state.

Manatees have been endangered for many years, but with warmer water temperatures, they are benefiting from this dilemma. Warmer climates yield to warmer waters, and the manatees can not endure waters colder than 60 degrees. The outlook for this mammal looks like it is improving.

Three species that are threatened by rising temperatures in Central Florida are Loggerhead turtles, Cape Sable seaside sparrows, and Key deer.

The turtles are in the most danger. More people are building sea walls for protection against rising waters, which therefore reduces beach space for turtle nesting.

The sparrows thrive in marshes that are dry most of the year. Because of the rising sea levels, their outlook is not good.

Key deer, native to the Florida Keys, are endangered. Storm surges and high sea levels could possibly wipe out this habitat in the next century.

Along with the threat to animals, the intense sunlight and warm waters are killing coral along the Keys.

These examples are just a few of the issues at hand that global warming is causing in central Florida.

Scientists predict that heat waves, flooding, and crop losses are miseries that will affect our area if America continues to consume energy at such a rapid pace.

John Kostyack, a National Wildlife Federation director, feels that taking necessary precautions to protect the environment will be key to the long-term health of people and other species.

“If we continue business as usual, nothing we do to protect wildlife will work,” Kostyack said.

One of the most important steps to take, according to wildlife experts, is to protect the Everglades. Improving the health of species will give them more of a chance to expand and thrive with the climate changes.

Americans can take an important step as well; by saving as much energy and water as possible.



Photo by Barbara V. Perez, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus
A manatee swims near Wayne Hartley’s canoe.

Biden won debate, but Palin more likable, poll finds

By Erika Bolstad
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Undecided voters who watched Thursday's vice presidential debate really like Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin but they're not certain she's ready to lead the country, according to the findings of a new Ipsos/McClatchy online poll.

If they had to vote immediately after watching the debate between Republican Palin and the Democratic vice presidential candidate, Sen. Joe Biden of Delaware, 52 percent of the 456 undecided voters who were surveyed would vote the Obama/Biden ticket, the poll found.

It also found that Palin's performance in the debate did nothing to clinch undecided votes for her running mate, Arizona Sen. John McCain.

Before the debate, those same undecided voters were leaning 56 percent to 44 percent for McCain. The day after the debate, the numbers tilted 52 percent to 48 percent for Illinois Sen. Barack Obama.

"It's suggesting an overall tendency of undecideds toward Obama, so it is significant," said Clifford Young, a senior vice president at Ipsos Public Affairs. "We're catching an underlying trend that's going on."

The online poll tracks a pool of undecided voters before and after the presidential and vice presidential debates.

Of the 614 undecided voters surveyed, 456 watched or followed the debate.

Statistical margins of error are not applicable to online polls because they are based on samples drawn from opt-in online panels, not on random samples.

Most people polled Friday also thought Biden did better in the debate — although McCain boasted of Palin's performance at a campaign rally the next day, saying he "al-



Photo by Robert Cohen, St. Louis Post-Dispatch/ MCT Campus
Democratic vice presidential nominee Sen. Joe Biden and Republican vice presidential nominee Gov. Sarah Palin of Alaska squared off during a debate at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, Thursday, October 2, 2008.

most felt a little sorry" for Biden. McCain also proclaimed "viva la barracuda!" a reference to the Alaska governor's nickname on her high school basketball team. Respondents found 54 percent to 46 percent that Biden posted a better performance.

Palin got poor marks from voters when asked if she looked vice presidential or whether she had a good understanding of the issues — only 39 percent of the undecided voters thought she looked vice presidential.

Nearly two-thirds of those surveyed thought Biden would be a better commander-in-chief.

But Palin did well when people were

asked who would do a better job bringing change to Washington. Palin, they found, 58 percent to 42 percent. And roughly two-thirds said they like her, and some 53 percent found her believable. That's a significant number in a debate watched by an estimated 69.9 million viewers — more than the previous presidential debate.

"I like Palin," said one of the people surveyed in the Ipsos/McClatchy poll, Democrat Greg Brantley, 47, of Irving, Texas.

"She's very outgoing, she's real friendly, she seems to know what she's talking about," said Brantley, who thinks he'll vote for McCain. "She just seems like an average person you could walk down the street and

pick up a conversation with her."

Although the most significant findings in the poll are about which direction undecided voters are leaning, there might be something to be learned from Palin's overwhelmingly positive likability numbers, Young said. It may be that in tough economic times, voters yearn for a candidate who feels their pain.

"We don't we have a 'great communicator' this year, like Ronald Reagan or Bill Clinton," Young said.

Voter Judy Williams of Caliente, Calif., agreed, saying she liked how both vice presidential candidates seemed "sincere and very sympathetic."

"I think we really need someone who can see what us middle classers are going through and taking up our cause," she said.

Williams also said that Palin exceeded her expectations during the debate and is leaning toward voting for McCain, but she likes Biden so much that if he were on the top of the ticket, she would vote for him for president. She was especially moved when Biden choked up while speaking about the loss of his first wife in a car crash.

"I was very touched by it," she said. "I could definitely sympathize."

But how much does the vice presidential debate matter? Marcee Dellinger, 29, of Yakima, Wash., said she didn't find the vice presidential debate "a persuasive factor" in making a decision. Still undecided, she said she was hoping the next debate between the presidential candidates would give her the information she needs to make up her mind.

"I hope, anyway," she said. "I probably lean more toward Republicans, but if I had to vote today I have to say I wouldn't be comfortable 100 percent."

