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Valencia Voice

George Berry (left), student of J. Sgt. Reynolds Community College, accepts first place award from NAQT president Hentzel.

One man wins Brain Bowl

By Alex Barrett
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It was a long day at Valencia Community College for 24 teams from more than six states, ranging from VCC's hometown Red and Black teams all the way up to J. Sergeant Reynolds, hailing from Richmond, Va.

For some teams, it was a longer process than others.

Valencia fielded two teams for this competition, the Red Team, or their first team, and the Black Team, their

secondary team.

The Red Team, led by captain Nolan Bensen, had a great day with a final competition record of 10-2, enough to put them in a three-way tie with Chipola College's A team, considered one of the toughest challengers at the tournament, and the South East Alabama team.

These three teams competed in a playoff scenario, with JSR's two man team getting a first round bye for their outstanding play.

What makes this team so unique, is that it only fields two competitors rather

than the traditional four, which is completely legal.

This is the first time JSR's leading Brain Bowler George Berry has even had another player.

"It puts us at somewhat of a disadvantage, but I try my hardest and put in a lot of study time," said Berry.

His assistant, as he called himself, Gautham Premkumar, competed at Berry's side, but had to admit he was only a side show.

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Valencia plays host to chess tournament

By Leah Reidenbach
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Although the Valencia Chess Open Tournament was a friendly competition, things became more serious once the tick-tock of the clocks started.

The tournament took place on Sat., on the Valencia's west campus, with five rounds of chess and an elimination round to determine the top three winners.

Tying for first place were Philip Bauer and Michael Gonzalez from UCF and third place went to Jon Miniell, also from UCF.

Even though he tied for first, Gonzalez said "I can't ever be unhappy with winning. I was pretty sure I would come in the top three."

UCF's chess club usually meets two, three, or even four times a week according to Bauer, and all that practice has certainly paid off this weekend at the tournament.

The top player from Valencia was Genezareth Berrocal who said, I

think I did pretty well, I messed up on one game and so I lost one, but besides that I won the rest.

When asked about his losing game Berrocal said, "I always use the same strategy, it's nothing special but it works well; just that one game I made a huge mistake."

Kate Neil, a Florida Southern College student and one of the only few girls playing in the competition, won three out of her five matches Saturday.

She wasn't sure why more girls don't play chess; she said, "Maybe they're intimidated, a lot of girls don't think they're smart enough."

Ryan Reyes, a Valencia student, said his favorite part of the completion was "Free drinks and pizza. And I got to socialize with my friends and meet new people"

To find out more about Chess Club you can e-mail Ann Farrell, the Chess Club student adviser and professor at Valencia, at afarrell4@atlas.valencia.edu.



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Players observe closely as their opponents think and make their moves.

VCC community 'Runs, Walks, Rolls' for scholarships

By Shaneece Dixon
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Of the large majority of Valencia's students that receive financial aid, it is questionable for some to know exactly where that aid comes from. Valencia's Alumni Association is one of the many organizations based in Valencia that contributes to this essential need for students. One way in which the organization contributes to financial aid is through their annual 5K Walk, Run, and Roll Marathon. This year's event was held on West Campus, Sunday in the HSB building.

Approximately 300 students, faculty and community members participated in raising money to contribute for college, this year's 5K event had the highest attendance.

"This is my 1433rd road race since 1977. I always tell people that it's a win-win situation," said Gary Fahey, 66, one of the winners of the race from his age group, of his past racing experiences.

"Not only are you taking care of your body, but you're supporting worthy causes."

Participants and guests helped themselves to refreshments before and after the race, along with free post-race massages.

However, a positive incentive was given to the kids of participants and volunteers.

"We wanted to get the kids involved so they wouldn't get bored," said David Huff of the Kids' Craft and Fun Run group, which provided a variety of activities for the children of participants and volunteers to do such as face painting, drawing, and even running in their own mini races.

Several Valencia students found participation in the event very rewarding.

"It feels awesome to participate. I love it. I enjoy doing something to be a part of the community," said Junie Joseph, senator of community involvement for West Campus' Student Government Association.

A brief ceremony took place after the race to award those who ranked high among those in their age groups, and overall, were rewarded. "It's great. I haven't run in years, so this is something really big for me," said Heike Davies, one of the rewarded recipients about



Shaneece Dixon / Valencia Voice

Participant crosses finish line short of breath outside of the HSB building after the cross-campus run.

participating, "I used to do a lot of running in Germany."

From the first 5K run in Spring 2006 to now, the outcome has only gotten better with every year. Barbara Shell, the coordinator for the event, has positive expectations for next year's event.

"I'm expecting more people to participate next year," said Shell, who is also the assistant director of community alumni relations at Valencia. "Word of mouth definitely helps us out. The first race we had was hard to get out there, but once you have history, it's easy to promote."

VCC places 3rd in quiz battle

Continued from Cover

"I am firm saying this, that he (Berry) is the main man. I am just the help."

Just the help or not, the tandem, in a great effort and was able to sit back and rest while the three teams in second duked it out for a chance to face him.

What made this rest sweetest, possibly, was the win by JSR less than an hour before the finals where he beat a then-undefeated Chipola team, knocking them into second place and securing his much needed mental health time.

In the first round of the playoffs, the Chipola team faced off against a tough team from the South East Alabama Community College, and from the onset it wasn't much of a competition.

Dominating practically the entire round, Chipola posted a victory with a final score of 155-50, and moving on to try and tackle Valencia's Red Team.

Valencia started off strong, with Chris Muto nailing three questions in a row, and with Patrice Newkirk grabbing a couple of toss-ups.

But the inability of VCC to convert coveted bonus questions left the door open for Chipola.

It was a tightly contested match, but Chipola proved too much for Valencia, and defeated the Red Team with a final score of 155-135.

Securing third place, the Valencia team was proud of their performance, and optimistic

about upcoming tournaments as well.

"We expected to be around the top six or seven, but three is great!" Remarkd Mercedes Gosnell in a post-tournament interview.

Valencia was happy with their placement, but the final between JSR's two man squad, and the highly favored Chipola A team was underway. To say this wasn't even a real contest would be accurate, as JSR rolled over Chipola for the second time in three matches to secure a first place finish, the best finish in Berry and Premkumar's Brain Bowl careers.

After the game had finished, Berry and Premkumar were basking in reflective glory of their triumph. "It means a lot, to come out and be able to beat Chipola. We were aiming for the top seed, but who doesn't? And then we got it. I couldn't be happier," said Berry.

A great victory capped a tiring two days for all of the teams, and when asked about their upcoming plans, more than one team said "food." "We're going to Ruby Tuesday immediately," said Muto.

After that, almost all of these teams will ready themselves for an upcoming tournament in Dallas, Texas, where the national tournament will take place.

"We will keep practicing, up to 20 hours a week," Gosnell said. "The competition will be harder, but we will work to improve ourselves for the tourney in Dallas."



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Trophies that were given to National Academic Quiz Tournament winners on Saturday, Feb. 28.

Ecologist urges rainforest importance

By Walter Edward
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Dr. Nalini Nadkarni, an ecologist famous for her work on rainforest canopies, gave a presentation at the East Campus Performing Arts Center for the Honors Program Distinguished Speaker Series.

Dr. Nadkarni began the presentation with slides that highlighted her background, which included her family history and childhood in Maryland, where she grew up climbing trees.

"I never predicted this is what I wanted to do when I was little, but I did predict that I wanted to work with trees. At first I thought I wanted to be a forest ranger, but of course by the time I became a grown up those were all gone," said Dr. Nadkarni.

Showing an interest in ecology, Dr. Nadkarni graduated from Brown University and got her PhD at Washington University. She has also won an Emmy for her 2001 documentary on tropical forest canopies titled "Heroes of the High Frontier."

