

‘Saw V’ is scary bad

Horror sequel can’t survive on gore alone.....Page 8

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Kyle Beard, Valencia Voice

Glenn Stanton (right) emphasizes his point in a debate against John Corvino (left) last Tuesday.

Same-sex marriage debate Legal experts have it out over controversial issue

By Lucy Baugh
Valencia Voice

Thought provoking and highly topical debate came to Valencia’s East and West campuses last Tuesday, when two of the nation’s leading voices on the issue of same-sex marriage, Glenn T. Stanton and John F. Corvino, presented the opposing sides of the matter.

After a short introduction by West campus student development coordinator Victor M. Collazo, and some minor technical issues with the microphone system, Corvino, an advocate of same-sex marriage, opened the debate by stressing the importance of engaging in such discussion. Corvino, a philosophy professor at Wayne State University in Detroit, Mich., acknowledged that whilst he and Stanton disagree on the issue of same-sex

marriage, they share a responsibility to offer reasoned and civil debate in order to better inform people.

In support of same-sex marriage, Corvino put forward that not only are alternative relationships good for people, they are ultimately good for society as a whole. According to Corvino, being in a happy and stable relationship encourages those individuals to “flourish as a citizen”, thus benefiting the larger community. Corvino stressed in his closing preliminary argument that giving marriage to homosexual couples does not mean that the right is taken away from heterosexual couples, and went on to say that we should “recognize, support and promote” same-sex marriage, likening the issue to that of female suffrage. Overall, he said: “same-sex marriage is a win-win situation. It’s good for people,

It’s good for society.”

Next, Stanton took to the stage to present the opposing argument. Stanton also began by expressing the importance of debating the issue, which he said allowed for an “enriched democracy.” Stanton is a Senior Analyst for marriage and sexuality at Focus on the Family, an organization dedicated to supporting the traditional family unit. His argument placed huge emphasis on the way that same-sex marriage alters the traditional, “unmatchable benefit” that families with a mother and father have. Stanton was also keen to point out it was crucial for people to recognize that hatred and prejudice were not contributing factors in his opposition to same-sex marriage, as often people against the issue are misunderstood and interpreted as being discriminatory.

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U.S. puts pressure on Iraq

Officials threaten to cut essential services if Iraq does not sign new troop agreement

By Roy Gutman and Leila Fadel
McClatchy Newspapers

BAGHDAD — The U.S. military has warned Iraq that it will shut down military operations and other vital services throughout the country on Jan. 1 if the Iraqi government doesn’t agree to a new agreement on the status of U.S. forces or a renewed United Nations mandate for the American mission in Iraq.

Many Iraqi politicians view the move as akin to political blackmail, a top Iraqi official told McClatchy Newspapers on Sunday.

In addition to halting all military actions, U.S. forces would cease activities that support Iraq’s economy, educational sector and other areas — “everything” — said Tariq al-Hashimi, the country’s Sunni Muslim vice president. “I didn’t know the Americans are rendering such wide-scale services.”

Al-Hashimi said that Army Gen. Ray Odierno, the top U.S. military commander in Iraq, listed “tens” of areas of potential cutoffs in a three-page letter, and he said the implied threat caught Iraqi leaders by surprise.

“It was really shocking for us,” he said. “Many people are looking to this attitude as a matter of blackmailing.”

Odierno had no comment Sunday, but U.S. Embassy officials told McClatchy that a lengthy

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It’s a bird, it’s a plane, it’s a ... presidential hopeful?



Kristopher Skinner, Contra Costa Times / MCT Campus
The titular character of the comic book “Savage Dragon” endorsed Obama and sent sales of the comic soaring.

By Randy Myers
Contra Costa Times

WALNUT CREEK, Calif. — Barack Obama wins the endorsement of a green, scaly superhero with Chicago connections and big biceps.

Sarah Palin wields a hockey stick so she can whack at the Crypt Keeper and his cronies on a “Tales From the Crypt” comic cover.

Michelle and Barack Obama, caricatured to resemble knuckle-bumping terrorists, shock and stun normally staid New Yorker readers.

Is this politics as usual for comics in an election year?

Not to sound like a waffling politi-

cian, but the answer appears to be yes — and no.

“For almost as long as there have been comic books in the United States, there have been comics about political figures,” says Joe Field, owner of Flying Colors Comics in Concord, Calif.

“But this year seems a bit different.”

Historically, cartoons have portrayed politicians in a less than flattering light, artists often needling, chiding and hounding those seeking or already in public office. Walt Kelly, creator of “Pogo,” delighted in slyly skewering the likes of Richard Nixon and Sen. Joseph McCarthy, among others. In the ‘70s, Garry Trudeau’s “Doonesbury” carried on that

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Provost's message goes up in smoke

By Alex Barrett
Valencia Voice

Every time you turn a corner in the breezeways at Valencia, a familiar sign hangs above your head; "Smoke-free breezeways." It states that smoking is prohibited in the breezeways of the school for the courtesy of others who may not choose to light up.

