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'The Gavel' drops with party on East Campus

By Jordan Keyes
Valencia Voice

SGA released the first issue of their bi-annual publication, "The Gavel," with a swanky party on Valencia's East Campus.

Advisers, SGA officials, and other leaders in the Valencia community arrived to witness the unveiling of the all-new newsletter.

All those who were involved with the production and backing of The Gavel were recognized with awards and applause.

As students interacted with professors and advisers, food and sparkling grape juice was served.

After a small delay, the editor of The Gavel, Marcel Evans, arrived to officially reveal his creation.

"The Gavel is important because it's

from the inside looking out," said Evans. "The Gavel is a look at club from inside the club, inside the event."

The big moment arrived and all those who had been honored for their contributions stepped up and each unveiled a selection of pages from The Gavel.



Jordan Keyes, Valencia Voice
Marcel Evans talks about The Gavel and the people who helped him make it a reality.

After announcing that he would be stepping down, West Campus President T.J. Cole had a few things to say about The Gavel, Evans, and his time as a West Campus leader.

"It's leaving a legacy," Cole said about The Gavel. "A lot of effort, a lot of blood sweat and tears went into it. A lot of dedica-

tion. And Marcel Evans, words can't describe what he means to me and all the hard work he put into it."

"It's not the last official act I'm going to be around," Cole said of his resignation. "They have a lot of great leaders I'm



Jordan Keyes, Valencia Voice
SGA Presidents and Vice Presidents unveil The Gavel.

honored and privileged to have served as West Campus president."

There was a general air of appreciation as the party moved to a more festive location, complete with a DJ, musicians, and

more sparkling juice.

"I want to thank T.J. Cole, Victor Col-lazo, Ken Carpenter, Dr. Torres, Tiffany Tierno," said Evans. "And that's just a few of the people who helped."

Iranians hopeful, skeptical about President-elect Obama



Warren Strobel / MCT Campus

Ayatollah Mohammed Emami Kashani praised the election of Barack Obama and the U.S. electorate's rejection of the Republican party at Friday prayers at Tehran University.

By Warren P. Strobel
McClatchy Newspapers

TEHRAN, Iran — Weekly prayer services at Tehran University ended Friday with the obligatory "Death to America! Death to Israel" chants, intoned almost robotically and without apparent enthusiasm by most of the thousands of worshippers.

During his sermon minutes before, however, the imam, Ayatollah Mohammed Emami Kashani, had a different message. He praised the election of Barack Obama and the U.S. electorate's rejection of the Republican Party and said it would change history "in the core" and perhaps end what Iran considers hostile U.S. policies.

"We wish for the day this happens,

and these policies go," Kashani told the crowd, which included Ali Larijani, Iran's former nuclear negotiator and now the speaker of the Majlis, or parliament.

President-elect Obama said during the campaign that he was willing to negotiate with Iran without preconditions over its nuclear program and other serious disagreements between the countries.

Many conservatives argue for a tougher line on Iran, however, and it's likely to be one of the toughest diplomatic and security challenges of Obama's new administration.

Obama's statements have raised a mixture of hope, skepticism and even apprehension in the Iranian capital.

The government, balanced among Iran's religious leaders, President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and other factions, seems divided over how to respond. Most Tehran residents, meanwhile, openly yearn for an improvement in relations after 30 years of estrangement.

If there's one unifying theme among Iranians of many stripes, it's this: It's up to Obama to make the first move.

"The ball's in your court now," said Kazem Jalali, an independent member of parliament who serves as a spokesman on national security matters.

Ahmadinejad took the unusual step of congratulating Obama on his election, Jalali pointed out.

Then, with equal dashes of Persian pride and negotiating acumen, Jalali added: "I am not indicating we are thirsty for an answer. It is up to you." (Obama said during a news conference last month that he'd decide how to respond to Ahmadinejad's message in due course.)

Obama, through his transition team, declined to respond to the gambit.