Monica Macini, a Valencia student, attended this event because she said, "I've been a student here for quite a few years and taken many of Professor Meyers classes. I also went to Ghana with him in 2005, so I just have an interest in this field."

Dr. Nadkarni started ICAN (International Canopy Network), which has reached out to many different aspects of American society to get more people involved with canopy research.

For example, ICAN created a treetop

Barbie to promote canopy research to a younger generation.

ICAN has also organized scientists and artists for aesthetic value, which included Capacitor, a San Francisco dance group who danced naked in the forest canopy trees, and a rap teacher who got inner city kids interested in the canopies by making songs about the rainforest.

Throughout the presentation, Dr. Nadkarni informed students on the biodiversity in the rainforest canopies. She mentioned the different animals and invertebrates that are common in the canopies, the latter her husband, a microbiologist, named species of ants after her and their children.

In contrast to the variety of life in the rainforest canopies, Dr. Nadkarni touched on the turbulent deforestation

that is occurring in the canopies.

As she pointed out, there are 61 trees per human being, but in the continual rate of deforestation by the year 2200 there will be 24 trees.

"The best way to do work is to do what we can in the areas we have control over. I can choose to take the trouble to throw my paper in the recycling bin or just throw it in the trash," said Dr. Nadkarni.

Dr. Nadkarni finished the presentation by reading a poem by Herman Hesse on the subject of trees that relates to the difficult times we are facing in the U.S.

"I think the fear of doing something that's outside the box is the biggest challenge for people in this profession and if I could give them any advice it would be to overcome the fear."

Legislators troubled by concealed weapons on campuses

By Anna M. Tinsley
McClatchy Newspapers

FORT WORTH, Texas _ Jason Bowman would feel safer walking to his night classes at Tarrant County College if he had his concealed handgun.

But he leaves it behind because state law doesn't let him carry it on campus.

The 23-year-old Benbrook man is among those hoping that will change soon, as state lawmakers consider the issue.

"I applaud campus police, but there is absolutely no way they can be all places at all times," said Bowman, a paramedic and firefighter. "Please don't make me prove that I will stand up and fight an armed man without my weapon if (there is) danger. At least give me my gun, too."

The expansion of the concealed-carry

law is just one of several firearm proposals ricocheting around the Texas Capitol, drawing fire from gun safety advocates.

Among the bills this year are efforts to let Texans buy rifles and shotguns in noncontiguous states; allow counties to regulate noise, which could affect shooting ranges. Even as some proposals seem to be gaining support, one hot gun topic—letting Texans openly carry handguns—seems to be losing steam, as supporters fear they won't find a lawmaker to carry the bill.

"It's not over yet," said Mike Stollenwerk, a co-founder of the OpenCarry.org nationwide effort. Other measures could let Texas hunters be charged with animal cruelty and have to defend their actions in court, and even allow "physically disabled people" to use lasers to help them hunt,

expanding on the 2007 law that allowed

blind hunters to use lasers.

"It's just like they are trying to fix a problem that doesn't exist," said Marsha McCartney, president of the North Texas Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence. "That's the usual case with gun laws."

Last week, Sen. Jeff Wentworth, R-San Antonio, and Rep. Joe Driver, R-Garland, filed bills to let students licensed to carry concealed handguns take their weapons on campus.

Jason Woods, a graduate student at the University of Texas at Austin, opposes the bill and wrote a resolution _ passed by UT's student government _ that supports the current handgun ban at Texas colleges.

Two years ago, Woods was a Virginia Tech student who lost his girlfriend in the mass shooting that killed 32 people. He thinks allowing guns on campus will create

more danger, even boost suicide rates.

"A campus is a really safe place right now," said Woods, 24, who is studying molecular biology. "School shootings in general are low-probability events. ... Any change that would allow more guns on campus would create more potential for things to go wrong."

Tom McEnroe, a University of Texas at Arlington senior and member of Students for Concealed Carry on Campus, believes that Wentworth is doing the right thing.

"With a college campus that is a gun-free zone, the only people that will have a firearm are criminals," said McEnroe, 22. "A person with a (concealed-handgun license) can carry in a movie theater, mall, shopping, but there is an imaginary boundary at a school."

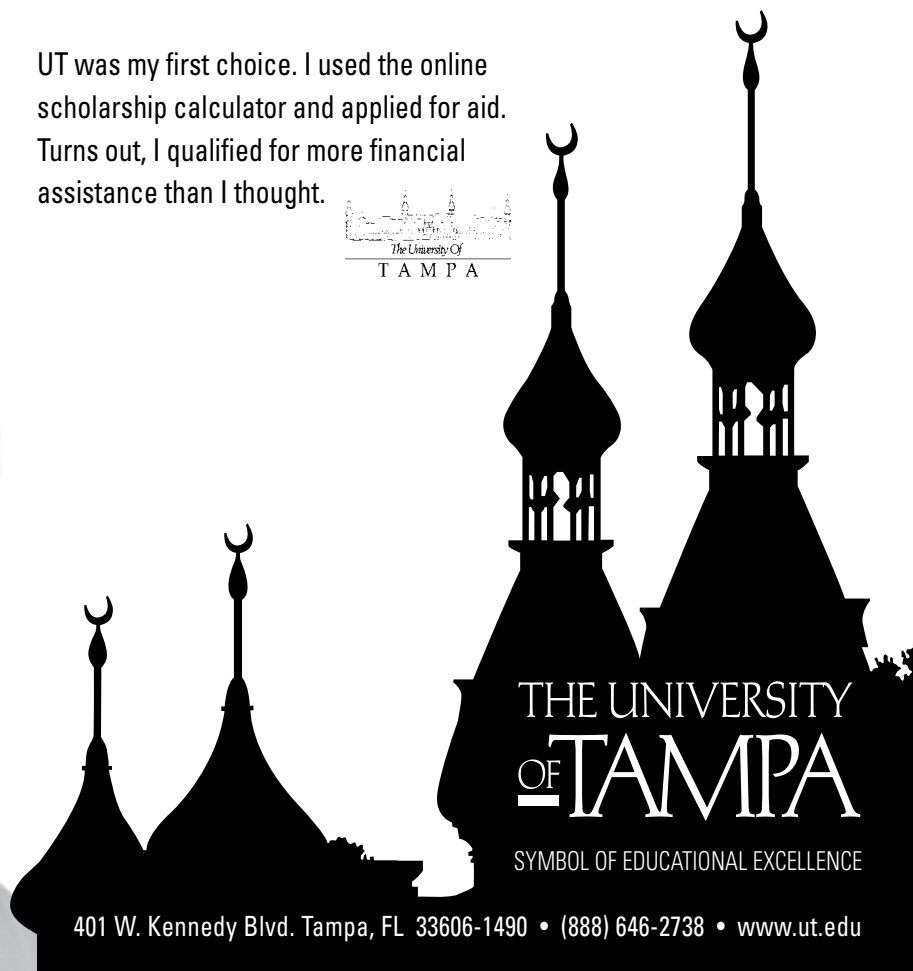
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Our Voice

Teenagers act out in the wrong way

Parents can only do so much; they can monitor their children's internet usage, or make sure their children don't leave the house wearing something they deem offensive or "smutty." After that, parents have to surrender some of their control and hope that they did a decent job in raising the apple of their eyes.

Expectations for teenage girls to be brainy, athletic, nurturing, and look like supermodels- while juggling homework, social networking and résumé-padding activities- are fueling a generational mental health crisis, according to a new book by University of California, Berkeley, psychologist Stephen Hinshaw.

