

VALENCIA VOICE

Volume 5, Issue 8

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November 5, 2008



Chuck Kennedy / MCT Campus

YES WE DID!

McCain gets 'Barack-ed' in rousing victory for Obama

By Kyle Beard and Alex Barrett
Valencia Voice

The crowd was a mixture of tears and cheers as an announcement naming the 44th President of the United States boomed from the speakers. At approximately 11 o'clock, Sen. Barack Obama was announced the projected victor against opponent Sen. John McCain after 21 long months of campaigning. Hundreds of cheering supporters and volunteers gathered together to celebrate a historic victory in downtown Orlando at the Orange County Regional History Center.

The evening kicked off with several local Democrats rallying together to offer their support and endorsements in favor of Obama. The first speaker was Senator Bill Nelson who, having nothing at stake during the Election Day race, spoke words of encouragement and gave thanks to all the volunteers and supporters of the Obama

campaign. Following Nelson and declaring victories were Alan Grayson and Darren Soto respectively. Mayor Buddy Dyer also made an appearance to announce a new Sheriff, Jerry Demings.

The festivities continued inside the museum where Obama supporters partook in the drinking of spirits and hors d'oeuvres while viewing exhibits and discussing the coming victory. "I'm very excited to be part of history," said Orlando Army veteran, Sergio Tuifarro. "I was amazed by McCain's voting in the Senate concerning veteran benefits," Tuifarro explained, mentioning in particular McCain's opinion of the Montgomery G.I. Bill, a bill that pays veterans of the armed services and their families seeking to further their education.

The trend continued throughout the night as individuals who could be considered "typical" McCain supporters raised their voice in support of Obama. Some of the groups in-

cluded Republicans for Obama and Veterans for Obama.

Ironically, the theme of the night was not "Change," but equality. Voters of all colors, creeds and affiliations gathered together, seemingly oblivious of their differences in the spirit of the campaign. "Simply historical, monumental... powerful," said Angelica Pineiro. "You feel that you're a part of a major movement."

Later, the crowd moved outside as the results began to pour in. Nancy Warlick, who first voted in 1960 for John F. Kennedy was thrilled by the hype. "I think there's a great excitement around Barack Obama, just in the same way there was with JFK" Warlick explained when comparing the campaigns. "My husband and I spent 27 years in Africa, so this is particularly an exciting night and our friends there are really thrilled." The feeling was mutual among the crowd as supporters around her wholeheartedly agreed.

As the evening drew to a crescendo, the crowd turned its attention to the stage, where a huge television screen showed a broadcast of McCain delivering his concession speech. In a honorable and sportsmanlike manner, McCain announced his dropping from the race to a deafening cry of victory as the attendees stomped, shouted and whistled.

"We have come to the end of a long journey. The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly," he announced. "A little while ago, I had the honor of calling Senator Barack Obama to congratulate him. To congratulate him on being elected the next president of the country that we both love." McCain continued on to thank all of his supporters and colleagues with the mention of Sarah Palin drawing boos from the Orlando crowd.

Shortly after, as the party organizers' al-

Continued on Page 6

24th U.S. House District

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

Suzanne Kosmas
Democrat

Tom Feeney
Republican



Kosmas for Congress



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Votes
208,733 | 150,101
Percentage
57% | 41%

Kosmas topples incumbent, gives Dems another seat

By **Trey McConnell** and **Olivia Pullinger**
Valencia Voice

Former State Representative Suzanne Kosmas defeated three-term Republican Representative Tom Feeney late Tuesday night in the race for Florida's 24th district.

Feeney found himself plagued by ties to crooked lobbyist Jack Abramoff. Rep. Feeney's ethics violations stem from his relationship with convicted lobbyist Jack Abramoff and three trips he took in apparent violation of House travel and gift rules. He unpretentiously described his loss as a "lickin'."

Kosmas, a former state House member and Realtor, will be one of up to four of the new faces in the states' 25-member house delegation.

"Tonight I commit to you that I will be an independent voice in Washington focused on the people of this district — not on any political party," said Kosmas. "I believe that we won this race because voters whether Democrat, Republican or Independent have placed their faith in this common-sense, bi-partisan commitment."

Kosmas has emphasized her position as a moderate in the traditionally Republican 24th district. Feeney helped form the district, which includes parts of Orange, Seminole, Volusia and Orange counties, for himself when he was state House speaker, but his Republican advantage

shrank this year as more Democrats and Independents registered to vote.

"I am honored and humbled for the trust that you have placed in me to be part of that vision," said Kosmas.

Feeney gave his concession speech to a crowd of staunch supporters last night at the Orlando Republican Party, which took place at the Downtown Orlando Marriott.

"It was alot of hard work for a very good cause. I support Tom because he's for freedom," said a Feeney supporter and Orlando resident who wished to remain anonymous. "Kosmas is about more government, higher taxes and less freedom. Honestly, I think we are in serious trouble."

Feeney has been surrounded by extensive controversy as of late, starting with a golf trip he took in 2003, accompanied by lobbyist and now-convicted criminal Jack Abramoff.

Although Feeney has raised much media attention and criticism regarding the Abramoff Scandal, his supporters remain completely behind him. "I think the other party supports the here and now. We want long term fixes that are sometimes not as popular but are better for our country in the long run," said a member of the campaign who wished to remain anonymous.

Kosmas ultimately took 57 percent of the votes while Feeney earned 41 percent. Kosmas held her victory speech at the Venetian Bay community building in New Smyrna Beach.

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8th U.S. House District

★ ★ ★

★ ★ ★

Alan Grayson
Democrat

Ric Keller
Republican



Grayson Congress



WWW.WIKIPEDIA.COM

Votes
208,733 | 150,101
Percentage
57% | 41%

Grayson upsets sitting House representative Keller

By **Alex Barrett**
Valencia Voice

ORLANDO, Fla. — Incumbent congressman Ric Keller was hoping Central Floridians would keep him on as Representative from Florida's 8th district for a fifth consecutive term. His Democratic opponent Alan Grayson, was looking to end that streak.

Alan Grayson was looking for the upset, and promises to serve all members of Central Florida.

You may remember Grayson from his television ads, speaking of how he has fought to recover millions of ill-gotten money from companies seeking to profit illegally off of the war in Iraq. Grayson earned his law degree from Harvard, and has put his papers to good use thus far.

Grayson was able to defeat Keller due to what Keller called "a Democratic tidal wave."

"We're very excited," said Darren Vierday, the Grayson campaign spokesperson.

Vierday was available to answer questions about the campaign Tuesday afternoon from the campaign headquarters. "We're looking to regroup Central Florida as a whole, and welcome the new change in which all the classes not only here, but across the country are equaled, and no one will be able to throw their weight around. Alan Grayson looks out for all of the people."

The overall mood of the Grayson campaign is positive, which is welcomed by voters in a time where some say we as a country have

been having problems getting individuals out of the house to vote.

This year is much different. Record numbers of early polling have been confirmed, and as more and more people turn out at voting centers all over the country, America is most likely looking at a record setting voter turnout. Vierday is very pleased with seeing these results, and talked about the absentee ballots tripling this year, and attributed it to Americans, and Central Floridians, being ready for a change.

Reporters were able to touch on a few issues in their conversations with Vierday, and a few discerning college students that may shine a light through some cloudy weather. With the cost of tuition rising every semester, not to mention the cost of about everything else, it is getting harder and harder for some to pay for college. This is even more disturbing considering the masses had begun to assume that the value of a degree was dropping rapidly.

Vierday was very interested in this topic, especially since Grayson has put addressing



Neil Tiedray, Valencia Voice

In Downtown Orlando, Alan Grayson celebrates victory over Ric Keller for district 8 U.S. House Representative seat.

Federal Aid increases near the top of his "To-Do" list.

"We need to help the people want to help themselves. We can do this by assisting high schoolers more efficiently, and by building more comprehensive student loans. It's the up and comers that need to be helped in this situation, not the already wealthy, larger corporations. We want more people to be able to better themselves."