"We will need to decline comment, as there is one president at a time and we intend to respect that," said the transition's

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Paige Branson, Valencia Voice

Valencia officials cut the ribbon at the buildings grand opening from left to right: Sanford C. Shugart, President, Valencia Community College; Louise Pitts, Dean, Health Sciences; Jared Graber, Provost, West Campus; Kaye Walter, Chief Learning Officer; Fran Frierson, Interim Dean, Science; Kathy Hauser, Assistant to the Provost; Michael Bosley, Assistant Provost

Valencia opens new building, more accessible for students

By Laurita Tellado
Valencia Voice

At Valencia's West campus, significant changes are taking place that will positively affect Valencia students with disabilities.

The library restrooms on the first floor of building six are completely remodeled; signs have been placed in and outside of many bathroom stalls; ramps have been constructed- and many physically challenged students are happy about it.

Building 10, the recently opened West Campus building, has many features, such as power doors and handrails, that make it more accessible to physically challenged students.

Still, the question remains: is this all it

takes to make Valencia's oft-overlooked physically challenged population feel at home?

Hélène Loïselle, assistant vice president of Facilities, talked to the Valencia Voice about how the institution went about making these adjustments on campus.

"What we will do depends on the funding we will get from the state," says Loïselle, who works on West campus.

"One thing that they could do better is the concession stand in the cafeteria. I can ask for help but it's not something I would always like to do," one physically challenged student said. "I guess they've come farther than when I got started. When I first started, the signs on the bathrooms weren't on there whatsoever"

Studios give thanks for 'Harry Potter' delay



Warner Brothers Studios

Daniel Radcliffe and Emma Watson star as Harry Potter and Hermione Granger in the upcoming Warner Brothers film "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince," which will be released this July.

By Valerie Strauss
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — In the world of Harry Potter, Wizard's Chess is a magical game in which the pieces move themselves when a player tells them what to do.

In the world of Hollywood, a different kind of chess game is being played, with Harry Potter as the king.

It all started with "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," the sixth movie in the most popular film series ever.

It was supposed to open Friday, Nov. 21, a good date for movie premieres because it is the weekend before Thanksgiving.

But then Warner Brothers Studios decided to release the film next summer instead. Potter fans got angry, but other movie stu-

dios became excited. Realizing they would not have to compete with Harry Potter, they started moving around the opening dates of their own movies. The whole drama showed how Hollywood executives carefully plot when to release movies.

"It's a big chess game. The date that a movie opens is crucial," said movie analyst Paul Dergarabedian. A studio "can't control audience behavior. But it can decide when (a movie) opens."

Moviemakers believe their best chance to get the biggest audiences is the first weekend, Dergarabedian said.

The best opening dates are around holidays and during the summer. So when Warner Brothers officials first set Nov. 21 as the date to open "Half-Blood Prince," they knew that was one of the busiest movie times of

the year for a sure hit.

After all, the five Harry Potter movies released so far have all been among the top 25 worldwide box-office moneymakers, raking in about \$4.5 billion.

But when Warner Brothers made its plans for the sixth Potter film, it didn't know that another of its movies, "The Dark Knight," released July 17, would become one of the most successful movies ever.

Studio officials said they realized they were happy with one blockbuster this year and wanted to try to make sure they had one next year. So on Aug. 14, they pushed back Harry Potter — to July 17, 2009.

Angry Potter fans protested, but other movie studios saw an opportunity:

Hours after the Potter move, Walt Disney Studios moved the opening of the animated

3-D comedy "Bolt" (about a dog who thinks he has superpowers) from Nov. 28 to this Friday.

The next day, Summit Entertainment moved the vampire movie "Twilight" from Dec. 21 to this Friday.

Jeffrey Katzenberg, head of DreamWorks Animation, called the Potter move "the single greatest Christmas gift ever in my 35 years in the movie business." Why? Because there will be less competition for "Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa," which earned \$118 million in its first two weeks.

"Land of the Lost," which was supposed to open July 17, 2009, was moved to June 5 by Universal Studios.

Why? To avoid competing with Harry Potter, of course!

— LATWP News Service

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Warner Brothers Studios

Michael Gambon plays Albus Dumbledore in the newest addition to the popular "Harry Potter" series, "Harry Potter and the Half Blood Prince".

Iranians eye election of Barack Obama warily

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chief national-security spokeswoman, Brooke Anderson.

The United States — along with Israel — considers Shiite Muslim Iran one of its primary security challenges.

