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Marcelo Alves, center, an outside contractor at Valencia Community College, was arrested March 17 on charges of battery and kidnapping after investigators say he attacked a 20-year-old woman the night before.

VCC contractor arrested

SunGard computer specialist behind bars, suspected in attack on 20-year-old woman

By Theresa Carli
tcarli@valenciavoice.com

An online-dating rendezvous went very wrong when a 20-year old woman claimed she was attacked March 16 by a Valencia Community College contractor she met through chatting on Yahoo! Messenger.

The suspect in the attack is Marcelo Alves, 38, who was arrested the next day in the parking lot at Valencia's West campus and is being held, without bail, on three counts of aggravated sexual battery and one count each of aggravated battery and kidnapping.

Alves was employed by SunGard Higher Education, a firm out of Pennsylvania that does information technology work for colleges.

Valencia's vice president of media relations, Christian Campagnuolo, confirmed that Alves worked at the college for two years, and most recently had a work space with a computer in room 234 of the Student Services Building.

He has since been banned from Valencia property. Alves reportedly worked on technical aspects of Valencia's Web site.

The suspect did confess to the crime, according to Orange County Sheriff spokesman

Sgt. Rich Mankewich. Alves is waiting for a lawyer to be assigned to him from the Public Defender's office.

The Valencia Voice made two requests to interview Alves, but he denied both.

Alves, a citizen of Brazil, is married with two children.

He has no criminal record, however, Mankewich told the Orlando Sentinel, "It would be a little strange for him, on the first time, to pull this off."

Due to the planning of the attack, Mankewich said he would not be surprised if the suspect had tried to lure other women before.

The Sheriff's spokesperson, and supporting written reports, outlined the following details claimed by the alleged victim:

- After two weeks of online and telephone communication, the attacker lured the woman to a vacant, lake-front mansion that is still under development in the Dr. Phillips area.

- The attacker led the woman to believe she was meeting a young, blond-haired, blue-eyed man named Mark Garcia at his home for dinner at 9301 Kilgore Road.

Upon arrival at the house at 8:30 p.m.,

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Valencia uses 'large number' of outsiders

By Cassie Weinz
cwein@valenciavoice.com

It should come as no surprise that Valencia Community College has many independent contractors working in many different job functions on its campuses.

Now, by no means necessary, should this be frowned upon.

Keith Houck, the vice president of administration for Valencia says, "We utilize a large number of independent contractors to provide a broad variety of functions for the college."

One of those contract workers, Marcelo Alves — who was employed by SunGard Higher Education as an information technology specialist — was arrested on West campus last week, suspected in an attack on a 20-year-old woman (who reportedly is not a Valencia student).

When asked what contractors Valencia is affiliated with, Houck said, "Examples include: construction companies, food service providers, bookstore buyback, technology support.

"We do not have the resources to hire college employees to perform all of these functions."

Do you ever walk around on campus and see a group of workers with whom you are not familiar? Odds are that they work for an independent contractor and not the college.

Valencia specifically works with a number of independent contractors who walk across our campuses everyday.

But how do you know if you can trust the employees that independent contractors send over?

How do you know if the type of background checks they perform are good enough? It is simple, really--you can't.

One of Valencia's outside contractors is a company called SunGard Higher Education. SunGard is one of the world's

top companies, leading the way in IT and software services.

This company serves more than 25,000 customers in more than 70 countries and is made up of 20,000 employees in over 200 cities and 30 countries, according to the company.

SunGard is made up of four businesses: Availability Services, Financial Systems, Higher Education, and Public Sector.

All four branches provide businesses with IT services, software, and processing solutions.

Formed in 1982, SunGard was created as a spin-off to the Sun Oil Company.

In 1986, SunGard went public, but then switched back to a private company in August 2005, due to a leveraged buyout valued at \$11.4 billion.

Since 1986, SunGard has completed more than 160 acquisitions which allows them to offer the best technology solutions

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Anonymity for rape victims

Florida law prohibits use of identities

By Alex Barrett
abarrett@valenciavoice.com

It seems that every time a rape crime, or supposed sexual battery incident occurs, there is always one missing piece of information that no one can identify — the victim’s name.

