



Wahlberg feels the ‘Payne’  
Movie loses video game magic.....Page 9

# VALENCIA VOICE

Volume 5, Issue 6

HTTP://VALENCIAVOICE.COM

October 22, 2008

## Matador Day Students sharing school spirit



Photo by Erica Teamer / Valencia Voice

Students and SGA members filled with school spirit use hand gestures to represent diamond shaped Valencia logo during the well-attended West Campus Matador Day.

By Olivia Pullinger  
Valencia Voice

West Campus students came together once again on Thursday to participate in Matador Day, a celebration meant to emphasize school spirit and provide an avenue for SGA clubs to represent themselves.

Although the main draw seemed, as expected, to be the free food, Matador day served a larger purpose for Valencia students as a whole.

“It’s all about school spirit. It makes us feel good about being Valencia West Campus. And no one does Matador Day like West Campus,” said SGA President TJ Cole. “Also, we’re trying to make sure everyone is aware of the elections. Last night we hosted a debate night, and now today is kind of tying everything up together.”

Many students took the opportunity to escape from the stress and strain of the school day. “It’s nice that the organizations are doing this for the students,” said student Linda Jean-Jaques. “It’s actually fun and entertaining and helps to relax us.”

Although there wasn’t much time for relaxing according to those involved in the preparation of Matador Day, their hard work paid off. “There was a lot of preparation involved in setting up the event. We had to get all of the t-shirts, we arranged to have a recording booth where you can sing and record your own cd, and also a body and face painting tent,” said Nick Law, (sga position?). “The main thing is just to get all of the clubs together and let everyone know what we’re doing, and so far it’s been a huge success.”

Judging by the smiling faces in the crowd

of students attending Matador Day, a success is just what it was. Many students appreciated the social aspect of the event, taking the opportunity to bond with fellow students. “Our favorite part of today has just been meeting so many new people at Valencia that we’ve never met before and expanding our social lives at Valencia,” said students Alanna Jackson and Cordell Charles.

With no sports teams to call our own, no school colors, and, until Thursday, a mascot that many students were not aware of, school spirit is a concept that has been long absent for many Valencia students. However, with its t-shirts that boast Valencia’s name, free food, and countless activities, Matador Day remains one of the few events that accomplishes the goal of bringing students together through a college-wide celebration of our school spirit.

## Gas prices dropping, but why?

By Kevin G. Hall  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Oil prices settled below \$70 a barrel Thursday, their lowest level in 14 months and down 53 percent from July’s record price of \$147.

Gasoline is cheaper, too. The national average price for a gallon of unleaded stood at \$3.08, the AAA Motor Club said Thursday. And that price doesn’t yet reflect the steep fall in oil prices over the past few days.

Gasoline prices nationally have fallen 33 cents in a single week, the largest such drop ever, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration, the statistical arm of the Energy Department. Over the past four weeks, the EIA said, gasoline prices have dropped 68 cents a gallon.

Does that mean that Americans are driving more now?

“If they are, we haven’t seen any evidence of that,” said Michael Morris, an industry economist for the EIA.

Thursday’s final oil price on the New York Mercantile Exchange was down \$4.69 a barrel, or 6.3 percent, to \$69.85, the first time it’s settled under \$70 since August 2007. Oil prices

Continued on Page 4

## On-again, off-again U.S./Iraq troop deal off again



Photo by Hussein Kadhim / MCT Campus

Demonstrators rally in northeast Baghdad against a proposed Iraqi-American agreement that would allow U.S. troops to stay in the country until 2012.

By Leila Fadel  
McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD — Shiite Muslim government ministers raised objections Tuesday to a “final draft” of an agreement to authorize U.S. troops to remain in Iraq, and after a four-and-a-half-hour Cabinet meeting Iraq’s government spokesman conceded that the agreement would not be finalized in its current form.

The clock is ticking: The United Nations mandate under which U.S. troops are in Iraq expires on Dec. 31.

The agreement, which has been the subject of negotiations between the U.S. and Iraq for more than seven months,

sets the end of 2011 as when U.S. troops are to be gone from Iraq.

But Humam Hamoudi, the Shiite lawmaker who chairs the parliament’s foreign affairs committee, said that Shiite representatives found the wording on the U.S. troop departure too vague and subject to unacceptable conditions. Lawmakers also want to strike a clause that would give the Iraqi government the right to extend the agreement without parliamentary approval if it felt that was advisable.

Hamoudi said that Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki himself raised objections to the draft agreement. “The prime minister said ‘What (the Americans) have given with the right hand they have taken away with the left hand,’ “

Continued on Page 4







# Falling gas prices explained

Continued from cover

are down 27 percent year-to-date, a stunning development given the record \$147.27 a barrel on July 11.

How low can gasoline's price go? There isn't a direct correlation between oil and pump prices. For the week of July 20-26, 2007, oil averaged \$74 a barrel, and on July 21 that year, the nationwide average pump price was \$2.99. That would suggest perhaps a dime or more of price drops ahead if oil prices hold steady.

However, when oil was higher, at \$80.12 a barrel the week of Oct. 19-25, 2007, the nationwide average pump price on Oct. 19 was lower, at \$2.81. Gasoline was cheaper even as oil was more expensive. That's because other factors weigh heavily, such as seasonal demand and the vigor of the overall economy.

The U.S. economy is now widely thought to be in recession. That means more Americans without jobs, and less spending in general. Neither suggests that demand for gasoline is about to rise.

"It would be wrong to assume that Americans will immediately return to 'driving as usual' once gasoline costs \$2 and some change. The overall economic situation for many consumers has deteriorated in the last year," said Troy Green, a AAA spokesman in the nation's capital.

Another consumption gauge is the EIA's weekly report on gasoline supplied by refiners. On Aug. 29, toward the end of peak driving season, refiners supplied 9.4 million gallons a day to the U.S. market. By Sept. 12, this number had fallen to 8.9 million gallons and on Oct. 3, still before the near meltdown of financial markets,

refiners were supplying less than 8.7 million gallons a day. This suggests that even with falling prices, motorists don't seem to be driving more.

"Many of these consumers will remain more conservative with regard to discretionary spending, regardless of the gas price," Green said.

The price outlook is more confusing for home heating oils, which are used extensively in the Northeast and Midwest. The EIA earlier this month forecast a 31 percent increase over last year's energy bills for residents who heat their homes with fuel oil.

Home heating-oil prices averaged \$3.38 a gallon Monday, according to the new EIA report, down almost 28 percent from a week earlier but still up 59 percent from the same time last year.