—MCT Campus

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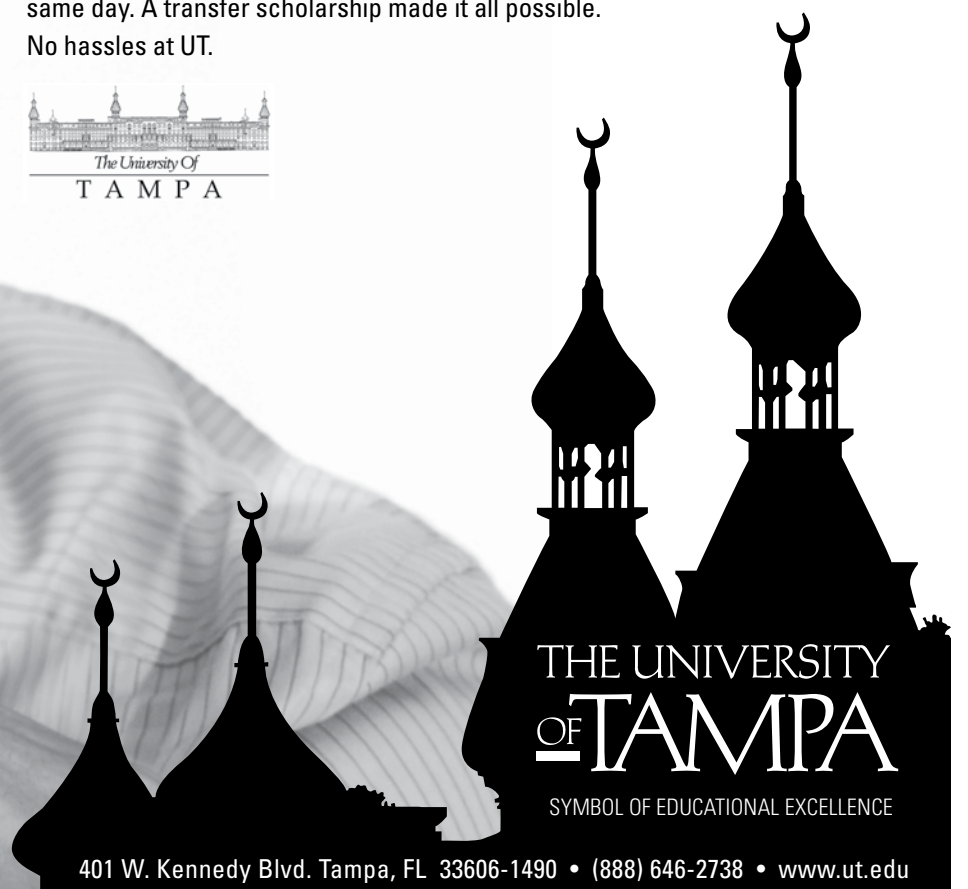
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Opinion

Which candidate is best for economy?

**By Shaneece Dixon
Valencia Voice**

The upcoming presidential election has sparked the interests of many Americans, especially young voters.

With the economic crisis hovering over the country, many of these voters are concerned and affected by the crisis.

With so much influence from the media and the candidates themselves, voters look to their favorite candidate to make the best proposal to save the economy from any more future disasters.

When we asked students which candidate they thought would best rectify the crisis, there was a general consensus that the government itself needed a change.

While some don't necessarily feel any affect from the crisis, there are those students who are struggling to make ends meet.

The general requirement for the candidates in regards to this poll question is to come across as the most informed about the crisis and having the best plan to fix it.

According to a poll conducted Sept. 28-30 by CNN/Time/Opinion Research Corporation, Barack Obama held a small lead against John McCain when Florida voters were asked how they would vote if third-party candidates were included on the state's ballot.

Obama now leads by 51 percent, leaving McCain at 47 percent.

Approximately 940 registered voters participated, including 770 likely voters.

With less than a month away from Election Day, this is what fellow Valencia students had to say about the presidential candidates and their plans for the economy.



"Obama. He sounds like he has a steady plan for the economy. He knows what he wants to do. McCain just says what he thinks. He doesn't sound too sure"

- Dupree Smith



"I think Obama is the better candidate. Plus we have so many Democrats in office already"

- Nick Chau



"Obama. Based on the debate and what I've been reading, he has a better understanding of the economy. McCain is better when it comes to the military"

- Zarena Leblanc



"Obama. By looking at the opportunity cost of voting for McCain, it will kill the economy. If you look back five, six years ago, the presidents who called themselves financial conservatives lead us to a deficit"

- Jenny Charriez



"Obama. I think that he has better policies to fix the economy"

- Ashir Patel



"I think Obama is the best candidate, especially since Bush has been president since I've been in the fifth grade. We just need a change"

- Eric Gomez



"Obama. He has a great proposal plan to improve the economy and our education system"

- Tueisha Ikner



"Obama. I just think that the economy is really difficult when it comes to the high prices and not having enough money. I think Obama will make a change"

- Nelta Louis

Photos by Ashley Gonzalez

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Corrections

On page 9 of the October 1 issue of the Valencia Voice, a photo was left unattributed. The photo was taken by Olivia Pullinger.



Photo by Alexandra Lamrinidis, Sony Pictures

Comedian Bill Maher and director Larry Charles pose while they interview a Spanish priest who claims to be Jesus' descendant; with the camera crew in the background, giving the viewer an honest, behind-the-scenes look.

Comedian Maher shows funny side of religion with new film

By **Trey McConnell**
Valencia Voice

If you're an atheist or an agnostic, you'll be completely on board and happy to tag along with Bill Maher as he travels the globe asking people about their faith - everywhere from Jerusalem to the Vatican to Amsterdam, where he finds not only the Cannabis Ministry but also a Muslim gay bar (with two people in it), in his new film "Religulous."

Recently we've seen an unusual number of controversial religious documentaries being released, including "Jesus Camp," "Deliver Us From Evil," "Lake of Fire" and "For The Bible Told Me So." They've done a good job of presenting the issues out there and getting the discussion started, but now it seems like they were all just opening acts for the biggest and most accessible religious documentary to date: Bill Maher's "Religulous."