You may think that the names are just lost in translation, or kept from the public, but the truth is, there is no law that prohibits the release of information pertaining to the supposed victims name outside of two states, Florida and South Carolina.

In these states, the law prohibits the publication of rape victims’ names and the con-

stitutionality of those statutes is uncertain.

The Supreme Court is considering the Florida statute this term in light of a 1974 high court ruling that struck down a similar Georgia law, stating it was alright to print the names of victims in a manner that is not derogatory in any way.

In states outside of Florida and South Carolina, the names of victims aren’t printed either, but for a different reason.

Simply put, to be respectful to those who have been violated.

Orlando lawyer Emma Ubanks has had some background in criminal trials and admits the law is kind of shaded when it comes to rape crimes.

“The real law says that no names should be divulged, either the name of the alleged victim, nor the name of the alleged assaulter,” Ubanks said.

“The name is normally retained by the authorities or by the council that is representing the victim, and subsequently withheld from the media print due largely out of respect for

the parties involved. They really don’t need any more stress, much less seeing the media and other people making assumptions about their already trying situation.”

Ubanks added, “rape crimes are still, for some reason, one of the primary crimes where people continue to lay blame on the victim, sometimes more than the person who committed the crime.”

Ubanks is one of many attorneys in the state seeking to have this law used in a proper way to defend not only the victims, but all parties involved.

“Take the Kobe (Bryant) case, here we see an individual accused of rape, and he was found to be innocent of the crime. Having his name in the media everywhere cost him sponsorship contracts, and he gained negative feedback from many people over something he was found to be not guilty of, while the woman involved recieved virtual anonymity. That just isn’t fair, and it can work both ways in these instances.”

All the while, many believe that names

should be completely confidential, the only parties that should have knowledge of the people involved should be them, immediate family, and whatever authorities have been assigned to the matter.

Still more people feel it aids in what has most likely been a traumatic experience to an individual.

Rape is considered one of the more heinous crimes that can be committed, and many individuals don’t see anything that can be gained by causing random media and other walks of life to come knocking on a victims door for whatever reason.

“It takes alot of strength to work through something as serious as rape, for both parties. People that are involved have a right to be protected from further harm or damages that may be brought on by individuals looking for a scoop, or a paycheck,” said Ubanks.

“In almost all cases, they just want to be left alone. People should respect that request.”

Safety tips to use in online dating

By Leah Reidenbach
lreidenbach@valenciavoice.com

Online dating is a new trend that has the overwhelming potential to be very dangerous to young women and men.

But it doesn’t have to be that way. There are many precautions that you should take before you meet someone from the Internet in person.

When you first start talking to someone you have met online, do not share any personal information such as your whole name, phone number, IM name, or email address until you feel comfortable doing so. If the

person you meet shares this information with you, it does not oblige you to share it as well.

Online dating Web sites, such as Match.com, provides users with what is called a “double blind” system which keeps the users’ information hidden, but still usable by someone who might want to contact the user.

For instance, you can receive a phone call from another user without giving away your actual phone number. When you do decide to meet someone offline, take as many precautions as you can and always follow your gut; if something doesn’t feel right, it probably isn’t.

Make sure you tell a close friend or family member where you are going and when you

are expected to come back; if possible, stay in contact with this person throughout the date to keep them updated.

The first time you meet someone offline, do it in public; never go to a residence or a hotel. On the first date, you should not give in to the temptation to go to your date’s home afterwards, keep things public for a while until you are sure of the other person’s intentions.

During the date you should not drink alcohol. This can impair your decision-making ability and could result in you doing something that you might regret later.

Also make sure that you don’t leave your personal belongings unattended; this includes your purse, wallet, or even your drink. If you happen to leave your drink unattended, order a new one.

Even if online dating isn’t for you, you should still be wary of the information you put on public Web sites such as Myspace or Facebook. When using networking sites such as these, keep your friends list limited to people that you actually know.

Remember, any information you post in “bulletins” can be seen by everyone on your

friends list. Keep your profile private and never put information on it such as where you go to school or where you work.