"It's still more expensive ... and on top of that we're concerned about the increased number of families" seeking public assistance, said Mark Wolfe, the director of the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association. "We're expecting an increase in the number of families because of the declining economy."

"It's responding like everything else, a massive flight across asset classes at this point," said Mike Fitzpatrick, the vice president of energy for MF Global in New York, a company that specializes in commodity trading.

Just as analysts thought that the huge oil-price spikes earlier this year reflected a disconnect from the underlying fundamentals of supply and demand, the recent steep plunge in prices follows the same logic. Investors are fleeing the commodities market broadly, not just oil, and that's exaggerating the fall in crude prices.

Fitzpatrick thinks that the fundamentals suggest oil in the range of \$75 to \$85 a barrel.

The falling prices have struck fear in oil-producing nations. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries on Thursday moved up its scheduled Nov. 18 meeting to an emergency gathering Oct. 24 in Vienna, Austria.

OPEC President Chakib Khelil, Algeria's oil minister, said he thought that the fundamentals argued for an oil price of \$70 to \$90 a barrel. Other OPEC members are calling for a cut in production of 1 million barrels per day.

—MCT Campus

# Iraqi government can't agree on U.S. troop deal

Continued from cover

Hamoudi said.

Government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh made it clear the current draft won't be approved as written. "There are amendments that need to be made to the current draft in order to raise the agreement to a nationally acceptable level," he said in a written statement after the meeting of the Cabinet, which is formally known as the Council of Ministers.

It wasn't clear what would happen next. U.S. officials said they weren't disposed to continue negotiating an agreement that was supposedly already in its final form and which U.S. officials have been circulating to members of Congress. But if there's no agreement when the U.N. mandate expires, U.S. troops would be in the country illegally and probably would be confined to bases, Iraqi officials have said.

"There is great reluctance to engage further in the drafting process," Defense Secretary Robert Gates told reporters at the Pentagon. "I don't think you slam the door shut, but I would say it's pretty far closed."

Adm. Michael Mullen, the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who was traveling in Latvia, warned that the Iraqi security forces can't secure Iraq on their own. "We have pushed this as the top priority for months now," Mullen said. "It's time for the Iraqis to make this decision."

Maliki has been publicly critical of the agreement since the start of the negotiations and has hinted numerous times that Iraq has the option not to sign the agreement or renew the U.N. mandate.

A senior Iraqi official, who asked not to be named because of the sensitivity of the

topic, said he doubts Maliki would press for the agreement to be approved by parliament if his Cabinet doesn't agree to its terms. Maliki asked that officials submit their objections to the agreement in writing by Wednesday afternoon.

The Cabinet is the second government group to object to the agreement. The country's Political Council for National Security also couldn't come to a decision. Both groups include representatives from nearly all Iraq's political parties. Neither, however, includes followers of radical Shiite cleric Muqtada al-Sadr, who has demanded that U.S. troops leave now.

"He genuinely understands that there needs to be an agreement," the official said of Maliki. "But he feels that he has been passed a hot potato."

According to an official who was present, Maliki made no effort to defend the agreement or press for its approval during the hours-long Cabinet session where minister after minister voiced objections to specific clauses.

The agreement has changed significantly in the favor of the Iraqi government during the months-long negotiations, which Americans began by asking for hundreds of bases inside the country and immunity from Iraqi laws for both American troops and private security contractors.

Those requests were pared down. The current agreement calls for the Americans to leave Iraqi cities by June 30 and to be gone from the country by the end of 2011. American troops would be immune from prosecution by Iraqi authorities as long as they were on-duty, but private contractors would be subject to Iraqi law.

—MCT Campus



Brian Blanco, Bradenton Herald / MCT Campus

Tampa Bay celebrates their 3-1 victor over the Red Sox last Sunday night.

# From worst to first! Rays defeat Red Sox in Game 7, advance to World Series

By Anthony Rieber Newsday

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Tropicana Field still has a roof on it today. That's hard to imagine if you were in it immediately after the Rays beat the Red Sox, 3-1, in Game 7 of the American League Championship Series Sunday night.

When rookie David Price got pinch hitter Jed Lowrie to bounce into a forceout at second base for the final out, the place went bonkers. Price fired his glove to the turf and the Rays mobbed him in front of the mound. Cameras flashed in every section as 40,473 fans — at least those who weren't Red Sox rooters — celebrated one of the most improbable World Series teams in baseball history.

Ten years of bad baseball and three days of torturous waiting after the Rays blew a 7-0, seventh-inning lead in Game 5 were wiped away as Tampa finally slew the resilient Red Sox.

Tampa will host Game 1 of the World Series against the National League champion Phillies on Wednesday. That's quite a leap forward for a franchise that had never won more than 70 games since its birth in 1998.

"People were happy when we got our 71st win," said ALCS MVP Matt Garza, who pitched seven-plus innings for the win. "Peo-

ple were excited when we got our 81st win. People kept saying, 'You guys are going to falter in August and September. You guys are going to falter when you face Chicago (in the ALDS). You guys don't match up well against Boston.' We just kept telling each other, 'Keep fighting, keep believing.'"

Boston, the defending World Series champions, had won nine straight ALCS elimination games, starting with Game 4 against the Yankees in 2004.

"We didn't get as far as we wanted," manager Terry Francona said. "We got beat by a very good team."

Boston's run came on a home run by Dustin Pedroia, the second batter of the game.

Tampa tied it in the fourth against Jon Lester (0-2, 4.97 ERA) on a two-out double by Evan Longoria and took a 2-1 lead in the fifth on Rocco Baldelli's RBI single. Willy Aybar homered leading off the seventh.

Garza (2-0, 1.38 ERA) allowed one run and two hits with nine strikeouts. He departed after an inning-opening error by shortstop Jason Bartlett in the eighth — the kind of opening the Red Sox used to win Games 5 and 6.

This time, Rays manager Joe Maddon used three pitchers to get three outs. Boston had the bases loaded with two outs when Price, the 23-year-old lefthander who was the No.

1 pick in the 2007 draft, struck out J.D. Drew on four pitches, the last one a 97-mile per hour fastball.

It was Price's eighth big-league appearance.

"David was in control of his emotions, which is great," Maddon said. "I knew he was going to throw strikes. That was the big issue there. It just seemed to be the right vibe entirely."

Price stuck around for the ninth, too, and earned his first major-league save. He walked Jason Bay to open the inning before fanning Mark Kotsay and Jason Varitek and getting Lowrie to bounce to Akinori Iwamura, who took the ball to the bag himself to force Bay.