While some of the previous documentaries attempted to be balanced and even-handed, "Religulous" makes no such claims. As the former host of "Politically Incorrect," Bill Maher never hid the fact that he is

an atheist, and he has always been up there with Michael Moore as one of the biggest left-wing rabble-rousers working in entertainment today.

When it was announced that he would be doing an anti-religion documentary, with the help of "Borat" director Larry Charles, I thought it was too brilliant of a partnership. This is the movie that believers and non-believers alike have been waiting a long time to see.

The main concern I had about "Religulous," however, was that it would go for too many easy jokes, that Bill Maher's approach would turn off people who might be on the fence about religion. Initially, my concerns seemed real and I felt a sense of disappointment.

The film starts off at a rapid-fire pace, with Bill Maher asking questions of religious people and including all kinds of funny songs and movie clips to poke fun at their responses. It was very Michael Moore in style, and Maher almost came across as a bit of a bully, pushing one guy to the point where he just stormed out of the room. It also starts to go into Maher's own background, which made

me think it was going to be a vanity piece.

However, over time the tone of the movie changed for me. Maher's questions became more earnest, and the interview subjects got more interesting and/or far out.

One ex-Vatican priest in particular was very animated and very outspoken. We meet a Spanish preacher who claims he is the descendant of Jesus Christ.

We meet a Jewish inventor who came up with all kinds of creative contraptions to help avoid the things you are forbidden to do on the Sabbath.

I liked the fact that every now and then they inserted shots that showed boom microphones and the camera crew behind Maher; it gave the impression that they had nothing to hide.

They also took to rolling the cameras early and included some of the footage from before the interviews officially started which adds to the humor and shows some of the people's true personalities.

Unlike what you might expect from Charles' work on "Borat," there doesn't seem to be any elaborate set-ups or ambushes here. The interview subjects were

not deceived in order to appear on camera, and although Maher is armed with all kinds of quick quips, he genuinely seems to be trying to understand their point of view, and for the most part just lets them incriminate themselves.

Towards the end of the film, the subject gets a bit more serious. Shockingly, Islam is the focus of the latter part of the movie, and they propose a pretty gutsy question: is Islam an essentially violent religion? I felt like this was a bit of a cheap scare tactic, perhaps trying to scare North Americans who are already scared of Muslim fundamentalists and show that all religion is equally as scary, but I don't think it came out that way.

From an entertainment standpoint this movie is 4 out of 5, and if you are an atheist, there is no doubt that you will love it. If you are not an atheist, there's a good chance you will be offended multiple times during the movie. It's important to note, however, that the movie isn't mocking for the sake of hurting people's feelings, it is mocking to make a very serious point. Maher and Charles definitely aced this one. "Religulous" comes across exactly as imagined.

'Nick and Norah' puts together great soundtrack, solid cast

By **Jordan Keyes**
Valencia Voice

With the look and the feel of an indie film, but the backing from a major studio, "Nick and Norah's Infinite Playlist," at first glance, seems to be trying to cash in on the success of 2007's hit "Juno."

Despite its wannabe-indie status, this film brings together a fantastic soundtrack, likeable characters, and inspired cinematography to make a genuinely enjoyable film.

"Nick and Norah" follows Nick (Michael Cera), a guitarist who has been recently dumped by his attractive but shallow girlfriend, as he encounters Norah, his "musical soulmate," on a journey through New York City to find their favorite band's secret show. The film's plot wanders along without too much of a direction and entertains at every turn. Nothing much "happens" as far as a plot, but the funny, light-hearted dialogue and intriguing characters are enough to carry it through.

The film's soundtrack, predictably populated by indie pop and indie rock tunes, perfectly compliments the film's not-quite-mainstream protagonists. Songs by indie darlings like We Are Scientists and Bishop



K.C. Bailey, Sony Pictures

Michael Cera as Nick, Aaron Yoo as Thom, Kat Dennings as Norah, Jonathan B. Wright as Lethario and Rafi Gavron as Dev get together to search for Norah's friend and their favorite band's secret show.

Allen enchant and engage the viewer in the characters' music centered world, even if you haven't heard of the bands. The soundtrack is worth the money all on its own.

Michael Cera and Kat Dennings are de-

lightful as the film's eponymous entities.

While not breaking any new ground, Cera's portrayal of the sensitive musician who can't quite get over his ex is subtly funny.

Dennings' wise-cracking cynic is pitch perfect and reserved enough to keep her

from straying into Juno-style verbal tongue-lashings.

The two definitely have chemistry. The cast of supporting characters aren't particularly memorable, but as far as sidekicks go Nick's bandmates (Aaron Yoo and Rafi Gevron) and Norah's drunken pal Caroline (Ari Graynor) supply the more outrageous comedy in the movie.

Though the cinematography is nowhere near perfect, the few ingenious shots peppered throughout the movie more than make up for its flaws. One scene in particular involving sex and a music studio was one of the most poignant and well put together pieces I've seen in a while.

The overall aesthetic of the film exudes youthful exuberance and it provides a sweet (without being sappy) look at the trials of navigating modern-day relationships.

In one of the film's more serious moments, Nick and Norah discuss a concept from Judaism known as tikkun olam; the idea that "the world has been broken into pieces. And our job is to put the pieces back together." This film definitely puts together charming and imperfect pieces to make a great piece of entertaining comedy. I give this film four out of five stars.



Universal Studios Orlando

The eighteenth iteration of Universal Studio’s Halloween Horro Nights feaures the “queen of urband legends”, Bloody Mary. Billboards bearing her frightening visage have been protested by some local organizations.

Bloody Mary takes over Universal Studios Orlando

By Ashley Griffith
Valencia Voice

“Bloody Mary, Bloody Mary, Bloody Mary.” This year at Universal Studios’ Halloween Horror Nights, these words bring your deepest fears to reality.