With smoking being dangerous to the person that is sparking it up, equally as dangerous as second-hand smoke, or the contaminants that are dispelled by the smoker you may be inhaling, even though you aren't the one smoking.

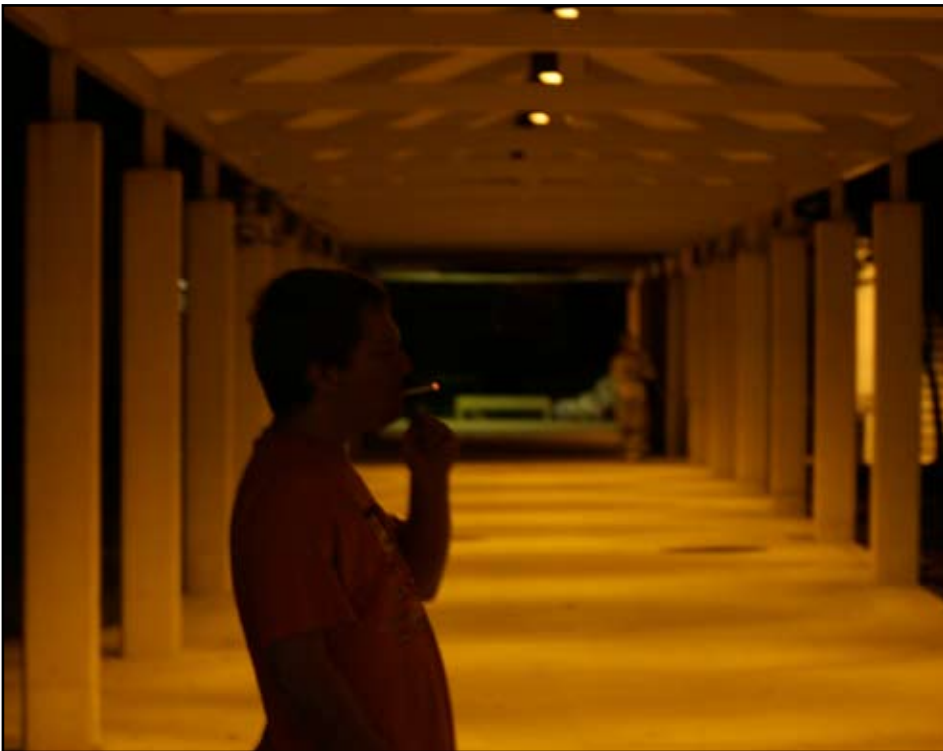
Second hand smoke is more technically known as Environmental Tobacco Smoke, or ETS, and according to the American Lung Association, ETS lingers in the air hours after cigarettes, cigars, and pipes have been extinguished; meaning just because there isn't a smoker next to you, doesn't mean you aren't being affected.

ETS has also been confirmed to cause a wide range of health effects, including cancer, asthma, and respiratory infections.

ETS claims approximately 3,400 lung cancer deaths, and anywhere between 22,700-69,600 heart disease deaths to non-smokers in the United States each year.

If one was to start on one side of the campus and walk to the other, using nothing but the breezeways, they would find out that these signs that support a cleaner learning environment are often overlooked, and sometimes even flagrantly ignored or shunned.

"I'll smoke where I want, when I want. You can't tell me how to live a part of my life; deal with it," says David Gonzales on the West Campus.



Jordan Keyes, Valencia Voice

Students lighting up in the breezeway is a common occurrence, despite posted warnings.

When asked if he cared about the second hand smoke he was causing, and the harm that resulted from it to others, his answer was an emphatic and snappy "no."

Maybe this is a deeper seeded problem than just Valencia.

Most establishments in Florida that are public areas are all smoke-free, with the exception of stand-alone bars, or bars that serve more alcohol per sales than food, making them different from a restaurant.

"I smoke in the breezeways because it's easier for me, and it keeps me in the shade. Other people should be mindful of the inconveniences that I have to deal with because I smoke," says Sara Watson on the Osceola Campus. "They should

work around me."

So where do students of Valencia turn to get help for this matter?

It seems as though many people are smoking on campus, but few have ever seen someone of authority ask a student, or faculty member, to put out their smoke; second year Valencia student Kyle Craig stated, "I have been smoking in the breezeways for the past 2 years, and no one has ever asked me to put out my cigarette, or even move to a designated area. It's not that I want to cause harm, it's just difficult for me to smoke between classes and move between them without using the breezeways."