Then the party began. As Quiet Riot's "Come On Feel the Noise" filled the dome, Rays players ran around the warning track spraying champagne on fans, led by former Met Cliff Floyd, one of the veterans who came in this season to augment Tampa's young talent.

Maddon, the quirky bike-riding optimist, got the loudest ovation when he appeared on a podium behind second base during a post-game ceremony. No one in the building could make out anything he said, but Rays fans loved every word.

As the Trop finally emptied out at 12:30 a.m., Bob Dylan's "The Times They Are A-Changin'" played on the PA system.

# Neil's NFL Picks Week 8 Rams over Patriots?

By Neil Tredray Valencia Voice

Oakland at **Baltimore** - The Raiders stink.

Arizona at **Carolina** - The Panthers have been playing well at home this season.

**Tampa Bay** at Dallas - Super-Bowl-winning quarterback Brad Johnson will get a chance to say 'hi' to old friends and meet some new ones on the Bucs.

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

**Buffalo** at Miami - The Bills lead the AFC East. The Miami Dolphins looked inept again last week, and all is right with the world except for the part where the freakin' Buffalo Bills lead the AFC East.

**St. Louis** at New England - Hilarious upset of the week alert.

San Diego "at" **New Orleans** - This game is actually being played in Wembley Stadium in London. I'd say the team that only has to deal with a 4-hour time change will win.

Kansas City at **New York Jets** - Brett Favre just wins games, except for that one he just lost to the Left Coast Lions.

Atlanta at **Philadelphia** - The faithful Philly fans should fluster Flynn. That's some pretty sweet alliteration if I do say so myself.

Cleveland at **Jacksonville** - The Jaguars got off to a rough start and are now 3-3. Get ready for 6-3, because they face the two terrible teams from Ohio followed by the Lions. The next test for the Jaguars won't be until week 11 when the Titans come to town.

Cincinnati at **Houston** - May the least worst team win.

**New York Giants** at Pittsburgh - The Giants are a legitimate threat to return to the Super Bowl this year.

Seattle at **San Francisco** - You've got to kind of feel bad for Mike Holmgren. Yes, his last season with the Seahawks is a disaster, but while that shame will fade, he'll always look like a walrus.

And as for Monday...


Indianapolis at **Tennessee** - Thanks, zany



Rod Mar, Seattle Times / KRT Campus


Poor Guy.

ATTEND OUR CAMPUS VISIT DAY  
Sunday, November 16, 1 - 5 p.m.  
For more information call (813) 253-6211 or email admissions@ut.edu



## “At UT, transfer students are welcome.”

They reviewed my application and accepted me the same day. A transfer scholarship made it all possible. No hassles at UT.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA

SYMBOL OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

401 W. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33606-1490 • (888) 646-2738 • www.ut.edu

# Lady Knights fall to Owls, 2-1, in double overtime

By Neil Tredray Valencia Voice

The University of Central Florida women's soccer team fell to the visiting Rice Owls 2-1 in the second overtime period of Friday night's game at the UCF Soccer Complex.

The game was the fourth consecutive one the Knights played in overtime, and the fifth out of the last six.

UCF's record now stands at 8-4-3 overall and 3-2-2 in Conference USA play.

8 minutes into the second half, Rice's Erin Scott broke through the Knights' defense. UCF's redshirt freshman keeper Aline Reis came out of the box to defend, but tripped and Scott easily flipped the

ball over her for the first goal Rice has ever scored against UCF.

"After being down a goal, we played a lot better," said Knights Head Coach Amanda Cromwell, and the statistics support that statement. "We outshot 'em 16-2," she said.

It was indeed all UCF for the second half, with those 16 shots seemingly non-stop against Rice. The Owls, however, managed to get a defender between the ball and the net on each shot.

The Knights finally capitalized on the several opportunities Rice handed them when, in the 89th minute, junior Brianna Schooley, playing at midfield, passed to senior Danielle Dos Santos. Dos Santos' shot was blocked by Rice keeper Meghan

Erkel, but it rebounded right back to Dos Santos who fired it into the net to tie the game at 1-1.

The first of the "golden goal" overtime periods was again dominated by UCF, but the Knights were unable to finish.

"We've been working on shooting and finishing. It's just a little lack of composure," said Cromwell. "We just have periods of the game where we're not hitting on all cylinders. our record in overtime in the last two or three years we've only lost one overtime game not including this one."

Rice only got one shot in overtime, but it was enough. In the 106th minute, Scott sent a shot spinning towards Reis from about 20 yards out. After a wild bounce,

it bypassed Reis and crossed the goal line to end the game, stunning UCF players, coaches, and fans. The Rice players themselves were a little late to celebrate as well.

"I'm kinda shocked," said Cromwell soon after the final whistle, "because that goal was kind of like 'What happened? Did we actually just lose that game?'"

Cromwell and the Knights had hoped to turn the Conference-USA table before the C-USA championship in Houston in November. "It's gonna be tough [to win C-USA]. We're not in control of our destiny."

UCF's last home game of the season is Oct. 24 vs. SMU at 7 p.m. at the UCF Soccer Complex.



# Special Talent Tuesday raises funds for Valencia Volunteers

By Shaneece Dixon  
Valencia Voice

October is Breast Cancer Awareness month, and on West Campus, Valencia Volunteers have been fundraising for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer event, which is the American Cancer Society annual fundraising event to raise money for the disease.

In support of them, West Campus' Student Government Association hosted Talent Tuesday on Oct. 14 by the Student Services Building patio, not to introduce new performances from the students, but to support Valencia Volunteers with their fundraising.

"I'm thankful that we were able to help another club support breast cancer," said Nick Law, who is the Senator of Student Activities for SGA.

In fact, Valencia Volunteers have been trying to fundraise for this event by selling grilled hot dogs, hamburgers, chips, and beverages to students for reasonably low prices from 12-3 p.m.

The actual event that the organization



Terrence "T.O." Owens belts out a ballad during the show in support of the Valencia Voice.

is fundraising for took place on Saturday, Oct. 18 at Lake Eola.

The money went towards the VCC team,

where the goal was to make at least \$5,000.

The event itself is much like the annual Walk for Multiple Sclerosis, where different

teams are formed and raise money to donate to the American Cancer Society.

Meanwhile, the team itself participates in walking several miles to support this cause.

"I'm glad that SGA would help support us because the event is really important to me," said Jenny Lee, the support coordinator for Valencia Volunteers.