Halloween Horror Nights 18 brings history’s most terrifying urban legends and fairy tales to life. Bloody Mary is the world’s second most recognized legend, so who better to be the center of Halloween Horror Nights than the “queen of urban legends,” said Jim Timon, senior vice president of entertainment at Universal Orlando Resort.

“You stand in front of a mirror and chant her name three times, you will bring her forth, you will conjure her. She’s a spirit that will bring

darkness and evil upon you,” said Timon.

Halloween Horror Nights 18 has been described as the most involved, immersive Halloween Horror Nights ever. Considering Halloween Horror Nights is known as the largest and scariest Halloween event in the country, the designers and creators have a new challenge every year.

“Our challenge is to make it all new every year, to reinvent it,” said Timon. “This year we have taken the event to a level of saturation and immersion that no one has ever seen. It’s never been done.”

“What we do is totally immerse you as a guest,” said Michael Roddy, manager of show development. With more haunted houses than ever before, six scare zones and three live shows, “every guest at Halloween Horror Nights 18 is stepping through Mary’s mirror and going to

live that nightmare,” said Timon.

Along with the haunted houses, live shows and scare zones, the designers have highly intensified the street content. Detail went into each and every street character you see this year, said Roddy.

This year there are eight haunted houses. The “Reflections of Fear” house is where guests will come face to face with Bloody Mary and experience her deepest fear—death.

Stumble upon traditional fairy tales in “Scary Tales: Once upon a Nightmare,” only to discover these stories don’t have a happy ending.

Guests will succumb to mass-murderers like Jack the Ripper and Sweeney Todd collecting their latest subjects in “Body Collectors.” A rapid-spreading virus has taken over in “Doomsday,” and has forced locals to take extreme action to stay alive. Souls from the underworld are

trapped in the “The Hallow” for guests to be called upon, and flashes from a camera reveal flesh eating zombies in “Dead Exposure.”

The remainder of the haunted houses focuses on extraterrestrials. Aliens have taken over the first shuttle to leave our solar system in “Interstellar Terror,” and will generate horrifying results. Monsters have attacked the locals, and guests experience this rampage and massacre in “Creatures!”

Along with six scare zones and over 1,000 unique characters park wide, “you can’t escape Halloween until you leave,” said Roddy.

If you find you temporarily need a break, there are three live shows to check out before the next round of screams: a tribute to The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Bill and Ted’s Excellent Halloween Adventure, and Brian Brushwood.



Universal Studios Orlando

Universal Orlando Resort’s Prosthetics Lab is currently home to the Prosthetics team’s newest “faces of fear.”



Universal Studios Orlando

This year’s Halloween Horror Nights boasts more “scare actors” like this one than ever before.

Naughty vs. nice: Modesty making comeback

By Jean Patteson
The Orlando Sentinel

Sitting down is a complicated maneuver when you're wearing low-rise jeans.

"They slide off my butt," says Tiffany Lambert, 14, of Altamonte Springs, Fla. She is hanging out at the mall with friends, who all wear low-slung jeans and tiny tops.

"You kinda have to pull them up, then hold them up when you sit," explains Rachel Richards, 15, of Longwood, Fla.

"And not lean forward," adds Tiffany. Such is life with skin-baring fashion. But relief is on the way. Skin is no longer in, say the trend-spotters. Not even for teens and 20-somethings.

Miniskirts, skimpy tops and those embarrassing, thong-baring jeans are on the way out. They are being replaced by high-waist pants, long-sleeve tunics and knee-grazing skirts.

The latest fashion watchword is modesty.

A word long missing from the style lexicon, it's suddenly on the tongue of every trend-watcher, on the runways of London, Paris and New York, and in the latest issues of magazines as different as Seventeen, In-Style and Vogue.

"Naughty vs. nice," trumpets Vogue's cover. And inside: "The end of the reign of the teen pop temptress. Britney, Paris and Christina are overexposed in every way."

In a single season, fashion has flipped from cheesy to cutesy.

Fashion experts suggest a number of reasons for the about-face. Some welcome it; others view it with suspicion. But all agree it is happening _ from coast to coast, and for everyone from tweens on up.

"The first reason that comes to mind is the most obvious: the fashion pendulum," says Rachel Weingarten, a trends expert and president of GTK Marketing Group in New York. "Fashion is always swinging from one



Erik M. Lunsford, St. Louis Post-Dispatch / MCT

High necklines like the one showed above are making their way back into fall wardrobes

extreme to the other: mini to maxi, tight leggings to baggy pants, bare to covered-up."

There's also the current backlash against showing too much skin, she says against Abercrombie & Fitch's naked catalog models; against Janet Jackson's nipple flash during the Super Bowl halftime show.

"People have had enough. Even sexualized pop stars are starting to scale back," she says.

The backlash against revealing fashions has been unusually virulent in recent months, says Lyn Mikel Brown, an associate professor of women's gender and sexuality studies

at Colby College in Waterville, Maine.

Catherine Stellin, a vice president at Youth Intelligence, a trend-tracking company in Los Angeles, agrees the "slutty look" is passe.

"It's oversaturated," she says. "The way to stand out is to go against the grain. Right now, that means having a more covered-up, sophisticated look.

"It's nice," she adds, "when trends work in parents' favor."

In interviews with girls and young women across the country, "the word 'trashy' came up a lot," Stellin says. Teens who a few

months ago emulated the provocative style of pop idols such as Jennifer Lopez now are spurning those looks as "trashy," she says.

The modesty trend is also tied to the political climate, says Stellin. "There's this sense of uncertainty about the economy, the threat of terrorism, the war in Iraq, the (Abu Ghraib) prison scandal. These are big issues in people's minds, issues that call for more-serious clothing."

Sexy style is the culmination of two major lifestyle forces: "The sexual liberation movements of the 1970s and the physical-fitness craze of the '80s. They merged during the '90s, slowly but surely," says David Wolfe, creative director at the Doneger Group, a trend-forecasting company in New York. "Now low-rise can go no lower. I hope."