At the same time that opportunities abound for teenage girls to compete in both traditional male and female bastions, conflicting messages to be ambitious, caring and effortlessly thin and glamorous have led to a surge in adolescent depression, eating disorders, self-mutilation, suicide, and aggression, according to book: "The Triple Bind: Saving our 'Teenage Girls from Today's Pressures'."

"Given the unprecedented advances for women, it is the best of times to be a teenage girl. But it is also the worst of times..."

"The Triple Bind" weaves together anecdotes and personal observations with a review of current research and sobering statistics. Topics include the culture of "busy-ness" that surrounds teens; the stress of homework and sleep deprivation; the ever-increasing sexual objectification of young females; today's relentless cyber-culture; and how genes and environmental pressures are combining forces to compound a teen mental health crisis.

"Given the unprecedented advances for women, it is the best of times to be a teenage girl. But it is also the worst of times, because many in this generation are experiencing depression earlier and are more vulnerable to serious mental health problems," said Hinshaw, chair of the UC Berkeley psychology department and an expert on child and adolescent psychopathology.

thology.

In his research for the book, Hinshaw reported that the average age of onset for depression in women has fallen from their 30s to their 20s, with an ever-growing number of girls starting in their teens. Also, rates of "cutting," which involves nicking or slicing one's skin with knives or razors to relieve emotional pressure, appear to be skyrocketing, while obsessive dieting and binge eating are alarmingly prevalent, he said. Following puberty, girls are much more likely than boys to become depressed and anxious. But in the last decade, not only have such trends accelerated, but girls are becoming more aggressive. At the same time, aggression in boys has declined, Hinshaw said.

"Certainly, genes and other biological factors 'up the ante' for all such conditions," Hinshaw said.

"Yet, the recent changes in girls' mental health problems cannot be explained by changes in genes, which would take generations to appear. Issues in the culture at large are the key focus of the book."

However, a parental tendency to overvalue a child's achievements also plays a major role in the triple bind, said Hinshaw. He asks parents to be careful "not to succumb to the overwhelming social messages of insisting on top grades, top teams, top everything all the time."

To resist the triple bind, Hinshaw advises girls to focus less on themselves by finding a wider sense of purpose, such as volunteering at environmental and civil rights organizations, or at an animal rescue shelter or program for at-risk youths. Volunteer work can provide a much-needed perspective for teens who obsess about their failures and imperfections, he said. He also urges parents and schools to promote self-discovery over rote achievement, and to stop putting pressure on kids to pad their résumés with ever more extracurricular activities.

VALENCIA VOICE

Opinion:

CORRECTIONS

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Shaneece Dixon

Whoops! Did we miss anything? Let us know! If you spot a correction or want to let us know what you think, please send an e-mail to:



Jim Atherton, Fort Worth Star-Telegram / MCT Campus

Your Voice

Enhancement products have overrated marketing

By Kenny Wagner
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Alright, enough with "enhancement" treatments everybody! We have all seen the ridiculous smiling Bob commercial promising that with daily applications of a topical treatment "certain things" will appear larger than they actually are. Who are the people buying these products? Well we certainly know who they're marketed to, a generation of aging baby-boomers; those who are making these treatments belong to a disturbing byproduct of the sexual revolution. A better question is; how did our nation develop such a complex?

It seems that along the way, our outdated puritanical values went by the wayside and were supplanted by an older generation of men and women wanting to explore what they were missing during all of those suppressive years (damn the 40's). A fear of inadequacy infected this community who were engaging in sexual activity decades after it became naturally applicable, committing the biological equivalent of the handling of post-war Iraq, it's just a mess.

Ten years ago enhancement products were just making their debut as common infomercial fair. Back then people were skeptical about their effectiveness; of course people bought them anyway, believing these products had the magical ability to reverse what was naturally given to them. Millions of years of evolution reversed by a cream that could mutate the most vital of bodily regions. But does the buck really stop at the

people buying these creams and pills which are by all accounts completely impotent (no pun intended)?

Well yes, but certainly a large part of the blame goes to the people marketing these products. It is reasonable to dream up and create a cream that could well make the impossible possible, and its understandable why people would want to buy them. But, the issue is the fact that none of these products work and yet they are heavily advertised. The reason why you see so many ads featuring these products like Enzyte and others like it is because the product is the marketing.

These products are "all natural" "herbal" treatments, meaning there are no drugs in them, no chemicals created in a laboratory. It also means they are made for cheap, containing things like ginkgo biloba, ginseng, and saw palmetto. That's a roundabout way of saying they don't work. It's time to stop these advertisements and end the sale of these items; they're only useful as the butt of jokes. They don't work, they're expensive, they give people reason to be uncomfortable with themselves and they represent how our society is hell bent on bodily perfection.

Anyone who has ever purchased or thought of purchasing one of these products should relax and be happy with themselves and their partner and not give anymore reason to companies to lie to people and sell products that don't work. But, perhaps I am the one who has it wrong, perhaps I should look into these products, after all if you read this article, you can see I am the one with the "small column" (pun intended).

They don't work, they give people reason to be uncomfortable with themselves and they represent how our society is hell bent on bodily perfection.

Your Voice

Find ways to catch fake ads

By Adam Fishman
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False advertising is defined as the passing off of goods or services as something or someone's they are not. False advertising is prohibited and actionable under federal law, and by various state statutes which prohibit deceptive trade practices and unfair competition. The Federal Trade Commission, competitors, and the state attorney general have the power to bring suit to stop false advertising. In some states an aggrieved consumer can sue.

Advertising is everywhere; consumers brains are force fed information throughout the day in many different forms of advertising. Radio, TV, newspapers, and magazines are a few common channels through which deceptive advertising claims exist. The most common forms of misleading advertising are as follows:

Bait and switch is a tactic sellers use to get you to buy an upgrade of the original product on sale. A store will advertise a product for a low price with no intention of selling it. When you show up they will tell you how bad the advertised item is, and how the more

expensive item is much better. So the store "baits" you with a sale item to get you to go to their store. Then their salespeople "switch" the item by convincing you to get the better model that isn't on sale.

In addition, for an item to be "on sale," the item must have had a higher former price within the last three months. If an item is always on sale then it's false advertising. If an advertisement says a product

can do something, it must be able to do it. For example, if a manufacturer advertises that their product can cure cancer, then it must be able to cure cancer. The next time you're at the grocery store, look in their vitamins section. Most dietary supplements won't tell you what the product does unless they can find evidence to support it.

When you decide to make a purchase on any item, always remember to save your receipts and find out the stores refund policy. Some stores offer a full or partial refund, others offer store credit only, and some may offer no refund at all.

As students living in the current state of our economy, we can't afford to become victims of misleading or false advertisement claims.

Advertising is everywhere; consumers brains are force fed information throughout the day...

Do false ads influence your decisions?

Superficial promotion get tweens

By Shaneece Dixon
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False advertisements are practically everywhere. You see them in magazines, television, and now you can even find them while you're posting your latest bulletin on your MySpace.

The definition of false advertising by the Valencia Voice standards is advertising a product that promises or says it will or can do something that it truly cannot.

Though many of us can say that we don't fall into the trap that commercialism wants us to, it is out there.

The hot trend for today is to sell things that insinuate provocative purposes. Remember the old, jaded saying: Sex sells?

You can even look at the latest issue for Cosmogirl and Seventeen Magazine, publications that are supposed to be for the tween and teen market, and see the negative, superficial things that they promote. This includes telling 14, 15 year old girls how to flatten their tummies, how to make their boyfriends jealous, and telling them that it's okay to have deathly orgasms (yes, I did say orgasms).