Students gathered outside listening to music, seeing two different organizations on West Campus support each other to help towards a good cause, as noted by Claudine Vincent, a member of Valencia Volunteers.

"It's really great because a lot of people know someone who has or has experienced breast cancer," Vincent said.

In short, this past week's Talent Tuesday was all about showcasing unity and teamwork among different organizations on campus, which is something that SGA is happy to support.

"This week's show is all in support of another organization," said Allen Collins, the Senator of Marketing and Advertising and host of Talent Tuesday, "We are in support of the first word in SGA—student."

## Obama supporters show off their candidate on big screen

By Walter Edward  
Valencia Voice

Orlando4Obama had a showing of the final presidential debate between Senators Barack Obama and John McCain at the Cinema 14 inside Fashion Square Mall.

Orlando4Obama is a grassroots organization that is part of the Obama campaign.

They have shown all four debates at movie theaters and the second and third debates have been at the Cinema 14.

Shahier Rahman is a field organizer for the group and gave a motivational speech before the debate started and once it ended encouraging people to vote as soon as possible and to not assume that the election is already decided.

Everybody that was there were Obama supporters and some were involved directly with the Obama Campaign in Orlando.

Laura McGinnis, the communications director for the campaign for change in Central Florida, said, "We are here to educate people and engage voters in the process. We've got almost 20 days left and it's the final countdown in the election.

The more people vote, the more students from Valencia come out, the more people from the community come out, the more likely we're going to take this election for Barack Obama and win the White House."

Most of the Obama supporters had the notion that our next president needs to focus on the economy first. Other issues that they felt needed to be taken care of (in no

particular order) were withdrawing from the Iraq War, the energy crisis, and health care.

In the last debate they felt that Obama was more direct with the issues, very prepared, and got right to the point answering the questions in detail.

Nancy Ortiz, an educator for Orange County public schools, first got interested in Obama when she heard him speak and liked his message of working together and community organizing.

Her major issue she would like for Obama to address once in the White House is education.

"One thing I heard him mention in the debate that I liked was vocational education," she said.

There were a lot of Obama supporters that were involved in the community and are going spread the word about Obama's plans



Joe Burbank, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus Sen. Hillary Clinton and Sen. Barack Obama appear in Orlando.

# Getting older makes life tough for so-called 'Gayby Boomers'

By Lisa Anderson  
Chicago Tribune

NEW YORK — Getting old isn't easy for anyone.

But aging poses particular problems for members of the nation's lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender, or LGBT, community.

Compared with heterosexual counterparts, many more of them are socially isolated, fear discrimination from health-care providers, live alone, and don't have children or other close relatives to call upon for help.

Those were among the challenges addressed by the 4th National Conference on LGBT Aging, which drew more than 600 participants during its recent three-day run here.

Organized by SAGE, or Services & Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual & Transgender Elders, a 30-year-old, New York-based nonprofit agency with 10 affiliates around the country, the conference was sponsored, for the first time, by AARP, the national lobbying organization representing older Americans.

Nationally, there are some 3 million LGBT people over the age of 55, a number projected to grow to nearly 4 million in 10 years, according to SAGE. There are at least 40,000 LGBT Chicagoans over 55 years old, according to a 2003 study conducted by the Chicago Task Force on LGBT Aging.

As the oldest of the 80 million Baby Boomers turn 65 in 2011, there will be many "Gayby Boomers" among them.

There is a key difference between these boomers and prior LGBT generations, members of which often spent their lives hiding their sexual orientation.

Due to the dramatic social changes during the lives of LGBT boomers — such as the gay rights movement and same-sex marriage — many more of them felt comfortable publicly acknowledging their sexual orientation.

Some 44 percent are "completely out" and 31.7 percent are "mostly out," according to "Out and Aging: The MetLife Study of Lesbian and Gay Baby Boomers," conducted by Zogby International and released by MetLife in 2006.

As a result, gerontologists and other specialists on LGBT aging at the conference said they expect this generation of LGBT elders — like boomers generally — to demand treatment from care providers and residential programs that not only is better than what prior generations received, but that addresses issues such as sexual orientation and sexual behavior among the elderly.

The top concerns expressed by these seniors about aging generally are shared by all seniors, according to Jean Quam, a dean at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities, who worked on the MetLife study.

Their greatest fears: being unable to cope, being dependent, being sick or disabled, outliving their income, becoming confused and being alone.

"The things we're talking about are true for most seniors. They just have particular twists in our context and can be exacerbated in our context," said Michael Adams, executive director of SAGE.

For example, LGBT seniors have one worry not shared by heterosexuals: discrimination. "One of the most frightening findings" of the MetLife study was that 26 percent were concerned about discrimination and 20 percent "have little or no confidence that they will be treated with

dignity and respect as an LGBT person by their health-care professionals" in old age and at the end of their lives, said Kimberly Acquaviva, assistant research professor at George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences, who worked on the study.

In some cases, fear of discrimination or feeling unwelcome drives LGBT seniors to hide their orientation, even if they had been open about it before. "People think 'I'm safer in the closet,'" said Adams.

There also are differences in resources for aging LGBT people and their heterosexual counterparts.

LGBT seniors are twice as likely to live alone; half as likely to have a life partner or significant other; half as likely to have close relatives to call on for help and four times less likely to have children to help them, according to a study sponsored by SAGE and the Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging & Longevity at New York's Hunter College.

Even if LGBT people have partners, that relationship may not be acknowledged by health-care and other providers.

At a round table discussion moderated by Serena Worthington, director of Chicago's SAGE at the Center on Halsted, Beatrice Green described how a hospital failed to notify her when her 75-year-old partner of 25 years developed an infection, despite all of the contact information and instructions Green had supplied.

"They were treating her as a single person who had no relatives in the area because she wasn't married," said Green, who works with the Senior Independence Project in Shorewood, Wis.

Financial security, a challenge for all seniors, is more precarious for LGBT couples because they are not eligible for

Social Security spousal and survivor benefits, Adams said.

He added that is true even for legally married same-sex couples because the federal government does not recognize those marriages under the 1996 Defense of Marriage Act.

Another problem for LGBT seniors is finding affordable housing in senior communities seen as LGBT-friendly. That is defined as a place where "people are respected and get the same quality of care regardless of their sexual orientation. They can be who they are \_ to be the stereotypical gay man or butch woman \_ and they wouldn't have other residents isolate them or call them names," said Hope Barrett, director of community initiatives at Chicago's Howard Brown Health Center, one of America's leading LGBT health care organizations.