Fashion has reached the point of "sleaze fatigue," says Jamie Ross, another consultant with the Doneger Group. "Bare just doesn't look new anymore and fashion needs to look new all the time."

This quest for newness, and the marketing hype that accompanies each new trend, troubles Brown.


"Whenever there's a dramatic shift, it's a marketer's dream. It means there's a whole new line of clothes to market," she says. "I suspect clothing manufacturers are gleeful and are pushing this big-time."

Also, watchwords such as "modest" and "demure" raise a red flag for Brown.

"Modesty" sounds like pre- or post-feminist jargon for stepping back, acting nice, not making waves," she explains. "I worry that what will follow is a push for girls to be more accommodating and conservative."

She would rather girls be creative, bold and independent no matter what trend they follow.

— MCT Campus



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Poll

What trends do you dislike on the opposite sex?

By Omshante Lee
Valencia Voice

It is not unusual to find your local mall filled with hand holding couples of all ages and types. In a relationship, mall browsing seems to be a popular past time, and is a fun way of getting to know more about your significant other's style.

However, is getting the opinion of the opposite sex when shopping more of a hassle than a benefit? Many men seem to find it annoying for their female counterparts to dictate their clothing style. The occasional suggestion or minor accessory addition is harmless, but when exactly is "ensemble interference" taking it too far? Some individuals maintain the polite approach, never voicing their

opinion and the "pet peeves" they hold against their spouse's wardrobe may go unspoken forever. Yet still, others are brutally honest, and a casual trip to the mall can easily result in a bruised ego, when the dreaded question is asked "How does this look on me?"

According to our poll, women seem to voice their opinions much more willingly, and are less likely to hold their tongues. From exposed boxers to skin-tight jeans, the current trends in men's fashion leave little to the imagination and are a growing topic amongst females everywhere. "It gets on my nerves when guys wear their pants all the way down here," says nursing major, Tamoni Artwell, gesturing to the mid thigh area. Everyone is entitled to their own varying opinions on style but on

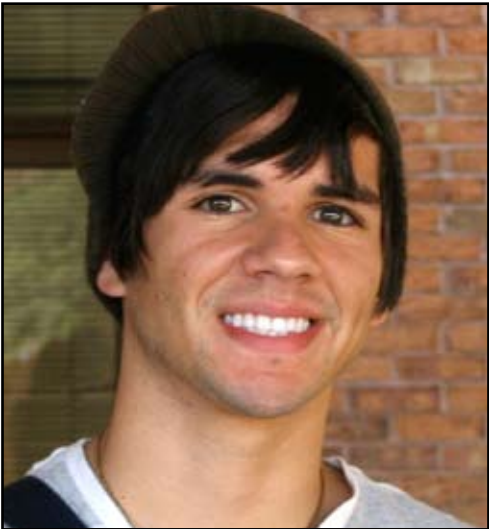
Valencia's campus, the women seem to have come to a general consensus. They tend to share common principles when it comes to "fashion don'ts" seen on their male peers.

However, men hold their fashion issues as well; the difference is that they appear much more reserved on their views. But when they finally do speak up, ladies may be surprised to learn what the opposite sex is really thinking. "I don't like when they wear something really, really short. Small shorts with heels, cleavage. Indecency is a turn off," says sophomore, Nick Law. One student compared some of his classmate's outfits to "nightclub attire," and wondered why so many girls come to school dressed for a night on the town.

When searching for your latest wardrobe ad-

dition, a second opinion is useful, but in the end, shoppers will purchase what they think is the best choice. Some express their creative side through their clothing with ease, and yet others don't have a clue where to begin to develop their own, personal style.

This large group often turns toward their peers and favorite celebrities for a clue on fashion. But whether you're a full time fashionista or a self acclaimed divo, modesty seems to be one popular "fashion do" amongst polled Valencia students. They all agreed: less is not always more.



"I honestly don't like big short beads. They are very 60s and I think its out of style."

— **Julius Borges**



"The thing I don't like is really baggy pants or when they hang under the ass."

— **Ashlyn Kolczynski**



"Nothing is wrong with showing off colors but loud, bright colors don't look good."

— **Kevin Johnson**



"It really gets on my nerves when guys wear girl's skinny jeans."

— **Heather Cole**



"The club look at school is not working. I've seen it a lot here. Wearing heels and short skirts at school is a fashion no no."

— **Eric Gomez**



"I don't like the pants below the boxers. Its really rude and inconsiderate. We don't want to see that."

— **Sharleen Rondon-Suarez**



"I don't like when big girls get hoochie-fied and wear short skirts."

— **Nick Law**



I hate when guys wear bangles. At City Walk you see guys with tight pants and bangles.

— **Jennifer Pollard**



Brian Baer, Sacramento Bee / MCT Campus



George Skene, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus

In the town hall style debate, the candidates took questions directly from voters and were required to answer them in an impromptu manner. In many cases the candidates took the opportunity to both highlight the strong points in their campaign and weak points in their opponents, sometimes in a less than professional manner

Citizens question candidates in town hall debate

Continued from cover

let people be able to make those ... payments and stay in their homes."

McCain's \$300 billion plan, a turnabout from an earlier position, would require a radical shift in the government's approach. And it raised several questions the McCain campaign could not immediately answer, including what its potential impact would be on efforts to remedy the global credit crisis.

With less than four weeks until the election, the 90-minute session before a national television audience presented McCain one of his last best chances to turn around a contest that seems to be moving decidedly in Obama's direction. There was no obvious momentum-shifting moment, but unlike their first debate Sept. 26, the two made little effort to hide their seemingly mutual contempt.