One could assume that the security office should monitor such behavior, and regulate the smoking in the breezeways

here at Valencia; this is incorrect.

When the security staff was asked about the regulation, they stated that it was more of a policy than a law, and that the Office of the Provost is the entity that is responsible for regulating the smoking.

This is clearly a problem for students like Craig, who need to be on time for their classes.

However, there are others who abide by the regulations and feel that if a smoker chooses to smoke, than they should accept responsibility for their actions, like third-year student Jessica Meredith on the West Campus. "I am a smoker, and I smoke in the designated areas because I make the choice to put things in my body," said Meredith. "I am not able to make that choice for others. When I schedule my classes, I allow enough time between them to smoke, relax for a few, and regroup before heading to the next session. I would advise others to do the same. It not only helps your smoking routine, it gives you a chance to wash your mind in between classes, which has been invaluable to me."

Reporters found substantially fewer people blowing smoke on the Osceola and East Campuses compared to the West Campus. Mike Grunz a student on the East Campus, who, when asked about the regulations in place, said "It's bulls**t." Grunz also added that he would puff wherever was convenient for him, and talked at length about having smoking legalized throughout the campus.

Across all campuses, the point remains; there are people freely smoking in breezeways, against regulation, and it seems that nothing is being done about it.

If you would like to make your voice heard; or if you have any questions or comments, you may contact me at abarrett@valenciavoice.com.



Erica Teamer, Valencia Voice

Students were treated to a variety of games as SGA brought back Game Night.

SGA brings round 2 of Game Night

By Shelia Williams
Valencia Voice

The students of the Student Government Association (SGA) gave the students of Valencia's West Campus the time to show their gaming skills on Tuesday Oct.21 in the cafeteria.

Game Night started at 5:00pm and ended at 9:00pm, giving more students who had classes time to come out and enjoy the event.

"We created this event to give the students a break from the everyday norm. I think we study hard so we need to play hard," says TJ Cole, President of SGA west campus.

A little over 65 students came out to Game Night and more continuous came and left. "This did turn out to be what I expected it to be. It's not about the number of people showing up, it's about the quality of people. It's about students having fun," says Cole.

Students including Racha Farmar, Nichole Walz, and Marcus Moore played board games like Sorry, Monopoly, and operation. They had video games on the

second floor including a few fighting games and a Guitar Hero game. This was also the time when SGA hosted their first Madden NFL Tournament.

"I came here by accident. I thought I had a meeting in the next room, but I'm glad I came though," says Nichole Walz, "The pizza from Papa Johns was a bonus for me."

The students engaged in conversations with each other, taught each other how to play games, and snacked on goods like cookies, chips, and party mixes. With Valencia having no sports, making an event like this is what this college needs in order to get students to come together and connecting with one another.

"I just wanted to have fun and get out of the house," says Marcus Moore and Racha Farmar found playing UNO.

SGA will be hosting another Game Night in the month of November. Then starting in the spring term they will have a Game Night once a month. "The events are all ways going to be better than the pervious one. It wouldn't be like SGAWC if we didn't raise the bar every time," says Cole.

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Adam Butterfield, Valencia Voice

Chaz Ortiz, the 14-year old professional skater, masters a backside blunt-slide down the spray-painted ledge. In addition to winning the Playstation Pro event, Ortiz took the Dew Cup which Ryan Sheckler was favored to win.

Last stop: Playstation Pro

AST Dew Tour comes to Orlando for the final contest

By Trey McConnell
Valencia Voice

The fifth and final stop of the 2008 AST Dew Tour, Playstation Pro, made its way to Orlando's Amway Arena this weekend; providing not only action, but plenty of upsets within the competitions.

The tour, which began on Thursday, kicked off with the freestyle motocross (FMX) preliminaries.

Immediately after the FMX preliminaries were the BMX vert preliminaries.

The top nine riders of the qualifier would meet with the big dogs and ride in the finals. The skate park preliminaries followed BMX Park and took place inside the arena.

The skate park was spray-painted like graffiti and included sponsored rails like a hand-rail painted all orange resembling Nike 6.0's new shoe collection.

Everyone headed back outside for BMX Park preliminaries, where fans anticipated Dave Mirra and Ryan Nyquist: two legends of the extreme sport.

The last event of Thursday's schedule was the Skate Vert preliminaries. This event was filled with big names like Pierre Luke-Gagnon (winner of the 2008 X-Games) and Bob Burnquist (need I say more).

Friday's line-up consisted mostly of practice but also included BMX Park and Vert finals.

The BMX Park finals kicked off at 4pm and filled almost every seat in the bleachers. Top contenders like Ryan Nyquist (who ultimately took first place) and Daniel Dhers (who took second place) attended and practically left the remaining riders with their brakes locked up.