Such facilities are few, said Adams, noting that SAGE is launching the first interactive online resource for LGBT-friendly housing on its Web site sageusa.org.

"We are not at all ready for what's up ahead," said Barrett, referring to the growing number of aging boomers. "It's really a tsunami waiting to happen and we're ill-equipped to meet all the demands and the services folks will require."

GAYBY BOOMERS: States with the most lesbian, gay or bisexual seniors:

- California
- Florida
- New York
- Texas
- Illinois
- Pennsylvania
- Ohio

—MCT Campus

## Electrical Engineering

High-tech is in high demand and electrical engineers are benefitting from top employment opportunities. With the Electrical Engineering program offered at UCF Valencia West, you'll receive hands-on instruction and benefit from research opportunities in biomedical engineering, communication systems, robotics and much more.

**Interested? An advisor will be at Valencia West from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the following dates:**  
**October 23, 29**  
**November 5, 12, 19**  
**December 3, 10, 17**

**Call 407.582.5500 to schedule an appointment.**




Stands For Opportunity

In partnership with




VALENCIA

[www.UCFwestorlando.com](http://www.UCFwestorlando.com)




**YOU ARE HERE.**

UCF STANDS FOR OPPORTUNITY




**A CAREER IN SPORTS STARTS HERE**



**NOT FAR, IS IT?** UCF South Lake is only 15 minutes from Valencia West, where you can get a degree in sports and fitness. So, if you want to jump into a career as a trainer, coach or sports event manager, UCF South Lake has the right program for you.


0809RGC290 10/08VV **352.536.2113** [www.UCFsouthlake.com](http://www.UCFsouthlake.com)

**ATTEND OUR CAMPUS VISIT DAY**  
Sunday, November 16, 1 - 5 p.m.  
For more information call (813) 253-6211 or email [admissions@ut.edu](mailto:admissions@ut.edu)



**"At UT, transfer students are welcome."**

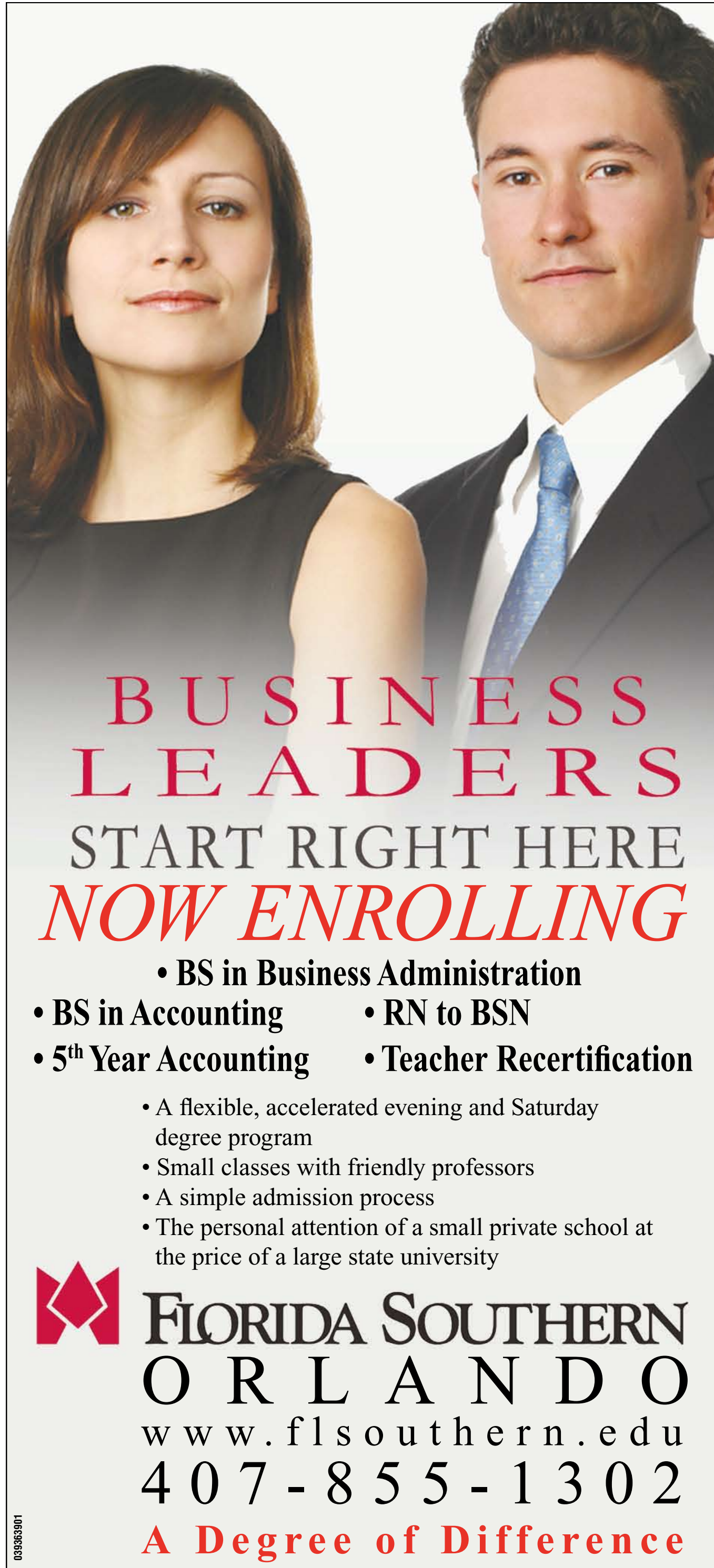
They reviewed my application and accepted me the same day. A transfer scholarship made it all possible. No hassles at UT.



**THE UNIVERSITY OF TAMPA**  
SYMBOL OF EDUCATIONAL EXCELLENCE

401 W. Kennedy Blvd. Tampa, FL 33606-1490 • (888) 646-2738 • [www.ut.edu](http://www.ut.edu)






**BUSINESS LEADERS START RIGHT HERE NOW ENROLLING**

- BS in Business Administration
- BS in Accounting
- RN to BSN
- 5<sup>th</sup> Year Accounting
- Teacher Recertification

- A flexible, accelerated evening and Saturday degree program
- Small classes with friendly professors
- A simple admission process
- The personal attention of a small private school at the price of a large state university

 **FLORIDA SOUTHERN**  
**ORLANDO**  
www.flsouthern.edu  
**407-855-1302**  
**A Degree of Difference**

039363901



Beautiful cinematograph and intense special effects are not enough to save 'Max Payne' from being extremely boring.