Vierday also touched on raising minimum wages across Central Florida, stating that it is common sense to look at the economy and realize "more money in people's pockets means more money to be spent. It all goes around and around to different places, but the end result is the same: we all spend money."

Grayson also believes in monetary relief for tipped employees as well, such as servers and bartenders who only make around three dollars an hour. "It is chilling to look at the wages for tipped employees and see

they haven't risen to a competitive rate in some time. They (tipped employees) should not have to rely on random tips as has been expected of them thus far.

As the race got closer here in Central Florida, it took a few rough turns and "a lot of dust has been kicked up," said Vierday. "We need to unite this country again, and that starts locally. We expect Grayson to be elected term after term, and Alan is a great man who is willing and able to address our problems and help to solve them. He is the right man for the job."

8th U.S. House District



Jerry Demings
Democrat

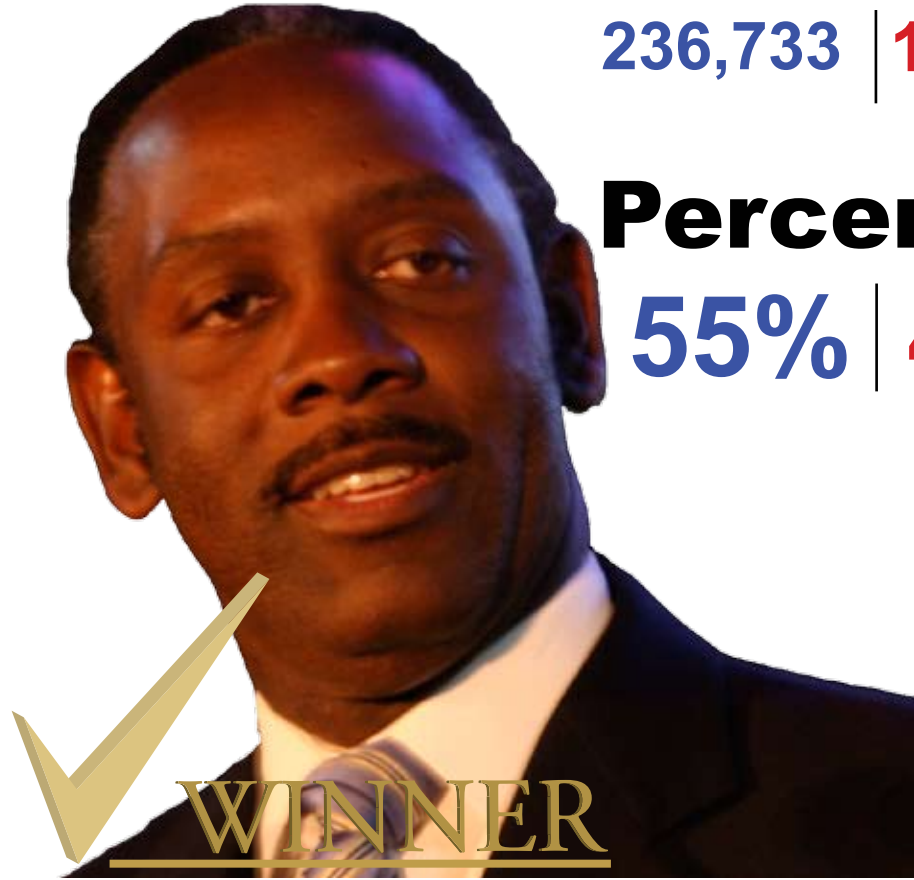
John Tegg
Republican

Votes

236,733 | 193,151

Percentage

55% | 44%



Neil Treday / Valencia Voice



WWW.JOHNTEGGFORSHERRIE.COM

Democrat wins Orange County sheriff

By Christopher Stanley
Valencia Voice

Former Orlando police chief Jerry Demings won over former Edgewood police chief John Tegg on Tuesday, replacing Kevin Beary as Orange County's next sheriff. Demings, with 56 percent of the vote, celebrated at the Embassy Suites downtown. "After winning, I plan to begin putting a transition team in place to refocus the agency," Demings said.

In the weeks prior to the election, his campaign has "gotten voter reactions, attended forums, debated his opponent, attended many Rotarian groups and professional business associations," all with the hope of explaining his platform and hoping it resonated well with voters.

Demings has served with the Orlando Police Department for 21 years.

He was appointed Police Chief in 1998 and Public Safety Manager for Orange County Government in 2002. Demings also served as the Interim Jail Director from Dec. 2006 through July 2007 as well as being part of the policy group that "managed the response and recovery efforts of the 3 hurricanes that impacted Orange County in 2004," according to his website.

Demings described his experience as his strength over his opponent.

"There is no substitute for experienced leadership," he said. "The complexities of the county require an experienced leader that's been tested and has dealt with the broad issues."

For Demings, the broad issues are "drugs, illegal guns and a shift in youth street culture", which he plans to combat by "increasing visibility and efforts, as well as being involved in faith-based and civic programs, schools, and with inter-agency cooperation."



Jerry Dennings makes Orange County Sheriff acceptance speech at Downtown Orlando Celebration

Neil Treday, Valencia Voice

Historic election embodies American racial progress

By Christi Parsons
Chicago Tribune

Rosa Parks sat down. Martin Luther King Jr. marched. Barack Obama ran.

And on Tuesday night, Obama's marathon reached an unprecedented place in American history.

The president-elect is an African-American, one whose face and words have come to define not just an election but a time in history.

A nation dedicated to the proposition that all men are created equal has elevated that principle to its highest office.

"This is a central moment in American history," said Michael Dawson, one of the nation's leading authors and scholars on race and politics. "America's reputation in the world is at its lowest point, maybe since the end of World War II.

"Obama is an important signal to the world about the ability to overcome such a wretched history of conflict and hatred," he said, "and to build a more democratic society through the sweat and tears of its people."

On its face, the achievement is plain. An African-American will soon be sworn in as president of a country built partly with the forced labor of black slaves. Michelle Obama, who unlike her husband is a descendant of African slaves, will become first lady.

The moment takes on an even richer meaning when considered in the context of modern culture and politics _ especially if that is defined in terms of the Illinois senator's own life span.

His parents' generation saw institutionalized racism begin to crumble, as Jim Crow laws were felled one by one. In 1954 the Supreme Court decided that segregated schools violated the 14th Amendment to the Constitution, guaranteeing all citizens equal protection of the law.

Shortly after that the court decided that segregation on public buses was illegal, a development stirred by Rosa Parks' refusal to give up her seat in the whites-only section and King's ensuing bus boycott.

Still, when Obama was a child in Hawaii, the marriage of his parents _ a white woman and a black man _ was illegal in 16 other states. In some parts of the United States, encouraging blacks to vote could get a person killed. The Ku Klux Klan was in full rage.

"It underscores the real historic break here," says Martha Biondi, professor of African-American studies and history at Northwestern University. "When he was born, people who looked like him couldn't even go into the voting booth. Now he is about to go into the White House."

In many ways, Obama's life course is a study in the country's racial progress. Obama wasn't even in grade school when the Supreme Court banished laws forbidding the

marriage of whites and blacks.

The court struck down one Southern state's "Racial Integrity Act" with a 1967 decision in the case of Loving vs. Virginia. The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed to protect the rights of black voters.

But if racist laws were struck down in his first decade of life, Obama would grow up in a country where de facto racism has been slower to die. He personally encountered that daily reality as a young man on the South Side of Chicago, where he worked as a community organizer with poor people, many of them African-American.

He later found a career in constitutional law, the realm where so many of those early battles were being waged.

Today it's tempting to see Obama's historic election as a closing chapter of the country's tormented racial story. It's hard to witness the tears of joy on the white, black and brown faces of his supporters and not sense the possibility of a new, more color-blind nation.

History warns against it.

"While it's a huge symbolic transformation of American politics, it doesn't mean that racial conflict and disadvantage (are) going to disappear," Dawson said. "I think it means it's declining. But it's easy to misunderstand the resiliency of racial disadvantage and racial conflict."