Also go through your pictures to make sure they don’t reveal personal info, such as a sports team you are on, your car or where you live.

Another measure you can take to protect yourself from online stalkers is to Google yourself. There may be unwanted information about you online that you weren’t even aware of. Search for your full name, screen names, phone number, and your address.

If you do find information on the Internet that could reveal your identity, contact the owner of the Web site to have it removed.

Staying safe on the internet can be done if you take the necessary steps. The internet opens many doors to sexual predators, but if you keep your personal information private, it makes you much less vulnerable to online stalkers.

The more information you put online about yourself, the easier it is for online stalkers to find you, making you a target for unwanted situations.

VCC contractor arrested

Continued from Cover

the woman noticed a dark-colored sedan parked on one side of the driveway.

She then drove to the rear of the house and parked between two garages as the attacker instructed her.

According to the Orange County Sheriff deputies’ report, the victim then exited her vehicle and was attacked from behind.

The masked attacker allegedly tackled her to the ground, placed a large knife at her throat, and told her to shut up.

He then picked her up and walked her to the rear of her vehicle where she claims he sexually assaulted her.

Thirty minutes later, the assailant left, and the victim called her friend, crying. The victim’s friend had been on the phone with her earlier and heard her scream during the attack before the line went dead.

When her friend called back and re-

ceived no answer, she proceeded to call the suspect’s number that the victim had given her.

She called and asked for Mark Garcia, but the man who picked up the phone denied knowing anyone by that name.

After the attack, the alleged victim drove to her friend’s house in Polk County and called the police from South Baptist Hospital in Plant City, in Hillsborough County, around midnight.

Because the incident happened in unincorporated Orange County, the Plant City police instructed her to return to Orlando and call authorities there.

She and her friend then drove back to Orlando, contacted the police, and met them at the McDonald’s on Sand Lake Road and International Drive where the victim’s car was searched by forensics technicians.

5 SunGard employees still working at Valencia

Continued from Cover

possible to the businesses they serve.


According to information given by Houck, Valencia has been working with SunGard for 11 years now.

“The initial selection process was done back in 1998 and included a number of people,” Houck said. “Since I have only been in my role with Valencia for a little

over five years, I don’t know who was involved in the process.”

Valencia’s contract with SunGard was renewed in 2005 and will expire in 2010.

Christian Campagnuolo, VCC’s vice president of marketing and media relations, told the Valencia Voice that Alves was one of six SunGard employees doing work for the college at various locations.




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Alleged crime timeline

Over a span of more than four hours after the crime allegedly occurred, the 20-year-old victim traveled more than 100 miles before she was able to file a police report.

Marcelo Alves' home

1



Marcelo Alves' home at 9197 Wickham Way Road is a 4-minute drive from the scene of the alleged crime.
Alves' home 1.7 miles from crime scene.

Scene of reported attack

2



8:30 - 9:00 p.m. — Monday, March 16
Alves allegedly attacks 20-year-old woman at uninhabited home on 9301 Kilgore Road.

Hospital, Plant City

3



Approximately midnight — Tuesday, March 17
Alleged victim meets up with friend(s); the group travels to the South Florida Baptist Hospital in Plant City — a facility that does not perform rape examinations. The alleged victim is told to travel back to Orlando to report the crime.
Alleged victim travels 53.9 miles from crime scene.