BMX Vert started at 7:30pm and the crowd

flocked in, grabbing the closest seats available. Riders begged for the competition to cease starting until the crowd was absolutely full, but the coordinators urged them that everything would fall into place; and that it did.

As soon as Chile's Francisco Zurita dropped into the half pipe, the crowd was louder than the background music.

Back to back to back Dew Cup Champion, Jamie Bestwick, rode and claimed his fourth Dew Cup championship with a blowout score of 94.00 flat.

Saturday's agenda portrayed hours of practice for the finals as well as a 'Groms' practice where young talents got to showcase their skills.

The BMX Dirt finals came at 4pm while the Skate Vert finals took place at 7:30pm. Pierre Luke-Gagnon upset Bob Burnquist and Bucky Lasek with a record score of 96.00 even, claiming the Dew Cup championship.

And then came Sunday; the day most fans were waiting for: Skate Park finals. The event was set up with each rider having two runs with the top six scores advancing to the jam session.

Ryan Sheckler, who has his own reality show, didn't live up to his hype when he bailed four times in his final run.

Chaz Ortiz, the 14-year old pro, bailed only twice in the entire event and surprised everyone when he claimed the Dew Cup championship.

With many upsets and young talents stepping up to the plate, this four-day extravaganza provided not only surprises, but also competitions around almost every corner.



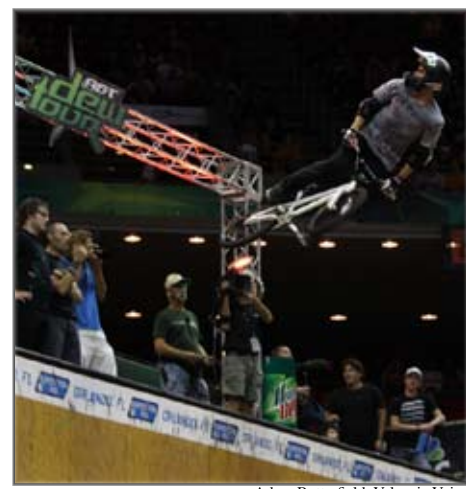
Adam Butterfield, Valencia Voice

Colin McKay positions for a superman-seat-grab over the 'Highway Grip'.



Adam Butterfield, Valencia Voice

Mike Mason floats through the sky with his no-handed salute to the clouds.



Adam Butterfield, Valencia Voice

Koji Kraft turns to the crowd while getting air in the last seconds of his run.



Adam Butterfield, Valencia Voice

Sandro Dias performs a frontside boardslide over the eight-foot rail-gap.

Page Design by Trey McConnell

Opinion

Are you casting your vote early this year?

By Kyle Beard & Ashley Griffith
Valencia Voice

Early voting started Monday, Oct. 20 throughout Florida.

The opportunity to cast ballots before Election Day has proven a great way for busy residents to beat the rush expected on Nov. 4.

Voting officials expect that this year will mark a record-breaking year for early tallying.

Nation-wide tallies have reached an estimated 5.2 million votes already —471,000 of which belong to Floridians. This is an astounding jump of 22.5% from 2004 and over 15% from 2000.

The boom is a result of voting officials' desire to gain higher voter participation without overwhelming the poles on Election Day.

At some locations in Orange County, waits are expected to be up to 80 minutes during the peak hours; however, voting officials expect lines to become considerably shorter than on the 4th.

Both John McCain and Barack Obama have also launched massive e-campaigns to get voters out there and into the polls early, sending out e-mails, phone calls and even text messages encouraging Florida residents to participate.

More information on the candidates' efforts can be found at Florida.VoteForChange.com or GOP.com/FL-VoteEarly.

On Monday through Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., all registered voters are invited to cast their ballots early at any of the following locations up until November 1st, the Saturday prior to Election Day.

This surge in early voting has officials predicting that over 150 million people will be voting in this year's election; also, state and county officials predict that in this year's election over 33% of voters will have cast their ballots by some method of early voting.

In the 2004 Presidential Election, approximately 36% of Florida ballots cast were from early voters. The Valencia Voice decided to ask students what method of voting they will be participating in.