Look no further than the U.S. Senate. When Barack Obama leaves it, it could once again become an all-white club.

Scan the world for another head of state who comes from his or her nation's ethnic minority. The instances have been rare.

Biondi hesitates to declare the nation post-racial, but she does point to the symbolic power of Obama's singularity.

"We can't discount the significance of symbolism," she said. "Having a black man in the White House sends a message that the U.S. is waking up, that we're embracing diversity, that we're embracing the world. It sends a message to youth of color that there really is no barrier to what they can achieve."

"It shows us something about the whole project of citizenship," she said. "Obama is taking us to another chapter in that story."

Historians aren't the only ones mindful of that. At a rally Tuesday in Philadelphia, rapper Jay-Z uttered a line that has been picking up currency among black voters and politicians this year.

"Rosa Parks sat so Martin Luther King could walk," Jay-Z told the crowd. "Martin Luther King walked so Obama could run."

An anonymous black man on the "L" in Chicago put his own spin on it when he announced to a car full of strangers: "Rosa Parks sat down. Martin Luther King marched. Barack Obama ran. And my grandchildren will fly."

— MCT Campus



George Skene, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus

Long lines were evident at the Orange County Library in Orlando, Florida, November 4, 2008.

Exit polls tell all

By DJ Mastroianni
Valencia Voice

This election day has a voter turn-out that has been the highest yet to come in history. Exit poll results varied according to each state, county and city.

The National exit polls according to CNN was recorded at Obama 51%, McCain 44% and 5% was still undecided as of 5 pm on election day.

Cindy Marla, supervisor of Crossings Community Church in Lake mary stated, "I love waking up on election day knowing I get to be a part of supervising the voting process. We had a great turn-out this year and it looks like the votes were going both ways."

McCain and Obama signs and stickers flooded the streets around voting sites. People coming out of the voting booths flocked to those taking exit polls.

"I am very impressed with young people going out there and doing their own research," stated Gary Garnett of Lake Mary, "you can't always listen to what you hear."

Kevin Chubb of Lake Mary stated, "My family looks forward with hope to having our first female vice president and we take a lot of pride in our American flag."

At the end of the day, history was made. The exit polls were correct and Barack Hussein Obama was named 44th President of the United States.

Florida electorate passes gay-marriage amendmen

By Lucy Baugh
Valencia Voice

Amendment two, which at it's core sought to protect the traditional definition of marriage as between one man and one woman only, passed in Florida Tuesday night with 63 percent of the vote.

On the ballot, the amendment read: "Inasmuch as marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

Opponents argued that the wording of the amendment was unclear and could cause problems for both same-sex and heterosexual couples in domestic partnerships. Those against maintained that Amendment 2 would deem such partnerships invalid.

Dr. John Corvino, one of the nation's leading voices in support of same-sex marriage said Tuesday: "I'm disappointed in the decision, which will not only prevent marriage equality for gays and lesbians but also strip away health insurance and other benefits attached to domestic partnerships." Corvino recently came to Valencia to present his views concerning same-sex marriage. He also said of the decision, "Obviously, there is still much work to be done to show that there's room enough in the world for gay and lesbian love and commitment."

Under Florida law, same-sex marriage is already illegal. However supporters said that the amendment would prevent court rulings allowing same-sex marriage in the state, a situation seen in Massachusetts, California and Connecticut.

Glenn Stanton, who presented the Valencia debate along with Corvino, is a nationally recognized, leading voice

in opposition to same-sex marriage. He said of the vote:"This was very much the right decision because it was the citizen's of Florida, my home state, declaring that marriage should be what it has been in all human cultures at all times, a societally valued institution that brings together the two parts of humanity: male and female." Stanton added that: "It doesn't leave this important decision up to a handful of unaccountable judges like we have seen in MA, CA and CT. Amendment 2 let the people speak and they did."

Supporters of Amendment 2 gathered for an election watch party Tuesday night at the First Baptist Church of Central Florida. The official "Yes2marriage" campaign advocates stayed well into the night to hear the result they had been waiting for.

Jennifer Lightfoot, co-ordinator of the Orange County official campaign in support of Amendment 2, said Tuesday: "We are really excited at this outcome. We fought a long and hard battle." Lightfoot added that the "support was overwhelming" and that over 4 million Floridians had voted in support of the amendment.

In response to the opposition's argument that the amendment was unnecessary, Lightfoot said: "We are not here to take away benefits, only to define marriage as between one man and one woman."

Florida voters were not the only ones deciding whether to put a marriage clause in their constitution Tuesday. Voters in California and Arizona also had to decide similar questions, and early results showed that in both state's same-sex marriage looked set to be banned.

As it stands, more than 40 states have laws defining marriage as the union of one man and one woman. A total of 27 specifically define marriage in their constitutions



Olivier Douliery, Abaca Press / MCT Campus

The Rev. Jesse Jackson gets emotional as the election results are announced in favor of Democratic candidate Barack Obama in Grant Park, Chicago, Illinois, November 4, 2008.

Obama crashes McCain victory party

By Caleb Fooks, Walter Edward and Sharney Reyes, Valencia Voice

The Republican Victory Party was looking a little gloomy after the news that most of the GOP candidates had lost their races. The biggest hit was the announcement of Sen. John McCain's loss at around 11:00 p.m. The Republican candidates left the "party" shortly after learning of their respective defeats.

Rachel Shelen, a local McCain supporter who refers to herself as 'Palin's pit-bull' stated, "I have to support the Republican Party because they gave civil rights, they fought for freedom, and they're known to stand for what's right; for families, for marriage, for everything."

Kris Stevens, another GOP supporter said, "I'm a lifelong Republican conservative and this was the most important election of our lifetime."

When Sen. Barack Obama was announced president at 11:00 p.m. she gave her opinion saying, "I think they are calling it prematurely because we don't have the votes from Florida." She said, "I'm not happy at all. I'm disappointed in the people of this country that they did not take the time to learn about the issues. They were mesmerized by what they heard on the campaign trail."

At the Republican headquarters in Orlando they assumed McCain's success as president of the United States. It was with great disbelief that they heard the news that Obama had

won, and won huge.

"I still can't believe it," said Howard Knowles of Apopka, shortly before midnight as he heard McCain concede the election. "I was so sure that he would bag Florida."

Volunteers at GOP headquarters had also been optimistic most of the day as voters turned out in record numbers. Together they had mounted a grassroots campaign to elect McCain through such things as phone banking and door to door canvassing.

Patty Redlich, President of Northwest Orange Republican Women Federation, who has been participating in grassroots campaigns since the 1960s said, "What's different with this election is that it (grassroots campaigning) has been expanded to include the inter-

net, with event sign-ups and blogs."

As a volunteer at GOP headquarters in Apopka, Redlich believed that McCain was the ideal candidate. "He has always focused on the economy and smaller government. Right now with the banking situation and Wall Street, the economy is critical."

"I'm disappointed McCain lost. I spent a lot of days waving signs at people in traffic," said Ann Mitchell of Azalea Park.

In Sen. John McCain's concession speech he urged Americans to congratulate Obama on his monumental win and compromise over differences. "We've come to the end of a long journey," said McCain. "The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly."

Downtown shut down

Obama supporters take over Orlando's Orange Avenue

Continued from cover

lotted time at the historic center expired, the party moved on to Wall Street to watch Obama deliver his victory speech on the Wachovia Bank Building jumbotron. Orlando police quickly moved in to block the intersection at Jefferson and Orange in order to support the massive throng of celebrators, trapping a few unfortunate cars in the middle. Though stuck in a gridlock, many drivers left their vehicles and joined the celebration—one woman even getting out to dance on the hood of her minivan.

As though not even phased by the hours of waiting and celebrating earlier in the evening, the crowd once again roared as the image of Obama appeared on the screen. "If there is anyone out there who still doubts that America is a place where all things are possible; who still wonders if the dream of our founders is alive in our time; who still questions the power of our democracy, tonight is your answer," Obama stated to tumultuous applause. He continued to thank supporters, family members, volunteers and colleagues all, but most of all adding his gratitude to the American people.