McDonald's, Sand Lake Road

4

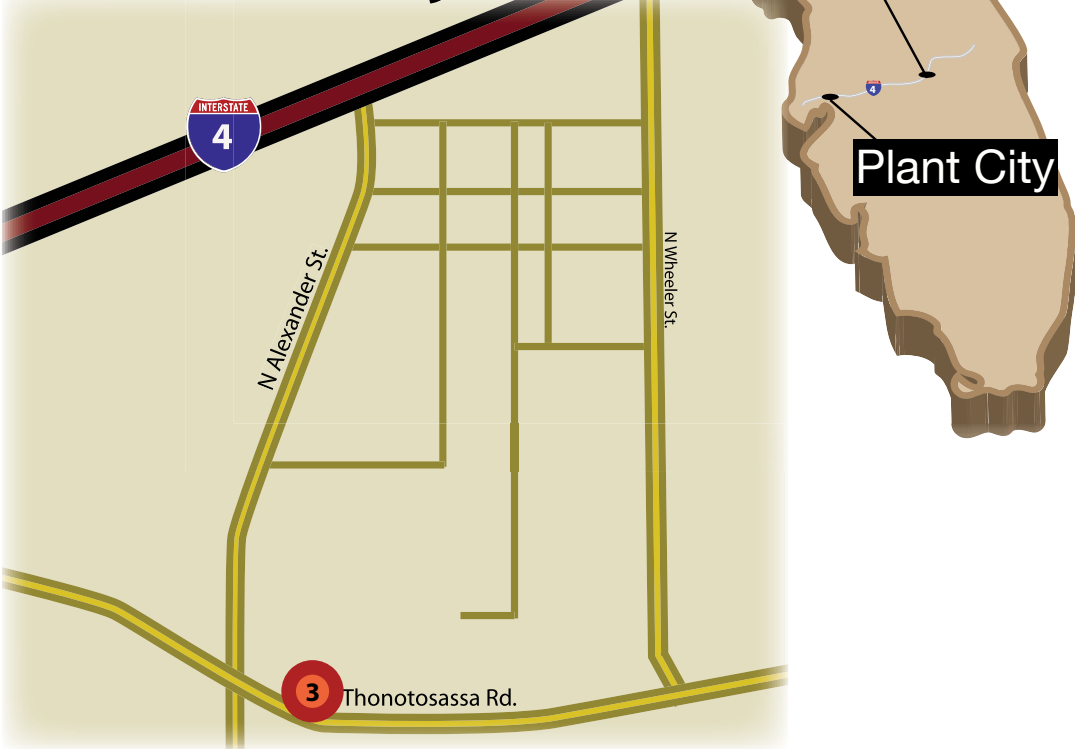


1:28 a.m. — Tuesday, March 17
Orange County Sheriffs respond to the McDonald's on Sand Lake Road near I-Drive in Orlando, where the alleged victim and her friends report the crime.
Alleged victim travels 54.29 miles from Plant City.

Orlando



Plant City



Arrest made at VCC



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4:00-4:30 p.m. — Tuesday, March 17
Orange County Sheriff's deputies arrive at Valencia Community College's West Campus and arrest Marcelo Alves, who is suspected of committing the crime.

Photos 1-2, 4 by Olivia Pullinger. Photo 3 and map illustration by Robert Navaille.

Emotional statements open Craigslist murder trial

By Abby Simons
Star Tribune (Minneapolis)

MINNEAPOLIS — Until the fall of 2007, Michael John Anderson, a socially awkward alternative high-school dropout, used Craigslist mostly to buy and sell truck parts.

But then the teenager who could barely talk to members of the opposite sex suddenly turned to the classified ad Web site to lure unsuspecting women to his home.

He posted at least a dozen ads, some seeking “sexy-voiced women and models,” others actresses and babysitters. In late October, he posted an ad purported to be from someone named Amy in search of a “sitter” for a 5-year-old girl.

Katherine Ann Olson responded, and showed up to the home in Savage, Minn., on Oct. 25. The next day she was found dead, stowed in the trunk of her own car.

Anderson’s desire for sex was what ultimately led to the accidental shooting of Olson, his defense attorney, Alan Margoles, argued Monday, revealing for the first time a possible motive behind the killing during opening statements at Anderson’s first-degree murder trial.

“Remember, Michael Anderson was 19, a dumb kid,” Margoles said. “He had no girl-

friend ever, he never dated, never went to a high school dance, never held a girl’s hand. The evidence will show this guy was too scared of unattached girls to even open his mouth around them.”

Anderson’s social awkwardness led to the online ads, Margoles said, adding that Anderson lured Olson to the home he shared with his parents “for sex or some odd consequence of romance.”

Prosecutors say Anderson lured Olson, 24, to the home with intent to kill, shot her in the back and hid her body in the trunk of her car, which later was found in a Burnsville, Minn., park. There was no evidence of sexual assault.