Well, to worrisome parents and older siblings, your kids and little brothers and sisters will also feel the negative wrath of pop culture. Recently, the creators of the famous Dora the Explorer brand have decided that Dora, the infamous Hispanic girl that goes on adventures to help her friends, will grow up with her little fans. That's right folks: Dora will be a teenager. A tween obsessed with shopping, makeup, and boys.

Of course they made this decision realizing how popular the brand has become over the years. It has branched into everything from backpacks, dolls, shoes, accessories, and more.

It's bad enough that we have to worry about advertisers not telling us the truth, but now we have to worry about them telling children and teens that the more provocative they are the more fashionable they are as well. How far are we willing to let them go?



"Personally I don't get caught up in having to go buy the next great product. For college students though, based on their maturity level, marketing attracts them to a product."

— David Payton



"It depends on the product. If I see an advertisement for a brand I like, it makes me want to go buy it"

— Ximena Vargas



"Ads make me want to go buy something to a certain degree, but I usually abstain. KFC commercials make me hungry though."

— Anthony Nelson



"Commercials don't affect me, I prioritize. I buy what I need not what I want."

— Bianca Brown



"Absolutely not, advertisements are aimed at the stupid."

— Roxanne Johnson



"Absolutely car commercials make me want to go out and buy a new car but, the cost is a factor. For some its all about the sex appeal and the status."

— Pat Sebastian



"I don't believe advertisements any more. They tell you one price on the ad but once you get there they quote you something else. False advertising should be illegal."

— Melissa Cilento



"It depends on what I'm buying. When you see an ad they tell you about the features of a product but never go into detail. They want to make what they're selling sound sexy."

— Chris Olivares

Shaneece Dixon / Valencia Voice

Chimp editorial sparks controversy

By Jane Goodall
Special to the Los Angeles Times

Two weeks ago in Stamford, Conn., a chimpanzee named Travis was shot and killed after he mauled a friend of his owner. The chimpanzee lived with a widow, eating lobster and ice cream at the table, wearing human clothes and entertaining himself with a computer and television.

But as the tragedy made clear, a chimpanzee can never be totally domesticated. The human brain is more highly developed than that of any other living creature. So why can't we learn that wild animals simply do not make good "pets"?

I believe it has a great deal to do with the fact that chimpanzees are so frequently used in entertainment and advertising. Only a month ago, Americans watching the

Super Bowl may have laughed at an ad in which chimpanzees dressed as mechanics worked on a car. They seemed cute, funny and even lovable. Is it any wonder viewers might think that chimpanzees would make great pets?

Nothing could be further from the truth. Only infant chimpanzees are used in entertainment and advertising, because as they approach maturity, at about 6 to 8 years of age, they become strong and unmanageable. Chimpanzees evolved in the tropical forests of Africa, and that's where they're suited to live, roaming in groups. A house in Connecticut was a completely alien environment for a chimp.

Yet as a "domesticated" chimpanzee, Travis could never have returned to the wild. He had never learned the array of skills necessary to survive there. The en-

tertainment industry and pet owners rarely, if ever, provide for the long-term care of chimpanzees. Zoos don't want them because they have not learned to interact with others. So most of them spend the rest of their lives -- as much as 50 years or more -- in small cages in circuses, roadside attractions and, yes, even in the homes of individuals who lack the means to provide for them.

Meanwhile, more infant chimpanzees are bred to maintain the supply for the entertainment industry.

The use of chimpanzees in entertainment and advertising not only condemns chimpanzees to lives they were not meant to live, it makes it hard for people to believe that these apes actually are endangered in the wild. But they are.

Chimpanzees are losing habitat, in part

because of commercial logging and because of encroachment by ever-growing human populations who live in poverty and cut down the forest to grow crops and graze cattle. This deforestation also contributes significantly to climate change. And sometimes chimpanzees are caught up in ethnic conflicts or killed for their meat, a practice that is believed to have led to the human strains of HIV.

The Connecticut tragedy should remind us not just that chimpanzees do not make good pets but that their fate is intimately tied to ours.

Goodall is founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and a U.N. Messenger of Peace. Information about her work can be found at www.janegoodall.org.

—LATWP Times

Tournament encourages school spirit

By Alex Barrett
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Many people know about the Brain Bowls, like the one held on Valencia's West Campus this week, some people even call them Quiz Bowls. Although they identify with many different names, there's always one company behind the questions; the NAQT.

NAQT stands for National Academic Quiz Tournament, and they have been expanding the minds of collegiate and high school students via their Quiz Bowls since 1996. A big part of the emergence of the NAQT is their president, R. Robert Hentzel, and he was available at the Valencia championships in Orlando this week to see the competitions and lead the administrative side of the operations.

The Voice had a chance to speak with Hentzel during breaks in the action about how he runs the ship at NAQT, and why Valencia was chosen as the location for the tourney this year. "Valencia has had the premier community college team now for the better part of the decade," said Hentzel.

"Orlando is clearly a place that people want to visit around this time of year due to the climate, and Chris Borglum (Valencia's Brain Bowl team captain) really knows how to run a program and commit staff and volunteers to the competitions. He has been invaluable."

This tournament represented 24 teams, those that made it through the sectionals tournament which narrowed the field down from 50 teams. "We were only looking at 14 teams originally, but Chris (Borglum) knew he had the manpower to have a few more invitees," remarked Hentzel.

"We have a lot of teams here, from as close as in town, obviously, to as far away as Allen County, Kansas. It is great to be able to get all of the students together to further education in a competitive manner."

When asked about who can field the best



Coltin Dever, Valencia Voice

R. Robert Hentzel, president of the NAQT, stands with the first, second, and third place trophies awaiting their appropriate winners for this year's game.

teams, Hentzel was split for a few reasons.

"Ivy league schools can field good teams, but realistically, good teams can be found anywhere, either in two or four year colleges. You would be surprised how well some teams perform, especially when pitted against a tougher team. It isn't always knowledge that makes a winner, speed and balance is a huge part of persevering as well."

Hentzel has been growing the program for many years, seeking to add not just teams, but states full of teams to the bill, trying to expand the competitions as much as possible.

Even though many states are represented, NAQT has only begun what they have set out to accomplish, and that is for every school, large or small, to have a quiz team to compete with. "We definitely want to get more, really as many people and schools as possible involved; from the smaller ones all

the way up to the Harvards and Yales. Diversity plays an interesting role in the competitions as well."

Hentzel thinks that continued exposure is a great way to get other schools interested in fielding a team, whether they have one, two, or 40 people available to compete. Seeing tournaments and attending them, and word of mouth has helped the NAQT grow to what it is now, and there's much more room to expand.

The big part of the quizzes of course, are the questions themselves, which are formulated in-house and follow a basic format. Think of it as like when you play the NTN quiz games at the bar, where you get hints and the clock ticks down; same concept.

"Questions start out with subtle, difficult hints then get easier as the question is read, hence speed and recognition are key to success in the tournaments. The questions then

finish with a much easier hint that puts the question in a much easier state to understand, giving contestants a last chance to get some valuable points, and then get to the bonuses."

Hentzel works hard to make sure everything runs smoothly, and at trying to develop the NAQT until it is a household name, and widely recognized program. "If we can just keep getting a few more teams a year, we can really bring the Brain Bowl to as many audiences as will grant it." It is a cheap way to get your school's name out there, and another way to contribute to the competition that makes college great.

The way it seems to be growing everyday, under the caring and stoic arms of president Hentzel, it won't be long before his dream eventually reaches reality. Until then, you can keep cheering on your local Brain Bowl-ers here at Valencia.

New floor general runs Magic

By Tim Bee
tbee@valenciavoice.com

Before Alston joined the Magic, he was a journeyman of sorts, playing for Miami, Toronto, Milwaukee, and Houston. Before his nine-year NBA career, he could be found on the street courts, known as the street ball legend 'Skip to my Lou' for his ability to skip-dribble the ball with his knees, often bringing the ball up without the use of his hands. Widely considered the greatest talent in the street basketball community history, he was a beacon that showed even lowly street players could make it big.