Twentieth-Century Fox

## 'Max Payne' story, writing inflict pain to the max

By Jordan Keyes  
Valencia Voice

Films adapted from video games are rarely cinematic masterpieces, and I went into "Max Payne" not expecting much outside of a lot of action scenes and hot girls with guns. As much as it Paynes me to say it, this movie was Payne-fully bad, and my hopes were dashed after seeing an intriguing ad cam-Payne.

Okay, now that all the bad Payne puns are out of the way, let's get down to business.

"Max Payne" is a film that is somewhat loosely based on a third-person shooter game of the same name. It follows Detective Max Payne, played by an appropriately menacing Mark Wahlberg, as he tries to avenge the murder of his wife and daughter.

After that, the details get murky...really murky. The murders have something to do with a revolutionary drug gone awry and a cover-up and maybe gangs. Even for those who have played the game, the film is a little unclear. If you haven't played the game, buckle up! You're in for a bumpy ride.

So, the trailers lead one to believe that, even though this film might lack a certain amount of substance, at least there's going to be enough gunfire and explosions to warrant a good time, right? Yeah, about that. All of the explosions and gunfire from the trailer make up 90% of the action in this film. Oh well, maybe there's some clever dialogue or witty one-liners, once again that's a big N-O. In the film, Payne is one of those "silent" heroes. He speaks sparingly, and when he does it's not much beyond pleasantries or profanity.

The rest of the dialogue is a stilted display of cliched writing and downright confusing lines that seem to have slipped by anyone resembling an editor. The story also features some of the worst character development I've seen in years.

As far as the acting goes, Wahlberg does the best with what he was given. And what he was given was next to nothing. He has one gear, angry.

Needless to say, there just wasn't much of a chance for him to shine. Mila Kunis clumsily portrays an assassin who pops in every once in a while to help Max out in his quest for vengeance. Kunis is hard to take seriously in the role of a femme-fatale and the character's development is so shoddy it wouldn't have mattered who they put in the role. Chris "Ludacris" Bridges plays a no-nonsense cop who spouts some of the

most useless lines in a movie this year.

If anything, this movie does look really good. The noir-esque atmosphere is at times nothing less than stunning. The predominantly black-and-white sets and costumes give the film a very gritty look that the rest of the film just doesn't do justice to. There are some glimpses of genius in the cinematography with some breathtaking shots, but it's just not enough.

Despite a slick look and a fairly interesting piece of source material, this movie just doesn't cut it.

This movie was just a disappointment all around, especially since I had my fingers crossed for Marky Mark/Ludacris collaboration for the theme song.

I guess I'll just have to wait for the sequel (and yes, unfortunately, they set it up for a sequel.)

## 'W.' provides funny, insightful look at current president

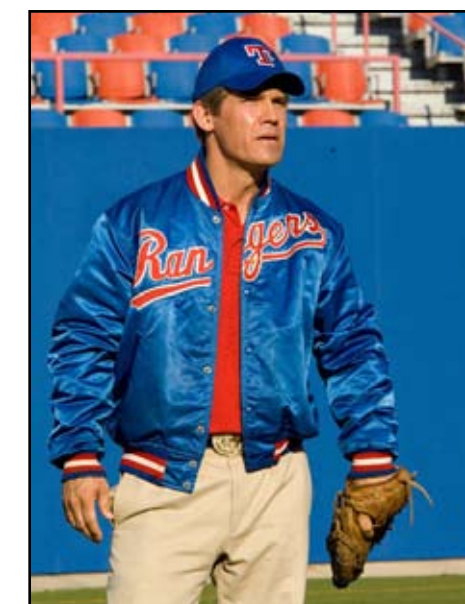
By Trey McConnell  
Valencia Voice

Oliver Stone returns to the complex world of politics and politicians with "W.", an examination of the 43rd President of the United States: George Walker Bush. While Stone's previous productions were done after the President in question was no longer in office – Richard Nixon in "Nixon" and John F. Kennedy in "JFK" – the filmmaker rushed into production on "W." in order to ensure it was in theaters while President Bush was Commander in Chief and prior to the 2008 Presidential election.

Leaping back and forth through time, "W." chronicles how a hard-partying, womanizing rich kid went from being a guy who couldn't/wouldn't hold down a job to the co-owner of a Major League Baseball team to the 43rd US President.

Bush is arrested, spends lots of time lit up like a Catholic church, and has such a strained relationship with his father it's a wonder the younger Bush ever wanted to follow in George Herbert Walker Bush's footsteps. But in the film and in life, Bush found his way out from the bottom of a liquor bottle to the top of the American political pile.

How it happened, how this man who walked away from jobs his father set up for him and who had no real experience in the political arena other than a powerful last name



Ray Baldwin / Lionsgate Films  
Josh Brolin's performance is undeniably funny.

managed to achieve America's highest office, is only very, very basically spelled out in "W."

The meat of the film, the only time when it's actually a captivating drama and not just one that hints at things happening is when Bush is surrounded by his advisors. Then the gigantic elephant in the middle of the room, the one you know Stone's aching to shine the light on, is actually exposed for all to see.

"W."s re-creation of the meetings held

prior to America's invasion of Iraq, the President's unsuccessful phone calls to some world leaders who didn't see things his way, his homey meeting with England's Tony Blair, and the meetings held after America and its allies knocked Saddam Hussein out of power provide the juice that makes "W." flow. When the focus is off those events, "W." loses its momentum and its way.

The cast selected for the film played out to be a superb choice by Stone as well. Josh Brolin just gets better with age. He is absolutely phenomenal as Bush, both in his younger, wilder years and as the President. As Bush, Brolin fumbles his way through a press conference, takes lettuce out of his sandwich following a hypothetical question about disease, and seems gleeful over the fact a briefing is only three pages in length. It's an amazing performance in that even though American audiences are fully aware of the real man's appearance, mannerisms, and personality, Brolin is Bush on the screen. "W." could possibly be Brolin's finest performance to date, and maybe the best he'll ever give.

James Cromwell as George Herbert Walker Bush and Elizabeth Banks as Laura Bush are the standouts in a sea of familiar faces in supporting roles. Toby Jones does a great job digging into Karl Rove, Scott Glenn makes for a convincing Donald Rumsfeld, Jeffrey Wright is terrific as Colin Powell, and Richard Dreyfuss looks and acts just like Vice Presi-

dent Dick Cheney.

The only one who just doesn't work in their role is Thandie Newton as Condoleezza Rice. I normally look forward to seeing Newton in films, but, wow, there's something so off about her take on Rice that it's not only distracting but also kind of creepy. "W."s Rice is a short, squeaky-voiced sycophant who sticks out like a sore thumb. Why did Stone prompt Newton to go this direction with Rice?