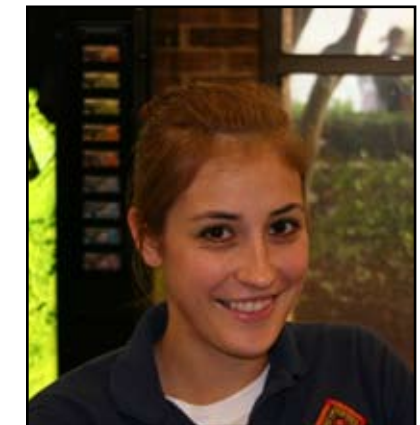
"No, I don't know how."
— **Daniel Godfrey**



"Yes, I got an absentee ballot in the mail."
— **Lynnsey Lash**



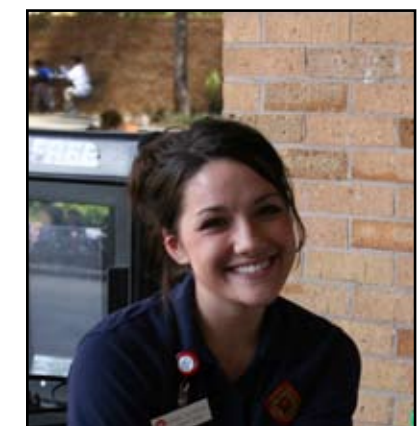
"Yes, I want to avoid the long line on November 4."
— **Moses Stevens**



"No, I don't know how."
— **Robin Durfee**



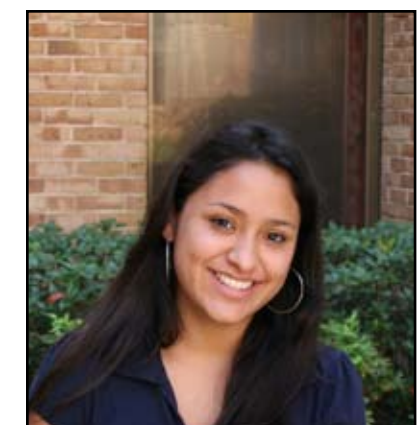
"Absolutely, I don't feel like waiting in line."
— **Andrew Arcand**



"Yes because I don't have time on November 4th."
— **Vanessa Mathis**



"Yes, I have an absentee ballot."
— **Brian Halterman**



"I will because I'm a nursing student and I'm here all of the time. I won't get a chance to on election day."
— **Cassie Slankard**

Ashley Gonzales and Caleb Fooks, Valencia Voice

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THE FUTURE WON'T
RUN ON OIL.

—Josie K.



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Corrections

Have Halloween costumes become too risqué?

By Emiliana White
Valencia Voice

The end of October is drawing near and many of us are prepping for the Halloween events that are to come. This includes finding the hottest parties, making plans with friends as to who will be the night's "D.D.," and most of all finding that one costume that will wow everyone that we see.

But somewhere down the line, the variety of costume choices has veered from mocking the latest horror flick to providing a wardrobe for an individual to dress up as their favorite adult fantasy. That is at least

when it comes to costumes for women.

It seems that the main concept for the Halloween costumes that are being created and marketed for the teenage to early thirty female demographic is to attract the opposite sex by any means necessary.

Today's costumes give out the same impression of their wearers as they do of their quality, that it is okay to look cheap as long as you turn heads while you're doing so.

As we polled students on our west campus, we discovered that the sexes were divided on the topic as to whether or not

costumes have gone too far in encouraging promiscuity. The female students that we spoke with all felt that, even though the majority of them dress up for the holiday, costumes have simply become too slutty while the male students felt that the costumes were perfectly acceptable.

Some males students however stated that there was an exception to this belief. One student stated that if it was his little sister dressing up in a skimpy costume that it wouldn't be okay because she represented him. Others contributed to this comment

in stating that it would be unacceptable for a girl of their interest to dress in such a manner.

No matter who a young lady may be, she is undoubtedly someone's daughter, sister, girlfriend, friend, or mother. Shouldn't she have the option to dress up with sex appeal without being considered overly slutty?

Inevitably, it is the woman's prerogative as to whether or not she will give in to this trend or to assert her own definition as to what she believes and feels to be sexy for her.



"Yeah, too much cleavage and shorts are too short."
— **Antoinette Jones**



"Yeah, mainly because nowadays girls wear skimpy outfits just to get attention from guys. You can be risqué but not skimpy. Leave something to the imagination."
— **Angela Lowe**



"It depends on what they wear. I've seen them dressed as strippers. To me that's so embarrassing."
— **Lizbeth Mendez**



"Think its good. As long as its not the girl your going out with."
— **Gabe Montalvo**



"No because halloween gives people the opportunity to be something your not or someone you want to be."
— **Jonathan Muszynski**



"I don't think so. It's fine as long as you're 18. If you're grown, you wear what you want to wear."
— **David Lynch**



"Some have. It depends on where you're going."
— **Jaunita Ngopse**



"Being a young man, in my eyes its not too revealing. But maybe ol' school perspective it may be."
— **Jordan Young**

Photos by Omshante Lee / Valencia Voice

U.S. makes threats to cut Iraq off

Continued from cover

list of the sort al-Hashimi described has been passed to the Iraqi government. Among the services the U.S. provides are protection of Iraq's principal borders, of its oil exports and other shipping through the Shatt al Arab into the Persian Gulf and all air traffic control over Iraq.