Starting his career, this 'And 1' advocate has helped his teams through consistency, and the ability to adapt to the game and distribute the ball. Alston began starting professionally in the 2003 season with the Miami Heat, a team that was also led by Stan Van Gundy. Van Gundy was ecstatic about the acquisition of Alston earlier this season, and many in Orlando believe this move has put the Magic back in championship hopes. Here is a closer look at new Orlando Magic starting point guard, Rafer Alston.

Rafer Alston has only been a member of the Orlando Magic for a little more than a week. However, he is gelling with the team like he has been here for years now. In the six games he has been with the team, he has started five and is averaging 10 points, and six assists, in just less than 30 minutes per game.

"Oh it's great," Alston said as he sat in a chair in front of his locker Friday night, before the Detroit Pistons game. "It's a great group of guys to be around, it's a fun group. They really had great chemistry before I came here. I just, you know, want to be a positive teammate as well and just add on to the great chemistry."

It is obvious to see the difference in the team since he has arrived. After losing All-Star point guard Jameer Nelson to



Gary W. Green / Orlando Sentinel / MCT

Alston lays the ball in against the Detroit Pistons.

a torn labrum for the season, the team looked sluggish and out of sync with back up Anthony Johnson in the starting lineup. Once Alston arrived the ball has been moving quicker, and much more efficient.

On February 22 against the Heat in just his 2nd game, and first start with the Magic, he had seven assists in the 1st quarter. "On the court, I mean you can see by the record we've been good on the court, and me personally I'm just a guy that loves to play team ball so I fit right in from day one."

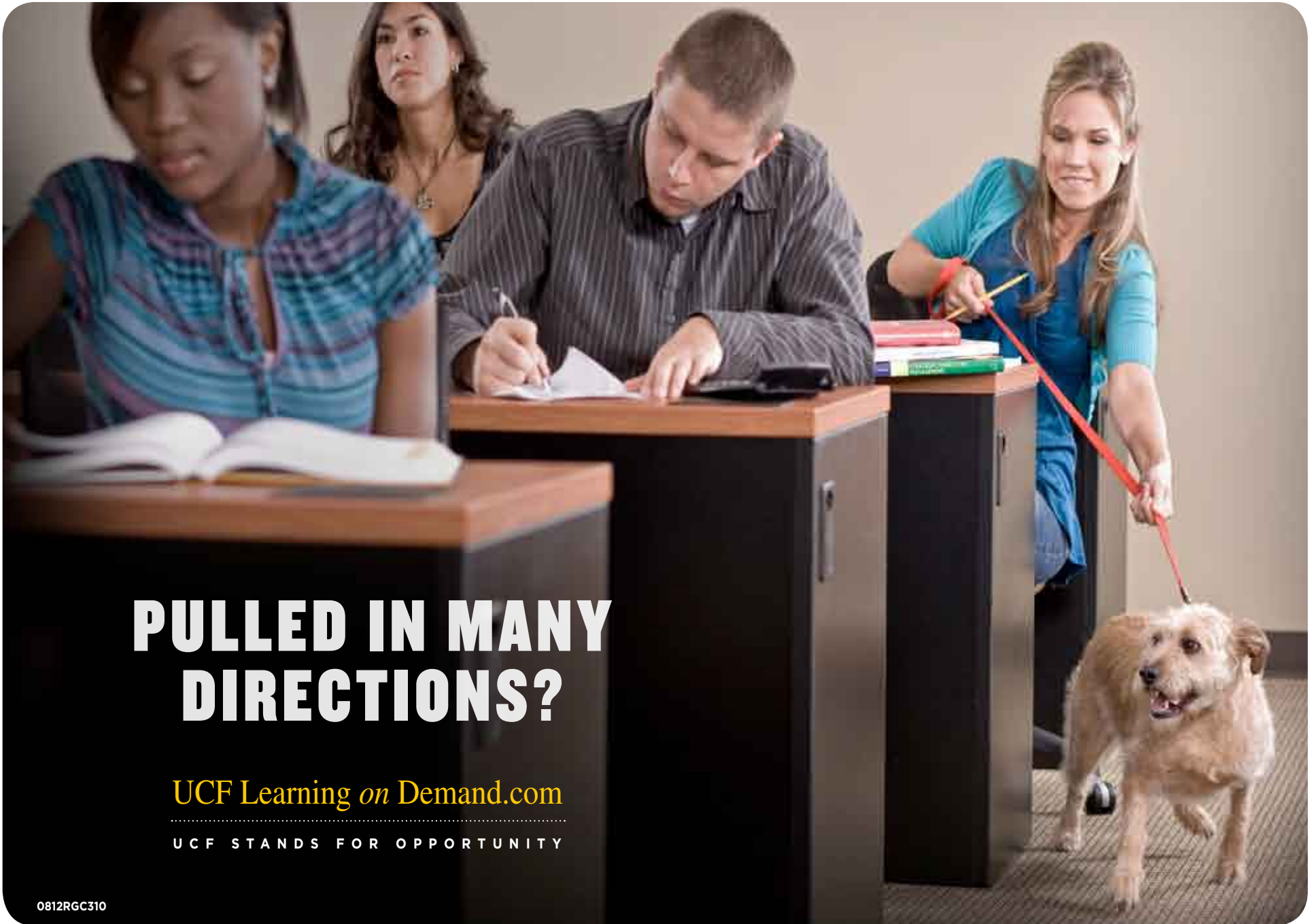
Alston and Magic head coach Stan Van Gundy are no strangers. Alston played for the Heat, under Van Gundy back in the 2003-04 season. "I'm used to Stan, I understand what he wants everyday whether its practice or games," Alston said of playing under Van Gundy again. "We had a great time there my one year there that I did play, it was a great year. It felt like the one year I was there it felt like I was there ten years, that's how much fun we had."

The Magic acquired Alston after they traded away Brian Cook, Adonal Foyle, Mike Wilks, and a future 1st round draft pick in a trade that also involved the Memphis Grizzlies, and Houston Rockets

Alston came to Orlando from Houston where he started 48 of 48 games, and averaged 12 points and five as-

sists per game. Houston and Orlando have at least one thing in common. They both have All-Star centers. Yao Ming of the Rockets was the starting center for the Western All-Stars, and Dwight Howard was the starting center for the Eastern All-Stars and the leading vote getter in fan voting for the All-Star game. "Two great centers, Dwight's more versatile, and a little more athletic, while Yao possess the inside game and he can shoot the pick and roll jump shot. "Two different styles of play but both effective," said Alston.

With a 4-2 record since acquiring Alston, many around the league feel that the Magic are back to the being able to contend for a championship this year. Alston is one of those people saying, "The sky is the limit; I think its all on us. Everyday we got to come with the focus and the mentality that we have room for improvement and that we can improve and get better each practice and each game."



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2008-2009 Statistics

Points - 11.4

Rebounds - 2.9

Assists - 5.4

Player Bio

Born - July 24, 1976

Height - 6'2"

Weight - 175 lbs.

College - Fresno St.

Years Pro - 9

Donovan's job is safe for now

UF coach gets job securiy

By Mike Bianchi
The Orlando Sentinel

GAINESVILLE, Fla. — Lay off Billy Donovan, will ya?