Iran is steadily accumulating low-enriched uranium, which could be further enriched to make nuclear-weapons fuel, according to a recent International Atomic Energy Agency report.

Washington accuses Iran of funding militias in Iraq and sponsoring terrorist groups from Lebanon to the Gaza Strip.

A recent study by the Brookings Institution, a centrist research center in Washington, recommended that Obama shift the focal point of U.S. Middle East policy from Iraq to Iran and open direct talks without preconditions.

Iranians, however, insist that they're the wronged party.

After quietly helping the United States in Afghanistan after the Sept. 11, 2001,

terrorist attacks, they were stung when President George W. Bush named their country part of an "axis of evil." U.S. shortcomings in Afghanistan have helped unleash a flood of narcotics in Iran, which borders Afghanistan to the west.

And Iranian officials say that their past offers to negotiate, notably in 2003, have been spurned.

Yet if Obama follows up with an outreach to Iran, it could prove just as frightening to Iran's leadership as Bush's hostility.

Anti-Americanism is an unchanging cornerstone of public rhetoric here.

Obama is "more dangerous for Tehran, especially for the radicals," or religious conservatives, said Saeed Laylaz, a reform-minded economist who's close to former President Mohammad Khatami, who's considered a moderate.

Laylaz said that Bush's aggressive posture boosted the position of Ahmadinejad, who's otherwise unpopular in many

sectors of Iranian society.

Because of the president-elect's rhetoric of peace, "I think Obama will be a bigger threat," he said.

While Iran's government says that it will never give up nuclear technology — it denies having a weapons program — Laylaz said Tehran was ready to compromise in return for security guarantees from the United States against outside attack.

Given the muddled and bitter history between the countries, dating from U.S. support for the unpopular shah before Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution, any talks are likely to be slow, frustrating and preceded by a long diplomatic dance.

European diplomats, speaking on the condition of anonymity in order to be more frank, said that Iran's ruling circles were so divided over how to deal with Washington that only Obama could take the first step.

Iranians follow U.S. policy debates with an intensity that would surprise most

Americans.

During his sermon Friday, Kashani referred to recent U.S. research center reports recommending that Obama open unconditional talks with Iran, a possible reference to the Brookings report.

Obama's naming of Sen. Hillary Clinton, who's been hawkish toward Iran, as secretary of state and Rep. Rahm Emanuel, who's Jewish, as the White House chief of staff were interpreted as evidence of Obama's tilt toward Israel.

"It's not a good sign," said Hamid Zaheri, an oil company executive and former spokesman for the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries.

As he walked to prayers with his wife under a warm autumn sun, Mahmood Khosravi, 58, repeated the come-to-us chorus.

"America should make the first move," he said. "Forget about preconditions and all."

— MCT Campus



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Students choose bicycles in South Carolina

By Joey Holleman
McClatchy Newspapers

COLUMBIA, S.C. — Bikes litter the landscape outside the Capstone dormitory at the University of South Carolina. Mountain bikes, racing bikes, cruisers, even a couple of BMX-style.

On a recent Monday afternoon, there were 48 bikes and hardly any empty slots in the five metal racks. Seven more were locked to trees. One bike frame with no wheels was plopped down next to the bushes.

Capstone's side yard offers evidence USC's effort to encourage students to ride bikes is a roaring success. Despite adding 80 new bike racks on campus in the past three years, the university can't keep up with the demand.

"It's hard to find a spot over on Main Street (at the physical science complex)," said Wayne Corbett, a junior from Wagener, S.C. "It seems like all of (the racks) are always full."

For the core group of bike enthusiasts who started USCycle in 2000, that's a wonderful problem. They wanted to improve cycling infrastructure on campus and encourage more students and staffers to ride bikes.

Their effort got a boost in 2002 when Andrew Sorensen, an avid cyclist, took over as school president. He insisted the university include bike infrastructure in its master plan.

The renovation of the Wheat Street corridor through campus now includes bike lanes. Anyone with a school ID can check out a bike at the parking services office from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for free. Showers are available for commuting bike riders at the school's West Quad dorm.

But the changes that seem to have the most impact are the increased availability of bike racks and the rise in gas prices.