"This is our chance to answer that call. This is our moment. This is our time to put our people back to work and open doors of opportunity for our kids; to restore prosperity and promote the cause of peace; to reclaim the American Dream and reaffirm that fundamental truth—that out of many, we are one; that while we breathe, we hope, and where we are met with cynicism, and doubt, and those who tell us that we can't, we will respond with that timeless creed that sums up the spirit of a people: 'Yes We Can.'"

Think the election this year was close? Take another look at the local results.

On Tuesday, Sen. Barack Obama made

a huge push in Florida, and Orange County gave him a rather large boost as well. In the tight Florida Presidential race, Orange County was a convincing win for Obama.

How convincing? How about 60/40 in support of Obama, beating Sen. John McCain by well over 100,000 votes and sealing a Democratic victory in one of the highest populated areas of Florida. Winning the populous areas of the states is vital to winning the state itself, especially when 27 electoral votes are on the line.

The rest of the state was divided almost evenly, with Obama or McCain leading by only a few percentage points, with the exception of our backyard. If you were to glance at the map of Florida last night, you would have noticed a lot of GOP red splattered across the map, but it was the blue areas that sealed the deal for Obama. Areas such as Orlando, including Orange, Osceola, and Volusia counties, and other major metropolitan areas such as Tallahassee, Miami, and Tampa posted a huge disparity between the parties, all leaning towards Obama.

In other states, it seems the same can be said. New York, for example, looks like it has chicken pox with all of its red blotches, but it was an Obama state when it was all said and done simply because New York City and other large cities were so swung to the Democratic side, it completely nullified the GOP-controlled outskirts.

These statistics can also be used when you look at states such as New Mexico, Ohio, and Iowa, all of which, coincidentally, voted strongly for George W. Bush in the last two elections. They are among the states that swung from the GOP over to the Democratic side, presumably seeking that ever-awaited change that Obama has used to fuel his campaign. While America has swung to the left, only time will tell if the swing was in



Obama supporters converge on Downtown Orlando for victory celebration.

Photos by Neil Tredray, Valencia Voice



Barack Obama and his vice president, Joe Biden, will try to point the country in a new direction.

Chuck Kennedy / MCT Campus

President-elect inherits world of troubles

By David Lightman McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President-elect Barack Obama will face some of the most daunting challenges that any new president has confronted since at least 1981, when America tumbled into a severe recession with its prestige ebbing around the world.

He faces the immediate task of leading a nation that's reeling from its most serious economic downturn in a generation, one whose government is saddled with a federal deficit that's heading for \$1 trillion this year.

He'll take the reins of a country with more than 183,000 of its sons and daughters fighting wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, conflicts that won't end simply because a new president wants to end them.

He also inherits a global war on terrorism against shadowy enemies who remain intent on doing America harm, not to mention hostile foreign capitals from Tehran to Moscow.

Yet Obama may be able to claim a mandate from the American people. He appeared poised to win by more than any Democrat since Lyndon B. Johnson in 1964. Like LBJ, Obama will take office with solid Democratic majorities in both houses of Congress.

Even so, he'll face significant political challenges in Washington. His victory will release "a lot of pent-up demand" among Democrats eager to see long-sought policies adopted, said Robert Loevy, a professor of political science at Colorado College.

Satisfying that demand won't be easy. For one thing, 50 to 60 moderate to conservative "Blue Dog" Democrats in the House of Representatives are expected to continue their push for strict limits on spending. Combined with Republican opposition and still-powerful lobbies on behalf of the status quo, some Obama initiatives could be stymied.

New crises, both foreign and domestic, are also likely to pop up in this rapidly changing world. Times have changed dramatically since Labor Day. The global financial crisis has greatly expanded Washington's role in the economy, even under a conservative Republican president. That lame-duck president will host a gathering of world leaders on Nov. 15 in Washington to discuss overhauling the architecture of global economic governance, another challenge that Obama will inherit.

Meanwhile, the U.S. economy shrank in the third quarter, the first contraction in seven years, and every sign suggests that it will worsen in coming months.

That may force Obama, like most new presidents, to trim his wish list in the face of changing circumstances. Presidents-elect often realize quickly that programs developed months before are now obsolete, said former Republican U.S. Rep. Bill Frenzel of Minnesota.

Yet the new, young president who ran on hope and a vision of change has some cards to play.

"There will be a honeymoon period. He'll have 100 days,

maybe as long as four to six months," historian Robert Dallek said. "But that will all end pretty quickly if he doesn't create some sense of forward motion," for the nation and for himself.

The prognosis:

TAXES: The Bush administration's key 2001 and 2003 income-tax cuts will expire on Jan. 1, 2011. Obama wants to end only the breaks that benefit individuals who earn more than \$200,000 a year and families that earn more than \$250,000.

He faces at least two hurdles: Most Republicans are dead set against his plan, and his proposed tax changes would cost the Treasury \$2.95 trillion over 10 years, according to the nonpartisan Tax Policy Center. That may be unaffordable.

Still, his tax policy is too crucial a Democratic centerpiece to abandon, so look for it to be sold as a new economic stimulus, said Maya MacGuineas, the president of the Committee for a Responsible Federal Budget, a nonpartisan re-

"There will be a honeymoon period. He'll have 100 days, maybe as long as four to six months, but that will all end pretty quickly if he doesn't create some sense of forward motion."

— Historian Robert Dallek

search group.

"The game next year is, 'How much can you get done and call it "stimulus"?' " she asked.

SPENDING: Obama has a long list of priorities he wants to spend more on, including \$60 billion for highways and other projects over 10 years, more money for college student grants, elementary and secondary education and a host of alternative energy projects.

He vows that spending cuts would offset his increases, with some of the money coming from higher taxes on the wealthy and savings from Iraq troop withdrawals. But US Budget Watch, a nonpartisan group, estimated that Obama's spending plans and tax reductions would add as much as \$316 billion to the deficit in 2013 if they took full effect.

HEALTH CARE: History says that presidents typically get one big promise fulfilled during their honeymoon periods, and since Obama is expected to push an economic relief package, it's unlikely that health-care revisions would move down a parallel track that fast.

Despite spiraling health costs and lots of campaign talk, he's likely to find that comprehensive change is too costly, too complicated and too dependent on a delicate consensus, one that would be hard to craft in a few months.

Many, however, expect at least small steps.

"You want to get a foot in the door," said Dean Baker, the co-director of the Center for Economic Policy and Research, a liberal research group. For example, Obama could push for a mandate that all children be insured.

ENTITLEMENTS: Obama also faces the entitlements time bomb. Medicare faces insolvency by 2019, and Social Security will start costing more than it's collecting in 2017. Left unchanged, the programs will require much higher taxes in the not-distant future. Changing them is extremely difficult politically, however, as seniors don't want their benefits cut and no one wants his taxes raised.

WARS: Obama wants to remove one to two combat brigades a month from Iraq, meaning that all combat troops would be out by the middle of 2010. He's been vague about how many troops would remain, however, and has said he'd deploy more forces to Afghanistan.

He faces a dilemma on Iraq. The public increasingly thinks that the war is going well, so tampering with current policy could be politically dangerous, said Michael Franc, an analyst at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative research center in Washington.

A dramatic change in policy, Franc said, would make it Obama's war, "so he has to decide to what extent he wants to be seen as Bush 3."

If violence expands as U.S. troops withdraw and chaos threatens, would Obama still leave Iraq and risk being blamed for its collapse? If he stayed to avoid such a result, would he forfeit the loyalty of the end-the-war voters who elected him?

FOREIGN CHALLENGES: Finally, experts said — not to mention Vice President-elect Joe Biden — the chances are good that Obama will be tested by a foreign crisis early in his presidency.

President Bush confronted China three months after he took office, when the Chinese captured the crew of a downed U.S. surveillance plane. President Clinton suffered a setback in his first year when American troops were killed in Somalia.