The plan obviously was to try and sway moviegoers by exposing Bush's flaws, albeit in as fair and balanced a manner as possible. However, "W." isn't the film it aspires to be. There's plenty of fodder out there for a whole series of films on George W. Bush's life, but Stone's "W." plays around at the edge of the story too much.

Maybe it's the fact this one was done with such a quick turnaround or maybe it's because Stone is attempting to walk a fine line and not totally alienate one political group or the other. Whatever the cause, "W." is far below the quality of either "JFK" or "Nixon." "W." is neither the hard-hitting insightful piece most believed Stone was crafting nor is it the throw Bush under the train critical analysis others predicted. Instead it's a jumbled story with some actors playing it straight by the book while others have taken the parody route. More boring than informative, "W." doesn't live up to the hype and isn't one of Stone's better efforts.



# Do you prefer one-of-a-kind resale shops or the mall?

By Lucy Baugh  
Valencia Voice

Since 1995, Winter Park has been home to a unique haven for fashionistas looking for original vintage clothing, jewellery and accessories.

The “Orlando Vintage Clothing Co.” has built up an inspiring collection of vintage pieces dating from the 1890’s to the 1980’s, and offers the kind of retail experience that you may expect to find only in the fashion capitals of the world.

Owner of the store, Lisa Marie Booth-Smith, decided that turning her passion for vintage clothing into a business would be her “ultimate bliss,” and after visiting vintage stores from London to Los Angeles,

Booth-Smith established Orlando Vintage. “After success in the radio business, I really felt it was time to pursue my dream job in the world of fashion,” Booth-Smith explains.

Booth-Smith fills the 12 hundred square feet of space with vintage items bought directly from their owners. She explains: “Clients often make appointments to come into the store, while others prefer house calls. This way, we get the cream of the crop.”

Booth-Smith describes a dress that she obtained from a client recently retired to Florida from New York: “It’s a beautiful piece from the 1950’s, with beaded feathers and hand sewn sequins making it truly

unique. This is just a taste of the kinds of items we are lucky enough to have here.”

For many of Booth-Smith’s clients, such items really make a bold and original fashion statement in what she calls today’s “shopping mall culture.”

In recent years, the popularity of vintage clothing has risen, with celebrities such as Sienna Miller and Kate Moss favoring the edge that vintage clothing brings to their style.

Julia Robert’s infamous vintage Valentino gown worn to the 2001 Oscars earned it’s place in style history, and the red carpet is now frequently graced with such pieces. “I see merit in many current designers, but the

looks are all those of decades gone by,” says Booth-Smith. “When you wear a vintage piece, you just feel special,” she later said.

For this week’s fashion poll, we asked some of you to state your style preference when it comes to one-of-a-kind vintage clothes over what you can find at the mall.

The variety and accessibility of the mall seems to appeal to most of the students that we asked, so maybe vintage is not always practical for the average busy student.

More information about Orlando Vintage, including store opening hours, is available online at [www.fashiondig.com](http://www.fashiondig.com).



“I’d rather shop at the mall because it’s bigger and more diverse and you can find anything you want.”

— Mo Mufasa



“I’d rather go shopping at the mall because they have cooler store like pacsun and quicksilver”

— Adriel Cohn



“I’d rather shop vintage, because everyone who shops at the mall just has the same stuff.”

— Amanda Lauriston



I normally shop at the mall but if there was a vintage or resale shop with what I was looking for I’d shop there, because more of it is one of a kind and you can have something no one else is wearing.”

— Allison Sweeney



“I’d rather shop at the mall because there’s a bigger selection of stores.”

— Athina Bannister



“I would rather go to the mall because you can go to more stores in one trip.”

— Meckenzia Sprague



“I’d rather shop at one of a kind stores because you can bargain.”

— Mario Hairiston



“I like the mall because there’s more variety”

— Dawn Danforth

Photos by Omshante Lee, Emiliana White / Valencia Voice

# Resale demand up due to bad economic times

By Jean Patteson  
The Orlando Sentinel

FRESNO, Calif.— Maybe it’s the \$10 Abercrombie T-shirt. Or the \$150 drop-leaf dining table and chairs. Or just maybe it’s the \$5 Hello Kitty overalls.

Whatever the draw, customers are flocking to resale shops a sector that includes thrift stores, consignment shops and others. And sales are up dramatically.

Bad economic times are driving the traffic, experts say.

“Whenever there’s a slow economy and the word ‘recession’ starts getting thrown around of course resale (sales are) one of the first things that comes up,” said Adele R. Meyer, executive director of the Michigan-based National Association of Resale & Thrift Shops.

A survey by the association of its members found that 75 percent reported sales increases in April. The average increase in sales was about 30 percent. A more recent survey is turning up almost identical results, Meyer said.

Plato’s Closet in Fresno, Calif., which sells used clothing geared toward teens, also is seeing a 30 percent increase compared with last year, assistant manager Brittani Piccolo said.

The store sells brands that many teens seek out, such as Abercrombie T-shirts the mall store sells for up to \$40. They sell for \$10 at Plato’s Closet. High-end True Religion jeans sell for \$65 at the shop, but between \$200 and \$300 in other stores.

Customers like Robin Allen, 25, of Fresno have less money in their pockets these days. Allen is a server at Piazza Del Pane, and in the past took home \$70 to \$80 in tips. Now he brings home \$40 to \$50.

“Right now it’s really hard on everybody,” said Allen, who still hit the mall last week. About Plato’s Closet, however, he said, “I can always find something that’s my style, my brand and it’s cheap.”

Because cash is tight, sales at luxury stores, department stores, even regular ap-



Bryan Rindfuss, Dallas Morning News / MCT  
Vintage stores are becoming a more popular place to shop, providing unique clothing at a lower price.

parel stores are declining. All those categories declined between 3.5 percent and 5.5 percent during the first nine months of year, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

Resale shops join discount stores and wholesale club stores, such as Costco, as retailers that do well during economic downturns. Sales at discounters such as Target saw a 2.4 percent increase and wholesale clubs saw an 8.1 percent increase.

Off-price retailers such as Ross, Marshalls and T.J. Maxx also have reported increased sales.

Gwynn Clark, owner of Repeat Performance, a consignment shop on Van Ness Avenue in Fresno, said off-price retail stores still charge more than many consignment shops. Still, she said she has lowered prices about 25 percent to compete with discount-

ers and off-price retailers, and sales are up about 12 percent recently.