Assistant Scott County Attorney Michael Groh used a slideshow to detail the events leading up to the discovery of Olson’s body, including how she likely bled to death, alone, wrapped in a sleeping bag in the trunk of her own car. She may have taken up to 20 minutes to bleed to death, Groh said.

“Katherine had undone one of her pearls and clasped it between her fingers before she died,” he said.

Anderson, who traded in his green jail jumpsuit for a suit, sat quietly while the jury of eight men and seven women viewed photos of the victim. One showed a smiling Olson, holding one of the children she bab-

ysat; another photo showed her body as it was discovered. Some members of Olson’s family wiped their eyes.

Margoles never disputed that Anderson shot Olson, but argued that his motives for doing so did not involve thrill-killing, as prosecutors have asserted.

The blatant evidence of Anderson’s guilt, his attorney said — including stuffing a blood-soaked towel with his own name on it in a garbage can and the electronic evidence linking him to the online ads, show the opposite of premeditation, Margoles said.

“The evidence will show what an 8-year-old would do if he broke a cookie jar,” Margoles said. “It will show sexual intent, but not murder.”

But Groh said Anderson’s actions after the killing showed complete lack of remorse — if not pride for his actions. When a friend asked why Anderson didn’t just plead insanity, Anderson responded, “Because I’d have to pretend I’m sorry,” Groh said. “Then he smiled.”

In pretrial hearings, the defense revealed that its psychiatrists diagnosed Anderson with Asperger’s syndrome, a mild form of autism sometimes characterized by clumsiness and eccentric speech and behavior. The defense argued that the disorder would help explain Anderson’s behavior, while the pros-

ecution argued that the claim amounted to a diminished-capacity defense.

District Judge Mary Theisen ruled before the trial began that the defense’s argument was insufficient to show that the disorder had anything to do with Olson’s death.

Two of 57 potential witnesses took the stand in the first day of the anticipated three-week trial.

One of them was Savage police officer Joseph Suel, who was among the authorities who found Olson’s purse in a trash can at Warren Butler Park in Savage and later found her body.

Olson’s mother, Nancy Olson of Cottage Grove, Minn., also discussed the last time she saw her daughter alive. She was singing in the church choir at Richfield Lutheran Church, where her father, Rolf Olson, is the pastor.

Over the next few days, the panicked search for a daughter she described as “like trying to describe a cloud” ended in tragedy.

Chief Deputy Scott County Attorney Ron Hocevar then asked Nancy Olson when she saw her daughter after that.

“In a casket at Morris Nilsen funeral home,” she said. “Cold and smelling of chemicals.”

Testimony will resume Tuesday morning.
—MCT Campus

Rapes in Kansas college towns prompts warning

By Laura Bauer
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY — Rapes of 13 college-age women in Lawrence and Manhattan, Kan., appear to have been committed by the same man, Kansas authorities acknowledged

Wednesday.

“At this point we feel there are definitely enough similarities that we need to tell people about the threat, that someone is out there,” said Ashley Anstaett, at the Kansas attorney general’s office.

“In the interest of public safety, we need

to share this information.”

The warning came days before spring break, significant because the rapes have largely occurred when classes are out and fewer people are about in the college towns.

All of the attacks occurred off the campuses of the University of Kansas and Kansas State University.

Manhattan has investigated seven rapes since 2001 - plus one attempted rape the year before - and Lawrence has had six victims since 2004.

Until now, those police departments declined to connect the two series of sex crimes.

While descriptions of the rapist and how most of the attacks were carried out often presented similarities, investigators had refused to say they were looking for the same man.

Wednesday, however, Kansas Attorney General Steve Six said the crimes appear to be linked.

Two of the rapes occurred in March: just last year in Lawrence and in 2002 in Manhat-

tan.

The most recent attack attributed to the serial rapist was in December, when a KU student was attacked in her home.

Police agencies say they want women to take precautions.

“Anytime there is a school break approaching, you want to increase awareness,” said Capt. Tim Hegarty of the Riley County police department, which covers Manhattan.

At some point this year, police in the two jurisdictions requested the help of the attorney general’s office in helping coordinate the multi-jurisdictional effort.