In 1961, John F. Kennedy presided over the disastrous Bay of Pigs invasion of Cuba in his third month in office; met with Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev two months later in Vienna, Austria, where he was shaken by his rival's belligerence; and two months later the Soviets built the Berlin Wall.

In 2009, Colorado College's Loevy said, Obama also could be tested quickly. "If he has a rough start it would be because of mostly economic events," he said, "a series of worldwide economic events."

There also could be security challenges.

Iran is eager to expand its influence throughout the Islamic world. North Korea's nuclear program remains problematic. The Israeli-Palestinian conflict has haunted every administration since Eisenhower's. China's growing global influence requires deft diplomacy, and Russia's summer invasion of Georgia reminds that Moscow can upset the geopolitical balance whenever Vladimir Putin sees an opening.

Obama will have his hands full.

— MCT Campus

Concession made gracefully

By William Douglas
McClatchy Newspapers

PHOENIX — John McCain's presidential run ended Tuesday night on the lawn of a swank resort hotel with a gracious touch of statesmanship.

"The American people have spoken, and they have spoken clearly," the defeated Republican presidential candidate said.

"Senator Obama has achieved a great thing for himself and his country. I applaud him for it," McCain told supporters on the lawn of the Arizona Biltmore Hotel. "This is an historic election, and I recognize the special significance it has for African-Americans and the special pride that must be theirs tonight. . . .

"I urge all Americans who supported me to join me in not just congratulating him, but offering our next president our good will and earnest effort to find ways to come together, to find the necessary compromises to bridge our differences and help restore our prosperity, defend our security in a dangerous world and leave our children and grandchildren a stronger, better country than we inherited."

"I pledge to him tonight to do all in my power to help him lead us through the many challenges we face," McCain said. "Today, I was a candidate for the highest office in the country I love so much, and tonight, I remain her servant."

He also said that "it's natural tonight to feel some disappointment," and added "though we fell short, the failure is mine, not yours."

Election night at McCain campaign headquarters was a split scene. As the Arizona senator gave his concession address outdoors, supporters in the ballroom yards away stood stunned as they watched the results and listened to him speak. Some booed when he congratulated



John McCain asks his audience to stop booing Barack Obama during his concession speech Nov. 4 in his hometown of Phoenix. Brian Riser, Sacramento (Calif.) Bee / MCT Campus

Obama and stood silently as he praised the Illinois senator for his victory.

Patti Krause, 47, of Phoenix, watched McCain's concession speech in the ballroom and confessed that she's disappointed and "nervous about what happens over the next four years."

However, she said, "It's my responsibility to support the president, and I pray for him."

Her friend Patti Stoltz muttered

under her breath as McCain spoke and didn't hide her bitter disappointment at Tuesday night's results.

"I'm just sad. People voted for the wrong reason. They voted for history, not the right person for the country," she said.

Still, Stoltz said, "he's our commander in chief."

"We will always pray for him and his family," she continued. "No matter who wins, it's God's will. That's what everyone needs to re-

member."

McCain and his campaign aides put on a brave face and offered a barrage of scenarios on how he could beat Obama in the closing days, but they knew it was over long before McCain trudged out to give his concession speech.

The closing days of McCain's campaign were a nostalgia tour of sorts. On Sunday, he ignored New Hampshire polls that showed him trailing badly and traveled to Peter-

borough — where he held one of his first town hall meetings in 2000 — to give the last one of his 2008 campaign, perhaps the last of his political career.

On Monday, his last full day of campaigning, McCain flew more than 3,700 miles through three time zones to seven states, a tribute of sorts to a stamina that became legendary from his dusk-till-dawn Straight Talk Express campaigning style.

McCain had a merry band of mavericks with him on his final tour to keep the mood light: former Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge, independent Democrat Sen. Joseph Lieberman of Connecticut, Sen. Mel Martinez, R-Fla., and Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C., always ready with a folksy story, a quick quip or a stiff upper lip.

McCain stopped at a series of rallies on his final trek, some of them lightly attended. In Tampa, Fla., he presided over a rally that had barely 1,000 people on a grassy field across the street from Raymond James Stadium, a 66,321-seat NFL site that Obama could have filled easily.

McCain, nonetheless, was animated. He beamed when he encountered huge crowds at an airport rally on the Tennessee-Virginia border, and in an amphitheater in Senate Democratic leader Harry Reid's political backyard near Las Vegas.

"The Mac is back!" McCain proclaimed in stop after stop Monday.

But tears began to flow at the tour's last stop, Prescott, Ariz. McCain's wife, Cindy, began to choke up as she introduced her husband at a 1 a.m. rally on the same courthouse steps where Barry Goldwater launched his political career.

McCain made his last campaign flight Tuesday morning, stopping in Colorado and New Mexico, both states he would lose.

— MCT Campus

McCain swamped by bad luck, some of his own making

By William Douglas
McClatchy Newspapers

PHOENIX — John McCain survived three airplane crashes, more than five years as a prisoner of war in North Vietnam, the Keating Five political scandal and being written off as a presidential candidate in 2000 and 2008.

But Tuesday night, McCain couldn't survive Barack Obama's well-oiled campaign and the tide of history, as voters elected America's first African-American president.

By all accounts, McCain shouldn't even have come close. The electoral environment was toxic for Republicans in 2008, given the nation's economic crisis, opposition to the war in Iraq and the abysmal approval ratings of President Bush, the titular head of the Republican Party, whom McCain stood by on most matters.

"We fought our way through the most challenging environment in my lifetime," said Mark Salter, McCain's senior adviser and the co-author of the Arizona senator's autobiographical books, before the results were known. "And it was one damn thing after another."

"The campaign starts off, the frontrunner goes bust and implodes, fighting his way through New Hampshire with no finances to put into another state. The economy is awful. Bush is deeply unpopular. Win or lose, he ought to be very proud of what he's managed to do in this campaign."

McCain's campaign may have been a victim of circumstances, but it also suffered from self-inflicted wounds, according to Republicans inside and outside the campaign.

His inability to stick to a prevailing theme while his rival stuck to a message of change; his decision to suspend his campaign to return to Washington and deal unsuccessfully with the economic crisis; and — some said — his selection of Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin as his running mate all contributed to his downfall, several campaign officials, associates, and Republican observers said.

"What was the message?" said Bill Dal Col, a McCain



Sarah Palin, with husband Todd after voting Tuesday in Alaska, brought a star quality to the McCain campaign, but the glow quickly faded. Bill Roth, Anchorage (Alaska) Daily News / MCT Campus

campaign contributor and GOP operative who managed publisher Steve Forbes' 1996 presidential campaign. "I know they worked hard to get it out, but all the public knew about John McCain was anti-terror: stop."

A former McCain campaign aide was more succinct "They were heavy on tactics, light on strategy," said the aide, who requested anonymity because of his fondness for McCain. "You could count the number of themes it had on your fingers and toes: Country First, Reform, Peace, Prosperity, the economy, and so on and so on."

The message problem crystallized in September, when the economic crisis exploded. The morning that the Lehman Brothers investment bank went down, McCain said the fundamentals of the nation's economy were sound. He then spent days backtracking, shifting to warning that the economy is in "crisis."

"That was the canary in the coal mine," Dal Col said.

Some McCain associates and GOP officials said that McCain also suffered from his decision to seek to consolidate the party's conservative Republican base during the general election instead of during the primaries. That left an opening for Obama to cultivate the independent-minded voters that

were supposed to be McCain's strength.

"The campaign should have been solidifying the conservative base in the months after he had the nomination, when no one was paying attention" said the former McCain aide. "Instead they were running a general election campaign in the spring, going on a poverty tour, the 'Black Belt' in Appalachia. Had they tended to the base earlier, then there would be no need for a Sarah Palin-like pick because conservatives would have been on board."

The choice of Palin elicited mixed reactions.