“When you can buy things new at retailers for \$5, \$6 or \$7, places that are selling resale have to respond in kind,” she said.

And, she said, people are changing what they buy at her shop: less fine jewelry and more costume jewelry; fewer designer purses and more Liz Claiborne purses.

At Goodwill Industries, sales at San Joaquin Valley, Calif., stores during the first eight months of the year were up 6 percent compared with the same period last year, said Sally Wooden, director of public relations for Goodwill Industries of the San Joaquin Valley.

“In the retail business, any time you get 2 or more percent, you’re pretty happy,” she said.

Tough times also bring new customers

who never shopped resale stores before, said Meyer of the resale association.

About 80 percent of her members saw an increase in new customers.

Sandi Meza, director of retail for all 13 Goodwill stores in the San Joaquin Valley, said some people say they didn’t know Goodwill had a store in their city.

“The economy draws them in, but once they’re here, people are usually pleasantly surprised with the quality of merchandise on the sales floors and they want to come back,” she said.

The nonprofit organization, which uses its income to pay for job training and other services is trying to be more like conventional retail stores.

We “don’t want our shoppers to feel like they’re in a thrift store,” Meza said.

“We don’t like to look at ourselves as a last-resort shopping facility. We consider ourselves a regular part of the economy.”

The store is buying more overstock goods at discounts about 12 percent of its merchandise is new including children’s clothing and Halloween costumes.

Donations are up, as well, according to Goodwill.

Other factors play into the increase at all resale shops, too, workers say. The public is becoming more aware of the importance of recycling, label lovers continue to search for designer brands at cheaper prices, and people are becoming more savvy about tax deductions from donations.

And young people who create their own styles as 19-year-old Kenya Cavasos of Fresno and her friends say they do scour thrift shops regularly for unique clothing.

Cavasos said tough times probably will bring more style-conscious shoppers to the resale shops.

“It probably is a double boost because of the economy and the trendy style,” she said.

— MCT Campus

# ‘Sex and the City’ star launches clothing line

By Rachel Sutherland  
McClatchy Newspapers

CHARLOTTE, N.C.— Some say there’s a little bit of the “Sex and the City” characters in each of us.

The long-running HBO television show focused on four characters sassy Carrie, no-nonsense Miranda, sexy Samantha and prim Charlotte who launched countless trends and catchphrases.

So hot on the heels of summer release of the blockbuster “Sex and the City: The Movie,” Belk announced it was launching a clothing line from Kristin Davis, who played Charlotte with proper preppy aplomb. Glamazons across the country couldn’t wait for a glimpse of the line.

“We got all this national press that we didn’t even necessarily plan,” Davis said last week during an interview at the Ballantyne Resort. “It was hugely flattering, but at the same time, it was ‘Oh my goodness!’”

Charlotte, N.C.-based Belk, the largest privately held department store chain, didn’t even have an e-commerce Web site. Once the buzz started building, she says, “We made a panicked call and said, ‘Please get the Web site up! Please get the Web site up!’”

The actress, who was raised in Columbia, S.C., admits to still being a bit overwhelmed by this design thing, but she’s learning and loving it.

“I’m not (in the Carolinas) all the time, but when I am, I go around to the stores and check out how it’s selling, the displays,” she says. “And my mom is still in Columbia,

so she can go the one store they know her, so she’s not a secret scout, but in the other stores, she peeks around and tells me what she sees.”

Davis, 43, was in Charlotte to host a Belk fashion show featuring her line and other designers that benefited the Junior League of Charlotte. Her answers have been edited.

**Q.** How much of your Southern upbringing went into your decision to partner with Belk?

**A.** alot. I had never really thought that I would do a clothing line. The reason I said yes to Belk is that I know Belk. I shopped at Belk and bought gifts at Belk. I don’t know that there is anyone else I would have taken that chance with.

**Q.** What did you hope to accomplish with the line?

**A.** When we first started (“Sex and the City”), you could not find feminine, pretty clothes. ... Because that’s how I like to dress. But at the same time we wanted to make a line that was affordable. And that was what was most appealing. (Over the years) I would keep my favorite pieces, and those are the kind of things we got out my closet and used as models (for my line).

**Q.** How involved are you in the design process?

**A.** The first step was to go into my closet and pick out my favorite silhouettes. It’s daunting. My name is on it, and

I want to feel like part of it and I want it to be affordable and easy to take care of. There are so many different elements. It’s a lot to think about. I can’t say that I’m where I want to be yet in my learning curve; there’s still things to learn. If you don’t pay attention, something is going to come back with your name on it and you’re going to be “Oh no ...”

**Q.** What’s your take on Southern women?

**A.** There is a definite put-together thing (about Southern women). And there’s a stereotype that it’s kind of a prissy thing; I think it’s more of an everyone wants to look good and feel good.

**Q.** The line is ambitiously large for a debut sleepwear, accessories, shoes, bags ... Are there plans to scale back for next season?

**A.** I know! It’s unbelievable! It’s like how many pairs of shoes did I make? I mean I approved all of them, but when you see it all, you’re just wowed. It’s totally insane. For spring/summer we’re adding swimwear, sunglasses and cover-ups. We’re looking at cotton modal, and I was telling (her design team) that we need linen. And they were saying, “But it wrinkles.” I told them, there’s rules (for the South). The linen can be wrinkled, other things cannot be wrinkled. We need to think about linen, seersucker.

**Q.** How much of the line is Charlotte;

how much is you?

**A.** Hard for me to say. I’ve had a hard time answering that question because I have been playing Charlotte for 10 years. I’d say half and half. I personally like a certain kind of silhouette and the character wears that as well, because that’s my body shape. I can’t change my body shape. The difference, I think, is that Charlotte the character is more starched, and the things I wear are a little more wearable. But there are definitely similarities, too.

We couldn’t let Kristin Davis leave without taking her temperature on the most important issues:

“Bless your heart”: Well-intentioned or putdown? **“Depends on who is saying it and the tone.”**

Sweet or unsweet tea: **Sweet.**

Cake or pie: **“Cake! Well, wait ... both. If my mom made the pie, then it’s really a tough call.”**

Lipstick or gloss: **Gloss.**

Tony Stewart or Jeff Gordon: **Jeff Gordon.**

Vinegar or mustard barbecue: **Mustard.**

iPhone or Blackberry: **Both.**

Heels or flats: **Heels.**

New York City or Los Angeles: **“I plead the Fifth.”**

Mountains or beach: **Beach.**

— MCT Campus