"I ride my bike on campus," said Ben Conrod, a landscape architect for the school and one of the early USCycle members. "I used to never see many others. Now I'm running into people (on bikes) when I stop at street lights."

The school hasn't done a student survey to gauge bike use, but one telling statistic is the number of students registering their bikes



Gerry Melendez, The State/MCT

University of South Carolina freshman Allen Thompkin prepares to head out from Columbia Hall on campus. More than 500 new permits for bikes have been issued this year at USC.

with parking services. The numbers have risen from about 250 a year during 2004-2006 to more than 500 this year.

"A lot of the people on my floor (at Capstone) didn't bring cars (to campus) because of the price of gas," said Will Reade, a freshman from Gallatin, Tenn. "My classes are all over campus. If I didn't have a bike, I don't know how I'd get to class on time."

Reade appreciates that the school installed a security camera over the bike racks outside Capstone, where bike thefts have been a problem. Like Corbett, he would like more racks both at his dorm and near classrooms.

Derrick Huggins, USC's director of parking services, said staffers walk the campus every couple of weeks to see which bike racks are being used and where bikes are locked to trees or light poles because racks aren't available.

One of the challenges is making bike racks aesthetically acceptable, especially in the historic core of the campus. You won't find racks on the interior part of the historic "Horseshoe," but there are racks behind some of the Horseshoe buildings.

The other challenge is financial. It costs \$500 (or more, depending on the style) to buy

and install permanent racks, Huggins said.

Students can find a detailed map of existing bike racks — and other bike-related information — online at sc.edu/vmps/cycle.html.

Geology professor Alicia Wilson, another member of the early USCycle group, is delighted to run into other cyclists on her daily commute to her office.

"This fall I've seen just a huge increase," Wilson said. "I think it has something to do with gas prices."

"But once you get people on a bike a few times, they say, 'Hey, I can do that.'"

—MCT Campus

Famous musicians adopt anti-war songs

By Chris Macias
McClatchy Newspapers

Songs with anti-war sentiments are popping up from some unlikely places in the pop music marketplace:

With a casual listen, you might think Mat Kearney's "Girl America" is just another acoustic hip-hop song about a girl gone bad. But the "girl" is a metaphor for the United States, and she's "dying while she's trying just to stop this fight."

The difference between the protest songs of the 1960s that think "Eve of Destruction" by Barry McGuire or Edwin Starr's "War" and today's is that these newer messages tend to come in more subtle musical packages. And they can be so hummable that people may mouth the words and never know they're dissing the president.

"Particularly in the '60s, artists tended to just come out with much stronger messages with less fear of upsetting anybody," says Lee Abrams, the chief creative officer for XM satellite radio. "Jim Morrison and Bob Dylan didn't give a damn. When the Dixie Chicks came out with their Bush statement, a lot of country radio stations stopped playing them. A lot of record companies don't want anything over the top. It's symbolic of the era we're in."

Artists like Linkin Park say they do a balancing act, especially on Linkin Park's latest album, which features a detour into politics with "Hands Held High."

"We're not a band that wants to be political or preach to fans," says Linkin Park drummer Rob Bourdon, by phone from



Hahn, Khyat/Abaca Press/MCT

Linkin Park's latest album features a detour into politics with "Hands Held High."

Los Angeles. "All of us are very involved in all of the lyrics, especially critiquing them, and were very aware that it didn't come off that we had a political agenda or were preaching. We don't like that ourselves when we're listening to music."

The rock band has sold millions of records with songs about self-loathing and inner angst, but "Hands Held High" wouldn't play so well in the red states.

All Top 40 music with a message de-

pends on a common denominator: a tune that sticks in your head. Minus the scathing lyrics, Pink's "Dear Mr. President" sounds like a campfire song. The song is built on strummy acoustic guitars and harmony vocals from the Indigo Girls. Think of it as "Kumbaya" for the anti-Bush set.

"The best protest songs have melodies that are simple enough to be sung by almost anyone," says Christopher Reynolds,

a music professor at the University of California, Davis. "We Shall Overcome" is probably best in this regard.

But in some cases the tune is why the song survives. The popularity of the Christmas carol 'It Came Upon a Midnight Clear,' which almost no one realizes originated as an anti-war song, is the reason why that song is still sung."