Some called her selection genius in the immediate aftermath of the Republican convention. She gave the McCain campaign a chance for voters to make history by electing the first woman vice president. It also made evangelical conservatives, who were always wobbly on McCain, a little less nervous, and her eagerness at attacking the stump freed McCain to appeal more to centrists, for awhile.

But the Palin glow didn't last long. Interviews revealed a candidate whose knowledge was shallow on domestic and international issues, and the selection of the freshman governor undercut McCain's attacks on Obama, a freshman senator, for being inexperienced.

"It caused a huge number of voters to question his judgment," said one GOP official, who asked not to be identified so as not to appear disloyal to McCain. "It mitigated the experience argument."

Palin's performance disappointed many leading Republicans, spurring the likes of former Bush Secretary of State Colin Powell and former Reagan White House chief of staff Ken Duberstein endorse Obama.

Meanwhile, some McCain campaign officials grew annoyed by Palin, accusing her of being a "diva."

McCain campaign chief strategist Steve Schmidt hedged when he was asked Tuesday about Palin's performance.

"There'll be a time for all the post-mortem parts of it," Schmidt said.

— MCT Campus

Palin's historic VP bid debated

By Jason George
Chicago Tribune

WASILLA, Alaska — At a recent rally for Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin in Ohio, Jennifer Magyar didn't hesitate when describing her job: "I'm a hockey mom," she said proudly.

Just as quickly, though, she lowered her voice to discuss her politics before Palin. "I don't want to say this too loud here, but I was a Democrat," she said, sporting a wide grin and a homemade "Palin 2012" T-shirt.

Win or lose, Palin has secured a place in electoral history, and the political and social impact of her candidacy will be debated for years to come.

Sen. John McCain had hoped that picking Palin — the nation's first female Republican vice presidential nominee — would win him the votes of Democratic and independent women voters like Magyar. And Palin's gender was a topic she addressed in her first campaign speech, calling primary votes for Sen. Hillary Clinton "18 million cracks in the highest, hardest glass ceiling in America."

"But it turns out the women of America aren't finished yet," she added, "and we can shatter that glass ceiling once and for all."

Following that August speech, however, Palin's popularity steadily slipped; and for weeks, polls showed that men ended up accounting for most of her support.



Michael Sears / MCT Campus Sarah Palin

On Tuesday, about four in 10 voters told exit pollsters that they found Palin qualified to lead the nation.

Though Palin may have political aspirations, the debate over her first foray on the national stage has already begun.

"I think it's changed things. I don't think we'll see a retrogression to the non-diverse tickets of before," said Susan MacManus, a political science professor at the University of South Florida. "The days of the all-white, male ticket are over."

That remains to be seen. Palin has highlighted or downplayed her gender in various — at times conflicting — ways throughout the campaign. Once, she called herself a feminist, but later said she doesn't like such labels. She often spoke of the skill needed to balance being a state governor and mother of five. She has been the pit bull and the lipstick.

It's a complexity within the candidate that reflects the complexity within the female electorate as well, MacManus said.

"Palin's candidacy has showed once again that women voters are not monolithic. Women don't vote as one."

Cynthia Harrison, a women's studies professor at George Washington University, said this reality was further seen in Palin's case because she appeared on the national stage seemingly overnight and without a long-built base like Clinton.

"There have always been women involved in politics who operated outside the mainstream, and Palin is surely one of them," she said. "But I think it's going to take more of a Clinton-type candidate to reach the top. That takes years of working your way up."

After voting in Wasilla Tuesday, Palin flew to Arizona and got to speak without a media filter: She delivered remarks a rally as the GOP vice presidential candidate.

It was another first.

— MCT Campus



Elisabeth Hasselbeck, a co-host on ABC's "The View," introduced Sarah Palin at a rally in Kissimmee. Hasselbeck's job might be in jeopardy if Palin heads for TV. Joe Burbank, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus

Showstopper belongs on television

By Ken Carpenter
Valencia Voice

Elsewhere on this page, political analysts and academics specializing in women's studies are picking over the remains of Sarah Palin's attempt to become the first female vice president, a campaign that came to a resounding thud Tuesday night.

Some experts are putting much of the blame for John McCain's dismal showing squarely on Palin, who was plucked from the anonymity of the Alaskan wilderness, thrust onto a global stage, and unfairly expected to deliver every female voter in the United States.

While she may not have what it takes to be vice president, Palin proved beyond all doubt that she has what it takes to be a celebrity.

Palin belongs on television. As soon as possible. In a starring role. Palin should send an e-mail to the Alaska legislature resigning her governorship, and hire the William Morris Agency to find a spot for her on a network "couch show."

Maybe she didn't draw enough voters to the McCain ticket, but she definitely drew viewers to TV.

• In September, Palin appeared with Sean Hannity on Fox News Channel's "Hannity & Colmes" and doubled the cable show's ratings to nearly 5 million viewers.

• Last month she made a widely anticipated appearance on NBC's "Saturday Night Live," and the show posted its best ratings in 14 years. More than 17 million viewers tuned in.

That, folks, is star power. And if you need more evidence of Palin's popularity, I'll send you photos from a Halloween party where half the women were wearing designer rimless glasses, red blazers and open-toed Naughty Monkey heels.

Forget all the talk about a Palin run for the White House in 2012; network executives need to make a run at her right now.

Lorne Michaels, producer of "Saturday Night Live," agrees.

"I watched the way she connected with people, and she's powerful," Michaels told Entertainment Weekly. "You can see that she's a very powerful, very disciplined, incredibly gracious woman."

"This was her first time out and she's had a huge impact. People connect to her. . . . I think she could have her own show, yeah."

If "Survivor: The Australian Outback" can launch the extended TV career of someone like Elisabeth Hasselbeck of ABC's "The View" — who's just the third most famous person in her own family, behind NFL quarterbacks Tim and Matt — imagine what Palin's well-publicized bid for VP could reap.

She makes \$125,000 a year as governor of Alaska. A seat on the low-rated CBS "Early Show," for example, would be worth a multi-year contract at a few million annually. By the time 2012 rolled around, Palin and her family would be financially set for life.

Sarah Palin may have failed in her political premiere, but television stardom beckons.

Ken Carpenter is the adviser for The Valencia Voice, and teaches journalism and mass communications classes on West Campus.

Secret to achieving political peace? Martinis

By Dave Barry
The Miami Herald

In analyzing the results of Tuesday's historic election, the question we must ask ourselves, first and foremost, is: What the heck were the results of Tuesday's historic election?

I personally don't know: The Miami Herald made me send in this analysis before the election was actually over, so that it could be printed in a timely manner. This is part of the newspaper industry's crafty plan to defeat this "Internet" thing that has the youngsters so excited.

Anyway, my election analysis, based on weeks of reading political blogs, listening to talk radio and watching campaign ads on television, is that one of the following things is true:

• Barack Obama is our next president, which is very bad because he is a naive, untested, wealth-spreading, terrorist-befriending, ultraliberal socialist communist who will suddenly reveal his secret Muslim identity by riding to his inauguration on a camel shouting "Death to Israel!" (Obama will be shouting this, not the camel), after which he will wreck the economy by sending Joe the Plumber to Guantanamo and taxing away all the income of anybody who makes over \$137.50 per year and giving it to bloated government agencies that will deliberately set it on fire.

• Or, John McCain is our next president, which is very bad because he is a 287-year-old,

out-of-touch, multiple-house-owning fascist who will rape the environment and build nuclear power plants inside elementary schools and reinstate slavery and create tax loopholes that benefit only people who own three or more personal helicopters, after which he will declare war on the entire United Nations and then keel over dead and leave us with commander-in-chief Sarah "Flash Card" Palin.

• Or, Ralph Nader is our next president, which is very bad because it means there has been a successful Klingon invasion.

• Or, the outcome of the election is being disputed because of irregularities such as unregistered horses voting in Ohio, or some Florida county tabulating votes in Roman numerals, or God knows what else, which is very bad because it means the next president will be selected via a giant Lawyer-Palooza court fight that will go on until it's time to hold the Iowa caucuses for the next presidential election.