At one point, McCain referred to Obama as "that one," without uttering his name. At other times, the candidates were snappish and sarcastic, none more so than when they discussed U.S. policy toward

Pakistan. "Remarkable," McCain said, when he accused Obama of reckless swagger by saying he would cross Pakistan's borders to capture Osama bin Laden if there was "actionable intelligence" the country failed to pursue. "I'm not going to telegraph my punches, which is what Senator Obama did," McCain said.

The Illinois senator fired back that, while McCain seeks to portray him as "green behind the ears," his Republican rival was the one "who sang 'bomb, bomb, bomb Iran' (and) called for the annihilation of North Korea. That, I don't think, is an example of speaking softly."

The contest took a sharply negative turn in recent days, as polls showed Obama pulling ahead of McCain in several key states. The McCain campaign cited Obama's association with the Rev. Jeremiah Wright, his controversial ex-pastor, and William Ayers, a Chicago professor who co-founded the radical Weather Underground. Obama's camp, in turn, invoked McCain's involvement in the 1980s Keating 5 savings-and-loan scandal.

None of those subjects came up Tuesday night. Instead, the

candidates rooted many of their criticisms in the economic debacle threatening to bring down the world's financial system. McCain suggested much of the blame rested on Obama's shoulders.

With encouragement from the Democrat "and his cronies," McCain said, mortgage giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac lent money to homeowners who could not afford to repay it. "There were some of us that stood up against this," McCain said. "There were others who took a hike."

Obama accused McCain of vastly overstating both the role the federal institutions played in causing the crisis, and his own foresight in warning of the dangers. "In fact," he noted, it is McCain's campaign manager, Rick Davis, who partly owns a lobbying firm that earned a rich retainer from Fannie Mae.

The two men also resumed a running argument over taxes. McCain repeatedly accused Obama of favoring a broad-based tax cut that would worsen economic growth and, especially, penalize small businesses. He quoted Obama as once saying he would forego raising taxes

if economic times were bad. "I've got some news, Senator Obama," McCain said, facing his rival. "The news is bad. So let's not raise anybody's taxes."

"The Straight Talk Express lost a wheel on that one," Obama responded. He said repeatedly his plan would raise taxes only on those making more than \$250,000 a year and result in a lower tax bill for 95 percent of working Americans.

The candidates also differed when asked by Brokaw to list their priorities. McCain refused to attach a ranking, saying he would tackle health care, energy and entitlement reform all at once. "We're not rifle shots here," McCain said. "We are Americans. We can, with the participation of all Americans, work together and solve these problems together."

Obama, by contrast, said the next president will be forced to set priorities and defer some projects, "just like a family has to prioritize." First up would be a new plan for energy independence, he said. Revamping health care would be his second undertaking, followed by education.

— Los Angeles Times

Obama increases pres. election lead

Continued from cover

The net effect is seen in the nationwide support for all the major candidates:

With less than a month before Election Day, 9 percent remained undecided or uncommitted, and nearly one in 10 supporters of the two top candidates said they still could change their minds. The poll of 858 registered voters was taken Oct. 2-6 and had an error margin of plus or minus 3.3 percentage points.

Still, Obama clearly has momentum entering the final month of the campaign, having gained steadily since Labor Day in the weekly Ipsos/McClatchy poll. In the first week of September he trailed by 1 percentage point, then was tied the next week, then took a 1-point lead, next a 4-point lead and now a 7-point lead.

Already the top issue on voters' minds, jobs and the economy jumped even higher on the national priority list during the past two weeks. It's now ranked No. 1 by 42 percent of voters.

Voters see Obama as a stronger steward of the economy by 52 percent to 37 percent, tripling the 5-point advantage Obama held at the beginning of September.

They trust Obama over McCain on health care and, unusual for a Democrat over a Republican, on family values and taxes. They also divided almost evenly on who's a stronger leader, erasing McCain's former advantage.

Voters still trust McCain more than Obama on foreign policy — a 15 percentage-point advantage — and on national security by a 23-point edge.

Those issues, however, lag far behind the 42 percent concerned most about the economy. Voters ranked national security a distant No. 2 priority, named as the top concern by just 16 percent. They listed foreign policy seventh, the dominant concern of only 4 percent.

Palin's sunk since her debate last week with Joe Biden. Before the debate, voters thought her qualified to be president by a margin of 48 percent to 44 percent. After the debate, she was seen as qualified by 43 percent, while those saying she's not qualified rose to 51 percent.

Biden was seen as qualified to be president by 60 percent and not qualified by 32 percent.

— MCT Campus

Bill to rescue ailing economy passes through senate

Continued from cover

aimed at converting House members into backing the bill.

Over the past two days, Bush, top administration officials and corporate executives joined forces with thousands of struggling wage earners to besiege House members with calls on behalf of the bill.

Presidential candidates Sens. John McCain, R-Ariz., and Barack Obama, D-Ill., both of whom voted for the measure in the Senate, also made calls to members in their respective parties urging support for the measure.

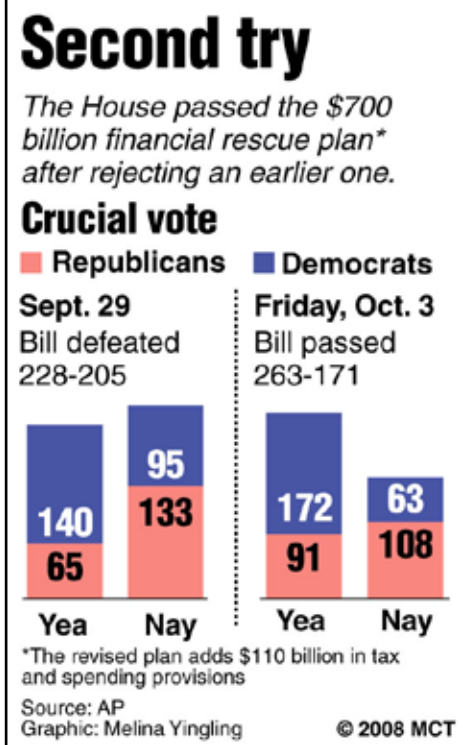
Congressional leaders in both parties said the legislation would help unfreeze distressed credit markets, and they called for further changes to correct abuses in the financial system that helped cause the crisis.