"High" and "Dear Mr. President" tend not to be released as singles. These tracks are usually buried in the middle of an album or in the case of John Legend's "Coming Home," at the very end.

"A pop star is trying to play to the greatest amount of people all of the time,"

More overt protest anthems may be coming soon. After the umpteenth song about partying and summer love and with approval ratings for the Iraq war continuing to tank the pop music landscape is primed for an even bigger swell of anti-war tunes.

"I tend to look at things as cyclical," says Abrams of XM satellite radio. "The late '60s were pretty powerful as far as lyrics, then the '70s got back to this boyfriend-girlfriend, Linda Ronstadt sound. In the '80s, (political awareness) kind of came back, then in the late '80s, you had the hair bands.' Then it got more political with grunge."

The current crop of artists, generally speaking, are hit machines.

"I do think we're about to get into a period of time where we'll see the messages getting stronger," Abrams adds. "The political conditions are certainly right."

—MCT Campus



Photograph by Richard Krall / MCT Campus

Today's students say that they find their choice of clothing to be an expression of their personality, and vie for a unique look as opposed to students in earlier eras.

Sophistication is key to holiday fashion

By Ann Spivak
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo.— The holiday season is ripe for joy, peace and, regrettably, many fashion disasters.

Just ask Gail Cluen, who is dressing up Friday for a charity gala where she and many other guests will be surrounded by elaborately decorated holiday trees up for auction amid a backdrop of contemporary art.

"That's a whole lot of twinkle to compete with," Cluen said. "I want to be festive, but I don't want to end up looking like one of those shiny ornaments on the trees."

Her choice? She bought a black suit (skirt and jacket) with just a hint of sparkle in the fabric and a few sequins on top.

That was a good way to go, fashion experts say. Whether you're heading to a cocktail party or a simple family dinner during the holidays, a little, such as the suit Cluen chose, will go a long way.

But wait. What is to become of all those embroidered snowmen sweaters with gingerbread boy buttons? And what about the candy cane earrings or the Santa pin that sings?

It's easier than you think, said Gregg Andrews, a fashion director for Nordstrom, to leave all that frumpiness behind.

"For the holidays, you want to look festive and you want to be comfortable, but remember, you still need to be sophisticated," he said. "And we don't want to be overdressed."

Don't discount your natural desire, though, to cozy up in a sweater.

The key, says Jennifer Bayley, public relations manager for the Limited, is to update your look with a piece such as a sleeveless sweater coat to wear over a pretty blouse.

Kym Klein, owner of the Posh boutique, agreed. The goal, she said, is to avoid screaming holiday. Despite all the seasonal pressures to buy gifts, throw parties, cook and travel, deciding what to wear should be a fairly simple task.

So where to start?

Find a great top in a festive color, Andrews said. Don't rely on blue and silver or red and green. Berry shades are big this season, such as cranberry and deep red wine. Emeralds, amethysts and sapphires also are great colors for the holidays, he said.

"A good top should be versatile," said Gabby Parris, floor manager at Hemline on the Country Club Plaza. "It should work with jeans and trousers and skirts."

Lots of tops this year already come encrusted with beads, faux gemstones and other embellishments, making them per-

fect for any holiday occasion, she said. Look for simple ones with the glitter near the top to draw attention to your face.

Another plus to a top with jewels? You don't have to add accessories.

If splurging on a new holiday top is out of the question, let accessorizing be your art form.

Klein suggests adding layers and layers of necklaces over a simple gray top. Or a belt with some silver and gold bling over a black blouse is another subtle touch.

Pair your sophisticated top with either black or winter-white trousers (wide and slim styles are in) or dark denim jeans. Add a jacket or sweater, depending on the formality of the occasion, and you're ready for a holiday brunch or dinner party.

Another great holiday look, Bayley said, is "the new tuxedo." White tuxedo jackets are turning up in stores everywhere, and they look great with jeans.

"Throw on a glamorous necklace, and you're all set for the party," she said.

And don't forget the little black dress. To make it special, invest in a big necklace (heavy gold is hot) or layer several necklaces in varying lengths. Add a shimmering clutch and some jeweled sandals for an instant update.