So basically my analysis is that, whatever happened, we are, as a nation, doomed. We are also bitterly divided, because whoever wins, roughly half of us will despise the other half, and vice versa.

You know what I miss? I miss 1960. Not the part about my face turning overnight into the world's most productive zit farm. What I miss is the way the grown-ups acted about the Kennedy-Nixon race. Like the McCain-Obama race, that was a big historic deal that aroused strong feelings in the voters. This included my parents and their friends, who

were fairly evenly divided, and very passionate. They'd have these major honking arguments at their cocktail parties. But unlike today, when people wear out their upper lips sneering at those who disagree with them, the 1960s grown-ups of my memory, whoever they voted for, continued to respect one another and remain good friends.

What was their secret? Gin. On any given Saturday night they consumed enough martinis to fuel an assault helicopter. But also they were capable of understanding a concept that we seem to have lost, which is that people who disagree with you politically are not necessarily evil or stupid. My parents and their friends took it for granted that most people were fundamentally decent and wanted the best for the country. So they argued by sincerely (if loudly) trying to persuade one another. They did not argue by calling one another names, which is pointless and childish, and which constitutes I would estimate 97 percent of what passes for political debate today.

What I'm saying is: we, as a nation, need to drink more martinis.

No, you know what I'm saying. I'm saying, now that this election is over, whatever the hell happened, can we please grow up and stop being so nasty to each other? Please?

OK, I didn't think so.

Please pass the pitcher.

Dave Barry is a columnist for the Miami Herald. He is continuing a leave of absence from writing his weekly humor column.

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International students watching this election

VISA members staying on top of important issues

By Lucy Baugh
Valencia Voice

Members of Valencia's West campus international student association offered some insight into their feelings about the presidential election Thursday, at the final meeting before the historic election takes place Tuesday Nov. 4.

While it is the responsibility of U.S. citizens to elect a new president, the choice made will also impact those who have legally entered the USA, but are not citizens.

In order to study in the USA, prospective students must obtain an F-1 visa, which allows them to remain in the U.S. legally for the duration of their studies.

Valencia's international student community therefore have been watching the elections closely, as a new president could mean potential changes to the immigration process.

Hardeley Butler has been a student at Valencia for just over ten months, after moving to the U.S. from the Bahamas. Butler currently serves as president of Valencia's West campus international student club, and said that he has been closely focused on the presidential race.

Butler explained, "I think there could be an effect on international students with a new president, because there might be changes to immigration laws."

He later said, "I honestly don't know what will happen, but I hope there are no changes to policy which may be negative for international students."

Vice president of the international student association, Casthra Demosthene,

moved to the U.S. from Haiti as a young child.

Demosthene however holds U.S. citizenship, and will be voting in Tuesday's election. "After 9/11, immigration laws were tightened so it became more difficult for students from other countries to come here," she said. "I hope that could change with a new president because international students bring great diversity to the college."

According to the Open Doors report, a survey that reports on enrollment trends for international students at U.S. colleges and universities, the number of international students in the U.S. has been steadily increasing after sharp declines following Sept. 11, 2001.

It is estimated that international students contribute some \$14.5 billion dollars to the U.S. economy through tuition and living expenses.

Allan E. Goodman, president and CEO of the Institute of International Education, said in a 2007 press statement that "America needs to continue its proactive steps to insure that our academic doors remain wide open, and that students around the world understand that they will be warmly welcomed."

Valencia student Alia Malik, who came to the U.S. 11 months ago from London, says she has been very interested in the presidential election.

"I'm not really into politics and all but I think Obama is a great candidate for the presidency," Malik said. "Of course I think it will effect me, maybe there will better opportunities for students like me"

Valencia's international community is watching very closely.

Hopefully, the U.S. will continue to welcome these students and allow the diversity that they bring to many colleges to continue.

Valencia's Haitian students make themselves known

By Kyle Beard
Valencia Voice

Haitian music blared from a stand in front of the west campus student services building as students from the Valencia Haitian Students Association came out to promote their group.

The stand included flyers detailing the history and culture of Haiti, inviting people of all backgrounds and ethnicities to participate in celebrating the culture of the Caribbean nation.

The main theme of the stand was the history of Haiti, where a board displaying American and Haitian flags offered a deep, in-depth glance at the nation's past.

The flyers detailed the history of Haiti, highlighting the deeds of Jean-Jacques Dessalines, a key figure in the founding of the country.

The VAHSA is a Valencia-based student organization that meets weekly to discuss all things relating to Haitian-American culture.

The group consists of more than 40 Valencia students who attend to discuss current events, politics and a themed topic every week.

They also organize parties, events and even offer tutoring for anyone who wishes to participate.

"We can even tutor you in French or Creole," said Lovelyne Joseph, one of the VAHSA members present.



Kyle Beard, Valencia Voice
Valencia's Haitian students spread the word on campus.

"We want people to attend our meetings and learn about the Haitian culture," said Bensley Faustin, vice president of the VAHSA. "We encourage everybody to come and take part in the festivities."

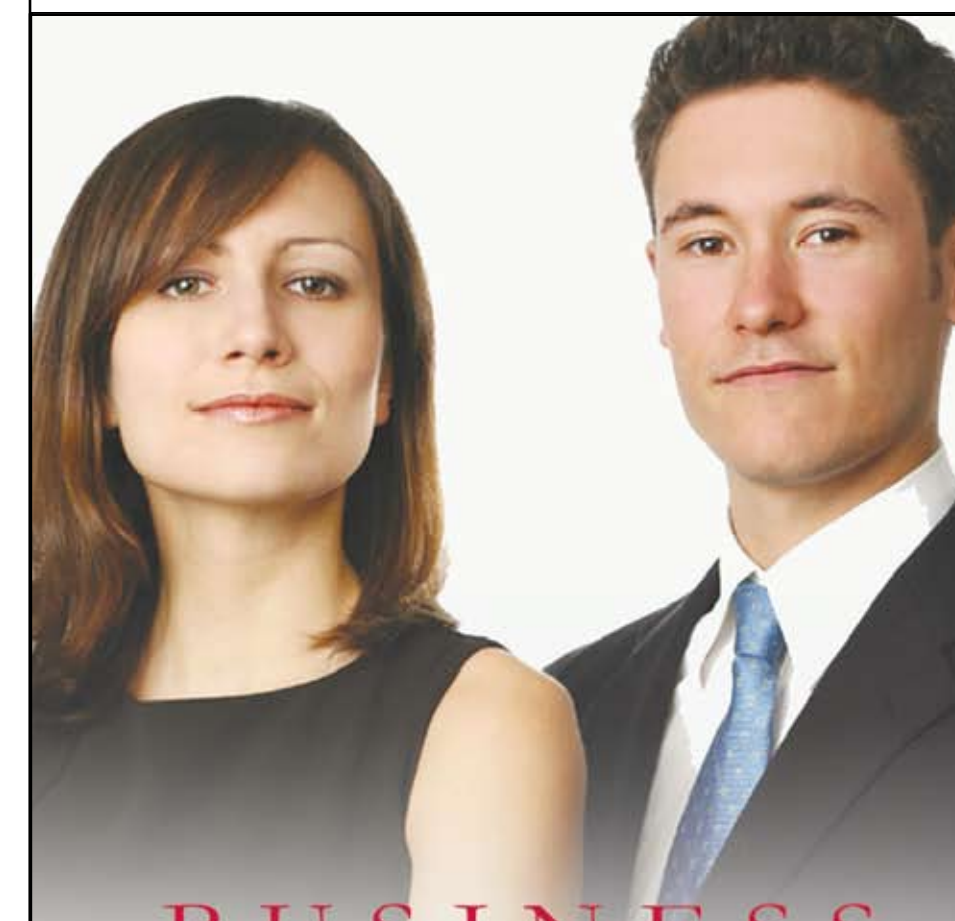
The VAHSA meets every Wednesday at 2 P.M. in building 4, room 203 on the

west campus.