The status of forces agreement, which calls for a final withdrawal of U.S. troops from Iraq by the end of 2011, was supposed to resolve a number of contentious issues between the two countries, but its completion 10 days ago has instead provoked a political crisis within Iraq's Shiite-dominated government and between Iraq and the United States.

Fearing a major battle in the Iraqi parliament, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki solicited proposed amendments from his cabinet and called a meeting to review them Sunday afternoon.

However, the two main Shiite parties, al-Maliki's Dawa party and the Islamic Supreme Council of Iraq, were unable to produce their full lists of demands, and he postponed the meeting until Tuesday, other cabinet members said.

Al-Hashimi said that Iran, a longtime backer of both parties, is pressuring Iraq's

The dispute "is real and factual. The government is not manipulating this dispute," al-Hashimi said. He said he hadn't yet seen the objections to the accord, even those from his own Sunni Iraqi Islamic Party.

Political party heads, including al-Hashimi, say that al-Maliki is responsible for the agreement, but al-Maliki has been unwilling to back the accord unless his Shiite coalition and other

party members join him to take the political heat.

An additional complication is the decision of al-Hashimi's Iraqi Islamic party to suspend all "official communication" with U.S. military and civilian officials until it receives an explanation and an apology following a joint U.S.-Iraqi military raid against party backers in Anbar province in which one man was killed.

It's unclear what will happen when the Iraqi cabinet offers a list of proposed changes and al-Maliki winnows them down to proposed amendments.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates has said, "I don't think you slam the door shut" on amendments, but al-Hashimi said the U.S. is "adamant in saying, 'We close the door, we are not accepting any sort of amendment.'"

He said that if the United States met Iraq halfway and accepted amendments to the controversial articles of the accord, it would make it "rather easy" to submit the agreement to the parliament.

The alternative to a new agreement governing U.S. forces, an Iraqi request to the U.N. Security Council to extend the U.N. mandate, which now expires on Dec. 31, is also highly contentious.

One of the biggest concessions Iraq won from Washington in the negotiations over the forces accord was a stipulation that private contractors such as Blackwater that have been accused of killing Iraqi civilians would become subject to Iraqi law.

Immunity from prosecution for private contractors — and for all official U.S. entities — under Iraqi law was promulgated by the U.S. occupation government in June 2004, and ending that order is the subject of another confrontation between Iraq and the United States, al-Hashimi said.

Ironically, Iraqi politicians of practically every stripe agree that the proposed agreement would be a major advance toward restoring Iraq's full sovereignty and a vast improvement over the initial U.S. proposal made last spring.

He credited President Bush with changing the U.S. position as a result of twice-weekly conference calls with al-Maliki.

—MCT Campus

Political figures take over the world of comic books

Continued from cover

spirited tradition by aiming his illustrated buckshot at conservatives. And ever since the '50s, Mad magazine has specialized in political lampoonery of both parties.

Yet comic experts agree something more substantial is at work in this rough-and-tumble election, as cartoons reflect how the 2008 campaign has engaged, outraged and permeated our culture.

Four years ago, the likelihood of seeing George W., John Kerry or Dick Cheney on a comic book cover seemed implausible. Today, nearly all the candidates have been cartooned.

"I can't imagine anyone lining up to buy a John Kerry comic," says Andrew Farago, curator of San Francisco's Cartoon Art Museum.

Certainly, you did not witness a superhero from the past backing one of the major candidates. But "Savage Dragon" — a creation of Oakland's Erik Larsen — did just that this year.

Nearly all the major players are in the comics. Hillary Clinton might have lost the bid for the Democratic nomination but she comes up a winner in her own cartoon bio set for release in January. This month, GOP vice presidential running mate Palin received the dubious distinction of landing on a "Tales From the Crypt" cover, as a spoof of the disputed claim she banned library books. As for Joe Biden — sorry, the comics passed you up.

Even mainstream strips such as "Pearls Before Swine" and "Get Fuzzy" have addressed the election, Farago says.

The one recent comic receiving huge media buzz is "Presidential Material," a flip book featuring the cartooned biog-



Kristopher Skinner, Contra Costa Times / MCT Campus

No one knows how endorsements from a comic book character could affect a candidate.

ographies of John McCain and Obama. Released this month by IDW, the 28-page books — each of which can be bought separately — strive to provide an unbiased overview of both men.