You, me, everybody. Stop saying he's lost his mojo. Stop saying he left his coaching magic with the Orlando Magic. Stop saying Donovan and not UConn's Jim Calhoun is the one who should be giving back a portion of his salary. Doesn't matter that Donovan's Florida Gators dropped a crucial game to Tennessee on Sunday. Doesn't matter that the 79-75 loss was the seventh defeat to the Vols in the last eight games. Doesn't matter that the loss might keep Florida out of the NCAA Tournament for a second consecutive year. You want to know why it doesn't matter? Two national titles, that's why.

Those back-to-back national championships Donovan won two years ago give him more job security than Tennessee Coach Bruce Pearl's tailor.

If Donovan were coaching at Kentucky, I'd say the statute of limitations on two national championships would be, oh, about six years. But for a coach in the state of Florida who has won two basketball national titles, the term limit is at least two decades.

For you long-time Southerners, let me put it in political terms for you: Remember George Wallace, the long-



Florida head coach Billy Donovan speaks to his team during the UMKC at University of Florida NCAA basketball game at Amway Arena in Orlando, Florida, on Sunday, November 30, 2008.

entrenched governor of Alabama? When he reached his term limit, Wallace ran wife Lurleen in his place and she won in a landslide. Florida Athletic Director Jeremy Foley should put a similar clause in Donovan's contract: When Billy doesn't want to coach anymore, the job is legally passed on to wife Christine.

OK, now that we've established Donovan's job security, let me say this: It's still shocking to see a Florida team that was once so big and fast get athletically dominated by Tennessee. Repeatedly after the game, Donovan kept mentioning his team's "athletic deficiencies." And away from the masses in an empty hallway of the O'Connell Center, he even candidly admitted he knew his program was in for a challenge-

ing couple of seasons after the entire starting lineup (and the sixth man) left following the second national championship.

Why do you think Donovan took the Orlando Magic job, albeit for only a couple of days? "One of the things I went through in my head with all that Orlando stuff is I knew what I was going to be facing here," Donovan admits. "I knew where we were at and that it was going to take some time to get us back."

Don't misunderstand, it's not like the Gators (21-8, 8-6 in the SEC) are awful.

If they can win their last two SEC games (at Mississippi State and at home against Kentucky), they still

have a decent chance to get into the NCAA Tournament.

The problem is everyone became spoiled by Donovan's dominance.

The Gators made the NCAA Tournament for nine straight years until last season, a run that was culminated by those back-to-back national championships. Every program, even the storied ones like North Carolina, UConn, Indiana and Duke, has had some lulls in its success.

"I think a lot of people have set the expectations based on two years ago," Donovan said recently. "These guys are a different group of guys. They've been thrust into a situation, to be quite honest, that really has been unfair."

Even a novice basketball observer can see Donovan has not recruited as well as he has in the past. His team has little inside presence offensively or defensively.

Even more perplexing is that the Gators' lack of size is compounded by a surprising lack of quickness. It's like old Tampa Bay Bucs coach John McKay once said about a former Bucs quarterback named Steve Spurrier: "His speed is deceptive. He's slower than he looks."

"We need to do a better job of recruiting," Donovan says. "We haven't been able to keep up with the guys who have left the program. Whether it's losing out on guys we wanted or not filling our needs accordingly, we have to address it as a staff."

He already has, evidenced by the fact that Donovan has another top recruiting class coming in next season. Anybody familiar with how hard he works and how well he recruits knows it's only a matter of time before Donovan returns Florida's program to prominence. And even if he doesn't, his job is still safe.

For at least the next 20 years.

— MCT Campus

New issues face NCAA players

By Shannon Ryan
Chicago Tribune

Rewind a few weeks, and some of our bubble teams looked like locks for the NCAA Tournament.

Georgetown was ranked No. 11. Michigan had cracked the Top 25. Arizona was sweeping through the Pac-10. Kentucky was ripping up the SEC.

Those teams have tumbled and are trying to soar again before Selection Sunday arrives two weeks from now. Those who find their stride will regain their early-season swagger with an invitation to the big dance.

Here's a look at which bubble teams improved their chances and which ones have work to do:

Helped their cause
Georgetown (15-12, 6-10 Big East)
After reviving that familiar stifling Hoyas defense to defeat No. 10 Villanova in Philly on Saturday, Georgetown still has a pulse.

Michigan (18-11, 8-8 Big Ten)
The Wolverines weren't shy about saying their 87-78 home victory Thursday over No. 16 Purdue might just earn their first tournament appearance in more than a decade.

Florida State (22-7, 9-5 ACC)
Holding off a late rally, the Seminoles completed a season sweep of No. 12 Clemson with Saturday's 73-66 victory. They're going for their first tournament trip in 11 seasons.

Hurt their cause
Arizona (18-11, 8-8 Pac-10)
With an 83-78 loss Saturday at Washington, the Wildcats have dropped three straight after a seven-game winning streak. Victories this week over California and Stanford would improve their re-



Manny Harris hits this shot during Michigan's 87-78 win over Purdue in Ann Arbor, Michigan, on Thursday, February 26, 2009.

sume.

Kentucky (19-9, 8-5 SEC)
Kentucky is playing for its 18th straight tournament trip. The Wildcats have dropped six of their last nine games, including losses at South Carolina on Wednesday and to No. 18 LSU on Saturday.

Siena (22-7, 15-2 MAAC)
If the Saints falter in their conference tournament, their 100-85 collapse Friday against Niagara could come back to haunt them.

— MCT Campus

'Making the Band' reject speaks

Aubrey O' Day tells her side of story

By Kate Aurthur
Los Angeles Times

HOLLYWOOD — When Aubrey O'Day was a child in the Southern California desert city of La Quinta, she was bullied.

The singer-dancer-reality star said she once hid in a dryer in a home economics classroom to escape from kids looking to beat her up.

There was a song, too, that O'Day's tormentors chanted and sang over the middle-school loudspeaker, "Aubrey, Aubrey, Aubrey O'Day / Biggest slut in the USA."

"I felt like I would never be popular. And I would never be liked," O'Day said.

And now?

"Still not liked — but I am popular!"

She's right about that. And on any given day in the blogosphere, the insults hurled at O'Day — who turned 25 last week and is gracing the cover of Playboy magazine's March issue — haven't changed much since the sixth grade.

Using terms of unendearment that, disturbingly, are often a measure of Internet popularity, Perez Hilton regularly calls her a "slut" and a "skank" on his gossip blog.

Over on Dlisted, Michael K has written that she is a "tranny sewer rat" and a "shameless skeezer."

But does anyone know who Aubrey O'Day is? If you don't read those blogs, or their kin, then you may not, despite the fact that, until recently, she was on a semipopular television show (MTV's "Making the Band") and in a successful band (Danity Kane) for several years.

She was recently, and publicly, fired from both. She even appeared on Broadway in "Hairspray" over the summer, playing the part of Amber Von Tussle.

The celebrity blogosphere, however, does not concern itself with group efforts such as ensemble reality series, bands and musical productions.

On the Web, it is individuals who matter, and that is where O'Day has made a solo name for herself — mostly by being photographed in clothes that are provocative or in questionable taste, or both.

On the largely gay male-authored gossip Web sites, she is one of a growing class of citizens who are famous on the Internet.

Michael K said: "Us blogs, we have to write X amount of posts a day, and there are only so many celebrities, so you kind of just

start writing about interesting people."

He continued: "I look at a picture and a character is created. I see a picture of Aubrey, like, on her knees, and a character is born in my head."

Perez Hilton compared O'Day's fame to that of Heidi Montag and Spencer Pratt of "The Hills," who court media attention with every cell in their bodies and are utterly self-aware as they do it.

"And that's one of the reasons why I love her — she's in on the joke and she plays the game," Hilton said. "And it's definitely a game." O'Day's road to fame-ish-ness began in 2005 when Sean "Diddy" Combs turned his attention, as filmed for the "Making the Band" reality series, toward forming a girl group.