Andrews said he saw a lot of sheer black hosiery on the runway this year that always looks terrific with a black dress. A

black hemline with a black leg and then a black shoe makes the leg look extremely long and elegant, he said.

"Whatever you do, don't wear a metallic shoe with black hosiery," he said. "That's one of my pet peeves."

Another popular holiday dilemma is what to wear for work parties. Here again, the black dress is a good choice, but don't forget the winter whites. Blouses with soft bows or pleats look terrific with a black skirt or wide-leg, black trousers, Andrews said.

"You definitely do not want to be overdressed," he said. "You need to make a somewhat career-appropriate look. The feminine interpretation of the tuxedo black and white is festive, but still somewhat tailored."

Cluen understands that dilemma. Not only is she attending the tree gala Friday at the Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art to benefit KVC Behavioral Healthcare, but she is also chairwoman of the event.

Even though she loves to wear red, she'll be all in black at the gala.

"I do think it's kind of a working evening for me, too," she said. "With my choice, I'll be able to wear this not only to black-tie benefits, but to evening cocktail parties as well. I wanted to get a little bit more out of it than a one-time event."

—MCT Campus

NFL nurtures its appeal among women

By James A. Fussell
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo.— For decades the NFL might as well have stood for No Fashions for Ladies.

Until just a couple years ago, if a woman wanted official gear, her only choices were gigantic jerseys made for men shaped like refrigerators.

But earlier this year Reebok, the official outfitter of the NFL, launched a full line of football clothes and accessories designed exclusively for women.

The "Be a Woman, Be a Fan" campaign is but one example of how women are increasing their profile in the formerly male-dominated league.

When a recent Harris poll asked women to name their favorite spectator sport, NFL football not only finished first with 30 percent but topped the totals of the next three sports (baseball, NASCAR and the NBA) combined.

Of the league's 50 million "avid" fans, 30 percent, or 15 million, are women, league research shows.

And more than 45 million women watch NFL games on TV each weekend.

Peter Roby, director of the Center for the Study of Sport in Society at Northeastern University in Boston, said he thought the increasing number of female fans helped explain football's growing popularity.

"The thing that has contributed in the last 20 years to the NFL's growth is the number of females who are passionate about football," he said. "It seems to me that the females are as passionate as the men."

Many women also now work for the NFL.

Today, NFL teams employ 52 female executives at the vice president level or above.

Then there are NFL sideline reporters. From Michelle Tafoya and Andrea Kramer to Suzy Kolber and Pam Oliver, they're virtually all women.

And for the last two years, when NBC looked for a singer to belt out the jaunty opening number for its Sunday "Football Night in America" telecast, it didn't pick

a man.

Last year it selected Pink; this year it's Faith Hill.

The trend toward more women associated with the NFL has reached Kansas City as well. For the last five years radio station KCSP-AM has had one Chiefs and Royals beat reporter Rhonda Moss.

"Trust me, 15 years ago when I was trying to break into this, it was so different," Moss said. "There was one time when I sent my resume when I was tempted to write 'Ron Moss.' I would do crazy stuff. I would blow up (my) resume to poster-board size. And one time I sent a guy a phone, 'cause he wouldn't call me back.'"

Moss says the NFL and sports in general has much more room for women today.

"I see them every Sunday when I go out to Arrowhead" Stadium, she said. "You also see them when the Chiefs have their kickoff luncheon. And Tony Gonzalez's football clinic for women? Packed."

Marti Barletta, author of "Marketing to Women" and founder of the Trend-Sight Group, a consulting firm based in

Winnetka, Ill., said other major sports would do well to learn from the NFL's example.

"I think it's essential for the big sports to be making friends with women, because women buy the majority of sports merchandise," she said. "So if nothing else, it's just good business."

Which brings us back to fashion. Reebok's female-focused fashions expanding on a trend that started several years ago with more pink offerings borrow their style from today's street wear, inspired by throwback designs from the '80s.

Boxy jerseys have been replaced by tapered satin and varsity-style baseball shirts and jackets.

Many of the pieces feature glitter or rhinestones.

Since launching the line, Reebok women's NFL orders are up 78 percent over the same time last year.

Women's apparel is now the NFL's fastest-growing business, with five years of double-digit increases.

—MCT Campus