Editor Scott Dunbier said the creative teams took great pains to stick to facts, not innuendos. The writers and research-

Legal experts debate controversial issue

Continued from cover

After both speakers had taken the allocated ten minutes to present preliminary arguments, each side had five minutes to counter the ideas that had just been presented. Corvino first responded, referring to the experience of a homosexual couple he knows very well, and their successful adoption of three children. He said of Stanton's view that children are better off with both a mother and father, "In a world where thousands of children are deprived of parents, it is morally irresponsible to suggest that same-sex marriage families are depriving children, when they too offer love and support." Stanton then countered by stating that he did not wish to deprive same-sex couples of having the same rights as heterosexual couples, but said that "we should not redefine the established and traditional definition of the family unit."

Shortly after the speakers responded to each other's arguments, the debate was opened up to the group of 25 participants. Both Corvino and Stanton received challenging questions from Valencia students and other participants, particularly from one prospective Valencia student, Dylan Schwartz of Winter Garden. Schwartz challenged Stanton's anti same-sex marriage view in particular, and later said "I feel that he side stepped my questions and definitely had inconsistencies in his argument."

Although Schwartz also pointed out that he had "a better understanding of the opposition to same-sex marriage" and that he appreciated the opinions of Stanton. He later said "I'm glad this debate came to campus and people were better enlightened of the issue, particularly with the impending election."

Another Valencia student, Kettia Kapi, said: "I am not for gay marriage. I think the

purpose of marriage is to have children. I think it's confusing for people to understand so I am glad this debate happened." Another participant, who wished to remain anonymous, expressed her concerns about the opposition to same-sex marriage. The 53 year old woman of Winter Park has been in a lesbian relationship for four years, after previously being married. Her husband passed away 20 years ago, and she explained, "I got married at 16, I did what everyone said I should do." She told of her difficulties, saying, "I am very active in my church community, If i come out I can no longer participate in church." She later said of the debate, "I thought it was well presented, I thought both speakers were very open-minded."

The debate continued well after it's scheduled 2 p.m. finish, with a number of students staying to talk personally to both Corvino and Stanton. Of the debate, Corvino said "The participation was very lively today, It was great." Stanton added that it was "tremendously important for students to hear other students views, and understand why they think the way they do."

Student development coordinator Collazo eventually brought the debate to a close, and said that he hoped many more topical discussions could take place at Valencia in the future.

Florida residents will have the opportunity to cast their vote about the way marriage is defined in Florida in the upcoming elections under amendment two, which seeks to protect the current definition of marriage as between one man and one woman. Both Corvino and Stanton expressed that they hoped the debate would help people to determine how they would vote on this fundamental issue.

—MCT Campus

didates.

"I really think the audience we're going for is one who doesn't always go into comic book stores."

A combination of loyal fans coupled with the curious turned the "Dragon" issue with Obama on the cover into a success.

It just went into its third printing. Larsen, co-founder of Berkeley-based Image Comics, admits the 16-year-old "Dragon" series gets political at times.

One story arc even involved the finned superhero — once a Chicago cop — slugging George W. Bush; that is, a George W. imposter. Sales soared.

But does taking the bold step of endorsing a candidate alienate potential readers?

Larsen doesn't worry. What about if his man loses?

"I actually considered having John McCain win regardless; it makes for a more interesting comic."

Undoubtedly, the most intriguing and most controversial election-themed cartoon came out in the venerable New Yorker.

Intended as satire, the July cover featured the Obamas in terrorist garb and touched off a contentious and raucous feud on the Internet.

The visceral fireworks it set off illustrate just how emotionally powerfully cartoons can be.

"If it would have been a New Yorker essay, nobody would have blinked," Farago said.

Perhaps a cartoon, even more than a picture, is worth a thousand words. Especially when it appears in the midst of a volatile election year.

—MCT Campus



Nancy Stone, Chicago Tribune / MCT Campus
Police investigate the scene where a child's body was found in a 1994 white Chevrolet Suburban, Monday.

Police say body found in SUV is Jennifer Hudson's nephew

Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — Chicago Police Superintendent Jody Weis says the body found on Chicago's West Side is that of 7-year-old Julian King. The identity of the body also was confirmed Monday afternoon by the Cook County medical examiner's office, where an autopsy will be done Tuesday.

Actress-singer Jennifer Hudson and three other relatives went to the office and identified the body, authorities said. Around 3 p.m., two black SUVs believed to be carrying Hudson family members pulled out of the basement garage of the Trump Tower in downtown Chicago. An unmarked police squad car left shortly after that, followed by a crowd of about a dozen people who left through the luxury hotel's lobby and declined comment.

Soon after, the SUVs arrived at the offices of the Cook County medical examiner's office. The vehicles left the scene about 3:54 p.m.

The body was found in the back seat of the white Chevrolet Suburban police were looking for in their search for Julian, three days after Hudson's mother and brother were found shot to death in the mother's house in Englewood.

Law enforcement sources said that the boy was shot multiple times in the back of the vehicle. Police are testing the clothing of a man in custody for gunshot residue.