At the time — despite a lifelong love of music and performing that had led to O'Day landing in the finals of Ryan Seacrest's "Be a Star" radio contest — she thought she would be law school-bound after graduating from the University of California, Irvine.

But her mother, Kandy Allen, a lawyer, thought otherwise. So when Allen saw Combs on CNN talking about his get-out-the-vote efforts, and he mentioned that he was holding auditions for a new group, she passed the information to her daughter.

After doing well at the audition, O'Day moved to New York to live in an apartment with other young female singers competing for a spot in the band — all in front of cameras, of course.

"I wasn't into the reality show aspect in the beginning; I was into working with Puff," she said of Combs. Whether or not she was into the reality show aspect, it was into her. O'Day proved to be an audience favorite because of her talents (as a dancer, most of all) and her willingness to stand up for herself.

She was a clear choice for Combs' group, which was later named Danity Kane. "I was loved the first season," O'Day said. "The second season, the haters came."

On the Internet, O'Day's public image took on a life of its own. One Web site said she looked like "a dried-up, old leather handbag" because she was "skinny and super-tan."

On another, 200 people said they had had sex with her. "One. I had one boyfriend that I slept with. Lost my virginity in college my junior year," she said.

"I think I was mad at first — then I laughed. The 'whore' comments have only escalated from there."

Regardless of what is true, false or just fun, it is a fact that the gossip blogosphere — and much of celebrity culture — is harder on women than on men. The words "slut" and "whore" are thrown around all day long, often as compliments.

"I use them for everything — I use them when it's good, I use them when it's bad,"



Aubrey O'Day became a public figure on MTV's "Making the Band." Her dog, Ginger, shares the fame.

said Michael K. "It doesn't really mean anything to me."

But in the real world, O'Day's image had consequences for her day job. Combs threw her out of Danity Kane.

In a filmed meeting with the group that aired in an October 2008 episode, he fired her, and said "I don't like her energy, I don't like her style and direction where she's going with it, I don't like what she does to the brand when she's wilding out there being overly raunchy, promiscuous."

In the live season finale the following week, Combs — who declined to comment for this article — said: "I just want to work with the young lady that I signed, not the person that fame has made her."

O'Day seemed unhappy when talking about those events. "I think there was a lot of lies in that season finale," she said. "I think that my character was challenged way too much."

Like when?
"Everybody saying how I've changed, and how I've let fame get to my head. And all these things. It's just all not true."

She added: "My theory on smear pieces is try and win 'em over."

That was in late October, and O'Day had been freshly tossed out of the group, which has since dissolved (as viewers saw when new episodes resumed on Thursday).

In a telephone conversation earlier in February, O'Day said all of her music, TV

and other goals "are still in the works."

Given that, the Playboy spread, with the headline on the cover reading, "Aubrey O'Day Breaks Free of Danity Kane (And Her Clothes)," is the most concrete career move she has made since the fall.

"When I was kicked out and moving on, I got the offer and I got it in my terms," she said. The rumored payout was \$500,000, which neither O'Day nor Playboy would confirm.

Christopher Napolitano, editorial director at Playboy, said O'Day had been on their lists for a while, and once she was out of Danity Kane, which had a large teenage and tween audience, she was free to pose for them.

"I think as she strikes out on her own, this is a great way for her to broaden her audience," he said.

"And when you are in Playboy and you do something like this? Your name just blows up — you blow up. This is the thing we give people." O'Day sounded weary at the mention of the word "fame." "I know that everybody is so obsessed with this idea of fame, and they think that I'm obsessed," she said.

"In all honesty, I'm just doing me. You met me — I wore what I wore, I said what I said, I did what I did. I'm not changing my story months later that we've now caught up again. "People," O'Day said, "will pay attention — or they won't."

— LATWP News Service

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Economic issues extend to modeling

By Robert Samuels
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — The seven young models never used to have this much time for the beach. They'd hop from cell phones to cabs to casting calls, posing and pouting for the catalogs during the height of Miami's modeling season.

Times being what they are, they now soak the sorrow of an industry while lounging on beach towels in bikinis and board shorts, or playing volleyball. This game is informal, for not one but two of the annual local beach volleyball tournaments have been spiked.

"Oh, the economy!" lamented 19-year-old Dani Dwyer, a wispy blond with a flat stomach in a black bikini.

News that the Irene Marie Models agency was shutting its doors in South Beach only served to reaffirm that the nation's economic ugliness had tainted the world of glamour.

Slumps in advertising have slashed revenue for newspapers and magazines, resulting in less work for agencies that book the models. Now, Irene Marie Models, which just two years ago had 850 full-time models, is considering filing for bankruptcy.

For the working models, just like auto workers or bankers, the puncture of the boom times calls for these stunning bodies to lead more grounded lives. Truth be told, the models will admit, life is still pretty sweet.

The new economy means more walking and fewer cabs. Less time with waiters asking whether they prefer spring or tap, more times with a cashier asking whether they want paper or plastic.

"Instead of having a \$40 dinner, I'll get \$100 worth of groceries to last me the week," Dwyer said. "And I'm not buying as much." "I am going shopping less, too!" said 22-year-old Andrea Milner. "I love shopping. This year, I've only gotten three pairs of shoes."

Behind them was the office of Irene Marie Models. From the street, it's easy to miss, particularly because tourists are devouring bacon cheeseburgers and strawberry shakes at the Johnny Rockets hamburger joint below.

The few models still with the agency went through an alleyway to pick up their portfolios and try to find a new agent. Samuel Johnson, a Miami Beach resident who used to work for Irene Marie, headed to the beach to meet up with a group of models from New York, Brazil and Bulgaria.

This world is small and intimate. It is filled with twenty-something angst that could be fodder for TV — in fact, Dwyer has a coming MTV show, "The City," soon — that extends from Miami to Los Angeles to Milan.

Blond with piercing blue eyes and rippling abs, Johnson has taken up catering to off-set costs. "In 2007, it was supposed to be slow, but I was doing great," he said as waves crashed behind him. "This year, I'm broke as a joke."

"When an agency closes, it creates a domino effect and there is more competition not just for agents, but also in retail and restaurants," Johnson said. "Irene Marie was great. I've always been taken care of by the best. But I'll be traveling soon. I'm optimistic things will be fine."

The economic effect can be seen at casting calls — much fewer now — where the models said they expected up to four times as many people trying out. Even more distressing, the department stores will likely take plus-size models, who charge less, to wear their clothing.

"If people are still coming to Miami, they are also cutting their rates," said Eloisa Carvalho, 5 feet 9 inches tall, 115 pounds, radiant black hair tied in a bun, in a flowery bikini. "Now, you just have to really take care of your money, and save it, because sometimes you don't know what is going to happen."

— MCT Campus



Charles Trainor Jr., Miami Herald / MCT Campus
Models, from left, Andrea Milner, Dani Dwyer and Eloisa Carvalho take a break in the South Beach, Florida sand as they ponder reduced demand for their services, February 19, 2009.



Courtesy of <http://www.streetfighter.com>

Street Fighter IV perfects its genre

By Frank Tobin
ftobin@valenciavoice.com

Gamers have a very short-term memory when it comes to older franchises.

In the choice demographic, (ages 13-21) most wouldn't even care to get acclimated to the roots of a particular series.

This lack of knowledge has attributed to developers haphazardly slapping together crap games with wonderfully beautiful graphics, hence erasing the classic adage of videogames: game-play over graphics.

These gamers, the younger of us, have eaten these slap-dash pieces of garbage up like they were Fillet Mignon.