"We've just performed emergency surgery, but unless the patient starts eating right and exercising, the problem's coming right back," said House Majority Leader Steny Hoyer, D-Md.

"The passage of this flawed but necessary bill is not cause for celebration," said House Minority Leader John Boehner, R-Ohio.

House members who changed their votes to yes said they were torn by the choice of accepting an imperfect solution or facing a deepening financial crisis if they failed to act.

Rep. Jim McGovern, D-Mass., summed up the feelings of many of his colleagues



when he described the legislation as "far from perfect" but acknowledged: "The way I see it, we don't have much choice."

Coming on the final day of the 110th Congress and just weeks before the Nov. 4 elections, the multifaceted rescue package is intended to ease distress across the economic spectrum.

Public opinion initially ran strongly against the measure — widely perceived as a bailout for Wall Street — but sentiment

shifted after the first House vote, when the stock market plunged and hammered millions of stock-backed 401(k) retirement plans.

Even as Congress approved the measure, there were strong signs that the public remains pessimistic about the nation's economic future. Nearly two-thirds of the public doubts the government's ability to restore consumer and investor confidence, according to a new Ipsos-McClatchy poll, and 76 percent think that the economy will continue to get worse.

Obama reached out to Democrats through conference calls and individually, persuading more than a half-dozen members to change their votes. Similarly, McCain worked the Republican side of the aisle, at one point calling Minority Whip Roy Blunt of Missouri three times in a single day for guidance on whom to call.

Rep. Michael Conaway, R-Texas, said he had several conversations with Bush, a former resident of Conaway's hometown of Midland. Conaway, who originally voted against the bill, said he began changing his mind after town hall meetings in his district.

The bill essentially would create a \$700 billion federal program to buy bad assets from banks and other financial firms at a steep discount.

The hope is that the government would recoup much or all of that money by selling the assets later, once stability returns to the financial world.

The measure includes strong terms to ensure legislative oversight of the Trea-

sury-run bailout, and it gives the government an ownership stake in the firms that it aids.

That will give taxpayers a share of any profits once the companies return to profitability.

It also limits the pay of executives in firms that benefit from the bailout.

The Senate version made one significant change to the earlier financial-rescue package: It more than doubled the insurance that the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. provides on customer deposits to \$250,000 from \$100,000. The higher amount will apply for one year.

The FDIC also was granted temporary powers to borrow without limit from the Treasury to keep the banking system solvent. Economists think that the FDIC measures will boost confidence in small community banks.

The extra tax breaks the Senate added range from a one-year fix to prevent the alternative-minimum tax from hitting more taxpayers to extending the research credit for business to allowing rural utilities to issue tax-exempt bonds for use of renewable energy.

Also included were terms extending tax breaks for motor-sports racing tracks, makers of wooden arrows for children and the rum excise tax for Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

The breaks will cost the Treasury an estimated \$110 billion over 10 years, according to Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation.

— MCT Campus



SMU quarterback Levi Mitchell (No. 3) gets his day ruined by UCF defensive end Jarvis Geathers (No. 99).

Louie Rodriguez, Valencia Voice

UCF Knights steamroll SMU Mustangs 31-17

By Neil Tredray
Valencia Voice

The University of Central Florida Knights managed to put the brakes on a three-game losing skid with a little help from freshman Ronnie Weaver and junior Michael Greco. Weaver rushed for a career-high 123 yards and Greco, who relieved Rob Calabrese in the second half, threw for 94 yards and two touchdowns in the 31-17 win over visiting SMU (1-5, 0-3 C-USA) Oct. 4 at Bright House Networks Stadium.

Head Coach George O’Leary praised Weaver. “He lowered his pads a couple of times and did a really good job of getting some things done out there. I thought he had better vision and got more north and south. I was happy for him because he is a hard working kid,” he said.

The UCF defense played hard, surrendering only 25 rushing yards on 21 attempts as well as sacking SMU quarterback Bo Levi Mitchell four times and intercepting him three times.

Senior cornerback Joe Burnett’s 14th career interception set a new school record, and also extended UCF’s streak of consecutive games with an interception to 13.

After moving 29 yards in 7 plays, UCF stalled on their first drive of the game but senior Daren Daly did manage to kick a 36-yard field goal for the game’s first points. It was the first time this season the Knights scored on their opening drive.

The Mustangs responded with a 14-play, 77-yard drive that took over seven minutes off the clock. Mitchell and senior running back Andrew McKinney combined efficient passing and hard rushing to move to a first and goal at the UCF one-yard line. McKinney then punched it in for the go-ahead touchdown.

UCF return man Darin Baldwin fumbled on the ensuing return, setting SMU up just outside the red zone on the 27. The Knights’ defense clamped down,

limiting the Mustangs to a 33-yard field goal from kicker Thomas Morstead.

The first half was marred by UCF inconsistency. After scoring their first touchdown of the game, UCF kicked the ball out of bounds, setting the Mustangs up at their own 40. The defense offered a chance at redemption when Burnett made his record-setting interception with 5:22 left in the half.

The offense failed to capitalize on the turnover, however, and went three and out. Mitchell finally unleashed the deep ball with a 41-yard completion to Aldrick Robinson.

The second quarter ended with a highlight reel play. Mitchell passed to Robinson for 10 yards, then fumbled. UCF safety Jason Venson recovered the fumble and ran backwards for four yards, then lateralled to safety Sha’ref Rashad. Rashad ran backwards for six yards, then lateralled to Joe Burnett. Burnett then raced down the right sideline for 60 yards before being knocked out of bounds by SMU’s Emmanuel Sanders at the 15 to end the half tied at 10-10.