Police arrived at the Suburban with Illinois license plate X584859 before 8 a.m. in the 1300 block of South Kolin Avenue, after receiving a call of a suspicious vehicle.

It was found by a 75-year-old who lives on the block, John Loudon. He said he has lived on the block for 18 years and worried about people selling drugs in the abandoned building behind it. He saw the SUV while walking his dog. After a double-take, he realized the license plate matched the one police were looking for.

"I didn't look in there. I didn't touch it. I knew it was a strange vehicle," Loudon said. He said police showed up in about five minutes after his wife called them. They discovered the child inside. The



Milbert O. Brown, Chicago Tribune / MCT Campus
Julia Hudson, sister of Jennifer Hudson speaks to media on Saturday.

body was removed and the SUV was towed away for evidence processing. "I feel bad about that baby," Loudon said.

As the car was processed by evidence technicians and workers at the Cook County medical examiner's office sought to identify the body, Hudson's family members and supporters assumed this was the third member of her family killed since Friday.

"It's shocking. It's unreal. We had been praying that it would not come to this," said the Rev. Krista Alston, a cousin of Hudson and a minister at the Pleasant Gift Baptist Church in Chicago. "We know it's a reality now, but it's still shocking."

Police found the bodies of Hudson's mother, Darnell Donerson, and brother, Jason Hudson, on Friday afternoon after a family member came to their home in the 7000 block of South Yale Avenue and saw signs of violence inside. The murders sparked a manhunt for William Balfour, 27, and a search for Julian King.

Balfour, the estranged husband of the boy's mother, Julia Hudson, was brought in for questioning Friday night. He was initially described by police as a suspect in the investigation.

The boy remained missing through a long weekend in which police and volunteers posted fliers around the city with pictures of the boy. On Sunday, his actress aunt _ grieving and rushing to Chicago from Florida where she was promoting a film _ offered a \$100,000 reward to anyone who found the boy.

Police searched Balfour's girlfriend's house for several hours Friday night after taking him into custody. Her home is located about 2.5 miles from where the SUV was found Monday morning.

Balfour has denied involvement in the killings or the disappearance of the boy, law enforcement sources said. But at some point, Balfour stopped talking to authorities, sources told the Chicago Tribune.

On Sunday morning, Balfour was transferred to a state facility after officials said he violated conditions of parole for a 1999 conviction for attempted murder. On Sunday, Illinois Department of Corrections spokeswoman Januari Smith said Balfour violated his parole because he is a suspect in the slayings.

According to law enforcement sources, Balfour's alibi the day of the killings has been contradicted by his girlfriend.

Balfour and Julia Hudson had been separated for some time, his family members said. A family friend said Balfour recently had threatened to take Julian away.

A family member of the girlfriend's said police have interviewed her.

Police also tracked Balfour's whereabouts Friday through his cell phone, sources said.

'Saw V' doesn't make cut

By Olivia Pullinger
Valencia Voice

With the Saw franchise well on it's way to a sixth installment, the message and theme of the movies are fairly clear. The tag-line, however, leaves me bewildered.

The line: "You won't believe how it ends" gives the illusion that the saga will be concluding with this film, when in fact, many of us are wondering if it will ever end.

From the beginning of the film, it is clear that the psychological depth and intensity that once singled out the Saw franchise as a rare masterpiece in the horror genre has failed to appear.

In short, the concept has been worn out within an inch of it's life; it has been looked at from every possible angle, and the writers are running out of ideas.

When the original Saw was made, the idea of a psychothriller placing characters into not only physical but moral dilemmas was original and creative.

Audiences were intrigued by the voice of Jigsaw (played by actor Tobin Bell), and those who were not turned off by the gruesome-

ly realistic annihilation of it's victims were waiting with anticipation for the sequel.

But the death of Jigsaw's character marked the beginning of a downward spiral for the Saw franchise. Ratings for the new installment are lower than ever, and it's no wonder why.

There are a new set of victims, all selected by Jigsaw because they had done "something bad." Although the "game" has been designed by the late Jigsaw, it is now being carried out by Hoffman (played by Costas Mandylor), a detective-turned-murderer.

The entire premise of the movies has been the thought provoking dilemmas created by Jigsaw and his ability to predict the human mind.

Although Hoffman is being set up to take Jigsaw's place, the gap between the characters is much too great to fill.

Jigsaw was motivated to teach his victims to appreciate life by his terminal illness, while Hoffman is merely a crazed killer driven by the brutal murder of his sister.

The originality seems to be wearing thin, and in my opinion, the newest Saw film is just another bad horror movie.



Lionsgate Films
Unbelievable characters and a lack of depth really hurt the new 'Saw' film.

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