Fortunately for the rest of us, though, Capcom (developer of such classics as "Bionic Commando," "Street Fighter II," and "Contra") has blended both insanely tight gameplay and beautiful graphics to form an amalgamation of 2D gaming, and 3D sensibilities.

"Street Fighter IV" marks the continua-

tion of a franchise that hasn't seen the light of day in close to a decade.

Just in time for (or cleverly scheduled, is more like it) the series' 20th anniversary, 'Fighter IV' arrives with a strong focus on classic game-play, while also sating the legions of graphic-hungry fans whose only knowledge of video games came after the year 1999.

For those in the know, when you play as the character of Ryu, you still roll your thumb from down on the directional pad, counter-clockwise to the right (or left, depending on which way you're facing) of the directional pad, then press the 'punch' button; this will produce the character's trademark fireball, or as the more geeky of us know it as, "HADOKEN!"

Ah, the memories.

Yes, the game-play is still as simple as it's been for 20+ years, and that's not a bad thing whatsoever.

Not much time needs to be spent endlessly praising the game-play mechanics,

suffice it to say, they didn't just transfer the vintage control scheme of yesteryear, but rather strengthened the already burned-in-memory game-play options with counter-focus moves, and super-ultra combos (please mind the geeky phraseology, this is how it's written in the instruction manual).

This is the penultimate iteration for the series; the magnum opus of Capcom.

The core of the 'Fighter' franchise is in its fluid animation, solid game-play, and beautifully rendered graphics (yes, 2D hand-drawn sprites can be beautiful: read it and weep, graphical fan boys).

The characters themselves are jaw-droppingly animated in a hybrid CGI/hand-drawn style which lends itself to the over-the-top fighting atmosphere.

As for the characters, they showcase a wide range of variety; and fans of the series will be pleased to see the returns of old favorites (Ryu, Ken, Chun-li, Blanka, etc.).

The icing on this fluffy cake of nostalgia is the different gameplay modes that keep

you playing well after you've beaten the single-player game.

The standard 'Arcade Mode' and 'Versus Mode' are in full effect, as well as the new 'Challenge Mode,' which allows you to partake in a series of easy-to-medium-to-difficult challenges that test your skills, and help you hone your fighting style for when you attempt to take your game online.

And online is where you'll get your fill. If you're in the older gamers' demographic (ages 21-45), you'll notice you're in the minority online.

That's okay, you'll either show these young whippersnappers a thing or two about old school fighting games, 90s style! Or, you'll eat it faster than you can say "get off my lawn!"

Fun times, indeed.

A little something for everyone, "Street Fighter IV" has what you crave: old school game-play goodness, and new school graphical beauty. This is, officially, gaming nirvana.

'Street Fighter' loses fight

By Frank Tobin
ftobin@valenciavoice.com

The marketing gods would think to smile on this clever gem of timing, what with "Street Fighter IV" coming out on all major videogame platforms and all... but alas, 'tis only a pipe-dream.'

Is there a word worse than "rancid?" Oh yeah, it's every Uwe Boll movie ever made (they should make a separate sub-category just for him: 'Horrible Paradoxical Nonsense').

"Street Fighter: The Legend of Chun-Li" is about a Chinese/American girl who goes from being a gifted concert pianist to Wushu, master and savior of Bangkok Thailand's slums, all within the first 20 minutes. Wow!

And that's basically all you get from a plot that bounces around more than 12 year old on a Pixie-Sticks high.

Seriously, is Hollywood so desperate to release what equates to shovel-ware, that they're now hiring brain-dead pot-smokers to write this stuff?

Humorously enough, the film starts off with a little heart (read: LITTLE heart).

The sweet tunes of a grand piano gently transport us into an ordinary world that is soon going to come crashing down.

And crashing down it does, and not in the good 'bashing your opponents face into the pavement' kind of way, but rather in the bland characters, bad acting, convoluted and totally unbelievable story kind of way.

However, there are some good things about this flick, but 'good' certainly does not mean 'redeemable.'

The cinematography and camera work are great and truly capture the essence of the places the story takes us.

The fight scenes are well-choreographed and well-shot for the most part, which is more than most Hollywood martial arts heavy films can say these days (the insanely hard to follow static-cam of the 'Bourne' films, and Bond's latest foray into an unwelcome action-genre spring to mind imme-

diately).

And that, devoted readers, is where the gravy-train of goodness ends. What follows is a veritable onslaught of over-acting to the point of hilarity, cheap and pointless one-liners, and numerous implausible scenarios that don't have any basis in anything related to reality.

And yes, this is 'Street Fighter' and it's based on a mildly supernatural videogame, but some of the events that occur in this film are so over-the-top they would make Boll himself blush with embarrassment (M. Bison 'delivering' a baby scene... enough said).

The film raises questions that its viewers shouldn't need to ask and then you never get answers to those questions. Chun-Li and Gen are the film's 'strong' points.

Bison is nowhere near as imposing as he should be. And even though his Irish (yes, apparently Bison is Irish) parents died just after he was born, and he was raised on the streets of Bangkok with nothing but Thai people, adult Bison somehow managed to retain a spot-on Irish accent.

Balrog is just plain hokey. Vega (who's supposed to be a Spaniard, but certainly isn't... unless the slightest hint of a southern accent qualifies as 'Spanish') is, well he just is.

His character is neither cool nor threatening and not even as arrogant as he's supposed to be.

The characters of Nash and Detective Sunee are totally forgettable and as a matter-of-fact totally unbelievable as well.

No decent high-ranking detective, like Sunee claims to be, walks around as scantily clad as she does when she's at work (tweener school boys will get their fill though, and in the end, isn't that all that matters?)

Ranting and raving aside, simply put: just say 'no' to this travesty.

Because the more people pay to see this trite, the more said trite will eat away at the honorable institution of American cinema (sic).

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What are your plans for spring break?

Make your Spring Break safe

By Omshante Lee
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Everyone knows that spring break is a time for fun with friends. With sun filled beach days and party filled late nights, young adults everywhere take advantage of this short vacation to visit popular locations. With tourists flooding hot spots like Miami Beach, and even Cancun the cities' population temporarily grows, and locals are forced to tolerate the rowdy college goers for the time being.

From the many people that participate in spring break inspired events, it is obvious that this time provides much needed relief from school and all the stress that comes with it. Other than graduation, spring break is possibly the most anticipated event in a student's college life. However, did you know that it can also become the most dangerous?

Every year, thousands of individuals participate in high risk activities, that may result in regrets, accidents, and even death. From road trips gone wrong to unprotected sex, the fatal behavior exhibited by young adults seem to increase due to peer pressure and added opportunities for mischief. According to goflorida.about.com, 75% of males and 43.6% of women admit that they were under the influence every single day during spring break.

"I'm going to Daytona this year. I would advise people not to drink and drive. I have two sisters who were hit by drunk drivers. They were fine but its just something that you can avoid," says Danielle Lipschutz, a General Education major. So this year, take extra precaution during your spring break activities. If staying in a hotel, be sure to lock the doors. Never travel alone, and most importantly, if you chose to drink, drink responsibly. Surpassing your limit can cause alcohol poisoning, in addition to impairing all judgement in other areas.



"Nothing, I have home-work. My teachers are crazy."
—**Jessica Cross**



"My plans are going to the beach and staying in a hotel with my friends."
—**Will Tarver**



"I don't know yet."
—**Albert Gandikal**



"I'm going with my buddy to Daytona beach."
—**Kiana Baldwin**



"Me and my boyfriend are going to Ohio to Six Flags."
—**May Jacques**



"My plans are to party, party."
—**Brad Snyder**



"I have plans for my next Spring break. I plan on going to Canada."
—**Kristin Hanson**



"I don't have any plans."
—**Sydney Charles**

Emiliana White / Valencia Voice



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