"Our focus is to promote Haitian culture because a lot of people don't know about it," added Joseph Dalien "we plan on sponsoring and holding many more events in the future"

The next endeavor for the VAHSA will be a talent show to be held sometime in November.

More information about the VAHSA can be obtained by visiting the group's myspace URL <http://www.myspace.com/vahsa> or the entry in the atlas groups directory.



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Peer Educators bring ‘Terror’ to East Campus

By Trey McConnell
Valencia Voice

Halloween is marketed as the spookiest day of the year, and people all around the country gather for festive events such as trick-or-treating and haunted tours.

For the Peer Educators, creating the “Black Box of Terror” haunted house is their way of representing this idea safely, and effectively.

This event, along with the kid-friendly “Trick-or-Treat Street” event, which featured a variety of sweet snacks for kids who didn’t go on the traditional neighborhood candy search, gave families a lot to do on Halloween.

“Our main purpose was to have a Halloween event where it’s safe and very family orientated,” said Kimberly Henry, Senior Staff Peer Educator.

The event, which took place Oct. 28 and Oct. 30, occupied room 100, building three of the East Campus.

Doors opened at 7pm while guests were greeted by Batman and The Joker of “The Dark Night” and a frightening sign that read, “Black Box of Terror”.

Every guest was presented with a mandatory waiver (children under 18 required to be with a parent) and waited as groups of ten entered at a time.

There was no charge for the event thanks to the magic of student activity fees.

“When a student buys a class, that money goes toward events such as the ‘Black Box of Terror,’” said Edward Holmes, an East Campus Counselor.

“Black Box of Terror” began last year and drew close to 500 guests.

This year the event’s presence attracted more than twice the amount of guests from last year with 1,258 total.

The amount of volunteers doubled this



Trey McConnell, Valencia Voice

The Peer Educators put on quite a show for the “Black Box of Terror” with classic scary characters.

year as well with 30 participants; dressing up as infamous horror movie characters such as Michael Myers from the Halloween series and Dracula as himself.

There were also volunteers dressed as goblins, vampires, and zombies.

There was even one fairy walking around.

“The mood was actually spooky but it

was more humorous than scary. They did a good job of making it entertaining,” said Kerry Grether, East Campus student.

Overall, each room had its own theme.

The rooms consisted of the typical crazed doctors, blood-hungry butchers, and zombies eating human remains.

“One of the rooms reminded me exactly of Halloween Horror Nights’ ‘Dead Expo-

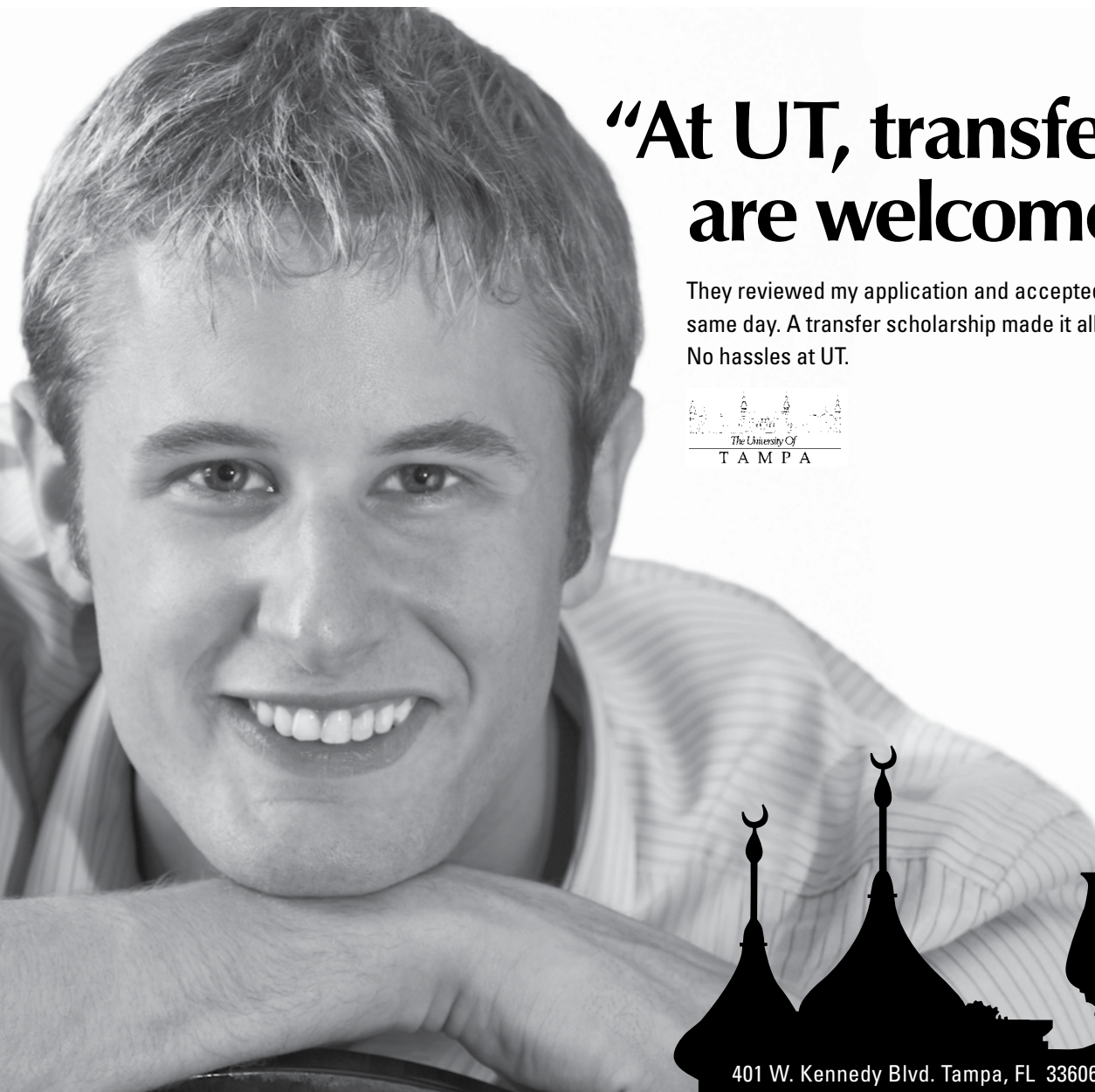
sure,’” said Brandon Simpson. “They basically had the exact same zombies and flashing lights.”

Though it wasn’t exactly Halloween Horror Nights or one of Orlando’s other high-budget scare-fests, the “Black Box of Terror” was a safe, fun alternative for families when it came to finding a little Halloween hijinx.

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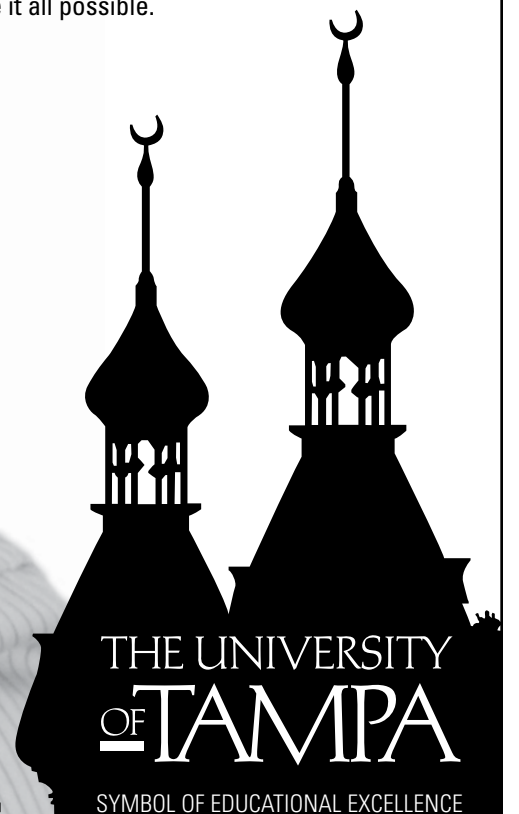
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