O’Leary benched Calabrese for the second half, giving Greco the responsibility of breaking the tie.

When asked about the switch, O’Leary credited a higher football power. “It was divine intervention. I went into the locker room at halftime and sat at my desk and I kept looking up and it just hit me in the head: put Greco in. Sometimes you take [the quarterback] out and let them see what is going on from the sideline then put them back in, but I thought Michael did a good job of controlling the team and putting some points on the board.”

Greco agreed, saying “I was able to see what they were doing differently from what we saw on game film during the week. They brought a couple different blitzes that we weren’t expecting. They also blitzed a lot more than we expected them to. We came in during half, made the adjustments and we were able win.”

His first drive did not bode well, though. After Weaver got UCF a first down, Greco’s pass from 3rd-and-8 intended for Kamar Aiken fell incomplete.

Greco’s next third down was more successful than his last. Facing 3rd-and-20, Greco found redshirt sophomore Brian Watters at least 10 yards in front of the nearest defender and fired a 56-yard pass to him for the touchdown.

The Knights never looked back. On SMU’s next possession, sophomore line-backer Derrick Hallman picked off an errant Mitchell pass and returned it 24 yards, setting the Knights up at SMU’s 17. UCF elected to grind it out on the ground, and after a 4th-and-1 Greco keeper for the first down, Weaver found the endzone on a 7-yard run to make it 24-10. It was his first career touchdown.

UCF’s defense surrendered their biggest play in the fourth quarter. Though backed up to his own six, Mitchell played it cool and found a wide-open Robinson again who raced 94 yards for SMU’s last score.

“If we didn’t give up that one big play we would have had a hell of a day,” O’Leary said.

UCF’s final scoring drive was set up by three bruising Weaver runs that brought the Knights to SMU’s 15. From there, facing 3rd-and-9, Greco zipped a quick pass to sophomore receiver Khymest Williams to set the score at 31-17.

“The last touchdown was a good read on his part and it was well executed,” O’Leary said.

SMU played hard on their final possession, with Mitchell completing passes of 14 and 31 yards, but the UCF defense stepped up and Rashad picked off a pass with seven seconds left on the clock. Greco took a knee to seal the win.

UCF hits the road next week for their game against the Miami Hurricanes (2-3, 0-2 ACC). The Knights next play at home Nov. 2 for a Sunday night game against East Carolina.

Neil’s NFL picks Week 6

The Lions are still terrible

By Neil Tredray
Valencia Voice

Chicago at Atlanta - The veteran Bears defense should give the Falcons offense fits.

Miami at Houston - The Wildcat offense the Dolphins installed seems to be working for them. If they win this, they’ll have tripled their win record from last year.

Baltimore at **Indianapolis** - Peyton Manning and the Colts continue to dominate the AFC South. Wait, what? Indy’s at .500 and the *Titans* are 5-0?

Detroit at **Minnesota** - The Lions are terrible.

Oakland at **New Orleans** - If you haven’t seen Warren Sapp taking a messy crap all over Al Davis and the Raiders, holy cats are you missing out. YouTube it.

Cincinnati at **New York Jets** - The Boggles are back.

Carolina at **Tampa Bay** - The Bucs play hard at home.

St. Louis at **Washington** - The Redskins play three teams with one win among them starting with St. Louis. It’s a good bet that they’ll enter November at 7-1. The mind boggles.

Jacksonville at **Denver** - Jacksonville was hyped up during the off season as the team that could finally challenge the Colts for AFC South supremacy, but that’s probably not going to happen. The *Titans*! Unbelievable.

Dallas at Arizona - The Cowboys almost dropped one against the Bengals last week but they shouldn’t have much trouble with the Cardinals.

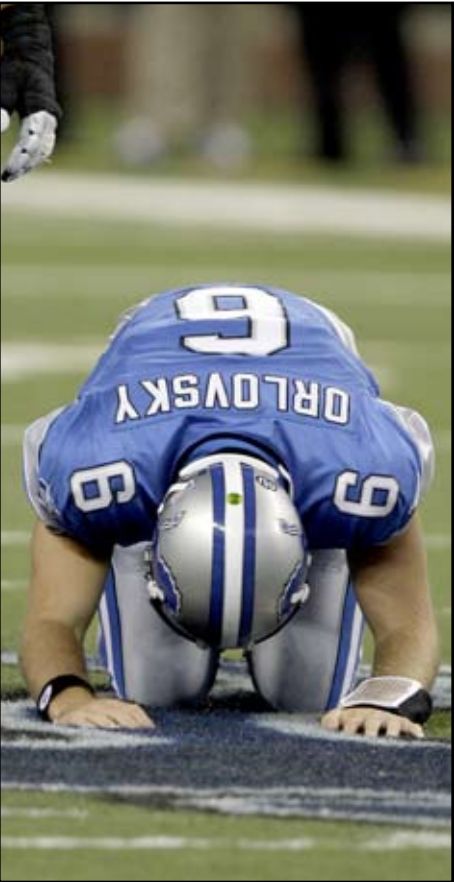
Philadelphia at **San Francisco** - The Eagles are really bad when Brian Westbrook is out.

Green Bay at Seattle - Is the NFC West necessary anymore?

New England at **San Diego** - Both of these teams have lost to the Dolphins, which is hilarious. Maybe before the game they can get together and form a support group. “My name is LaDanian, and I lost to the Dolphins.” “Hi, LaDanian. You’re among friends here.”

And Monday?

New York Giants at Cleveland - Monday Night Football used to be the NFL’s marquee game. Now it’s Tony Kornheiser yapping about his fantasy football team for three hours while the Giants steamroll the Browns.



Julian H. Gonzalez, MCT Campus

Lions QB Dan Orlovsky suffers from soul-crushing despair.