Six has provided an investigator from his office and help from the Kansas Bureau of Investigation and has given officers authority to work across their jurisdictions.

“It’s pretty intensive right now,” Anstaett said. “And we are making progress,” Hegarty said.

Lawrence Police Sgt. Bill Cory referred all questions to the attorney general’s office.
—MCT Campus

Sexual case labels defined

By Jessica Frelow
jfrelow@valenciavoice.com

With the astounding rate of sexual offenses occurring in the Orlando area there are a few factors distinguishing these crimes from one another.

Sexual crimes that an individual can be charged with include: sexual battery, child sexual abuse, sexual assault, martial rape, lewd acts, and sexual harassment.

According to the Florida Department of Law Enforcement, a sexual offense is reported every forty-two minutes. In 2007 alone, 1,021 sexual crimes were reported.

Legally speaking rape isn’t the same as sexual battery.

Sexual battery doesn’t include sexual intercourse; only groping, touching, and rubbing. Sexual assault is commonly known as rape and is only characterized as sexual intercourse.

A sexual predator is defined as an individual who is convicted of a sex offense involving a minor, while a sexual offender is an individual who is convicted of a first or two-second degree felony crimes.

Based on the severity of the crime, pun-

ishments vary.

If charged with a misdemeanor sex crime a sentence will include jail time or probation, a fine, and community service.

Felony offenses, however, are punishable by prison terms and a permanent spot on the sex offender registry.

In 1997 Florida was the first state to list sexual predators and sex offenders on the Internet through the Public Safety Information Act.

Through this act someone who is classified as a sex offender or a sexual predator they are legally obligated register with the state, making their address public information.

Sexual predators and offenders are in Orlando’s local areas and have surfaced in a variety of cases in the recent months.

Awareness and protection is an essential in trying to prevent these atrocious crimes from happening.

To aid in protection of yourself and loved one’s, knowing is the best preventative tool.

To obtain the sex offender and predators list for your neighborhood log on to: <http://offender.fdle.state.fl.us/offender/homepage.do>



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Deaths of officers shake California city

By Maria L. La Ganga, Peter H. King
Los Angeles Times

OAKLAND, Calif. — It was early Saturday afternoon, and Curtis Mixon was talking with his 26-year-old nephew.

Lovelle Shawn Mixon had called on a cell phone from his newly purchased 1995 Buick as he drove through east Oakland.

“Vel said the police was pulling him over,” the 38-year-old medical records clerk recalled Sunday. “He said, ‘I just pulled over.’”

The uncle listened as his nephew — stopped less than two blocks from a police station and around the corner from his sister’s apartment — spoke with a motorcycle officer and searched for his driver’s license and registration.

Mixon told his uncle he would have to call him back.

He never did.

What followed was an almost inexplic-

able chain of events that left Lovelle Mixon and four Oakland police officers dead, and sent this city into an all-too-familiar ritual of municipal grief and self-examination.

According to authorities and witnesses, Mixon opened fire as two motorcycle officers stood behind his car, apparently checking his papers.

He had been released from prison last in November and was wanted for a parole violation.

Sgt. Mark Dunakin, 40, died despite a citizen’s efforts to revive him.

Officer John Hege, 41, was taken to Highland Hospital, where he was declared brain-dead Sunday.

While police swarmed the neighborhood, Mixon escaped around the corner in a residential neighborhood of bungalows, many with pit bulls fenced in the front yard.

He shook on the locked back door of

one house, startling the young girl inside, and then ducked into the ground floor of his sister’s apartment building.

Inside, 16-year-old Reynete Mixon was unaware that her brother had returned.

In an interview, she said she was in the bathroom when a SWAT team kicked down the door after a two-hour manhunt.

“I was yelling at them that I was in the house,” Reynete said Sunday afternoon in front of her grandmother’s modest Oakland home not far from where the shootings occurred.

“They didn’t really try to figure out who I was or if there was someone inside the house.”

Across the hall, neighbor Mya Moore heard a crash on a door and a young girl shout “stop, wait.” Then came an explosion and bursts of gunfire.

Peeking through her front window, the 27-year-old Oakland native saw one police officer, his head split open by gunfire, be-

ing dragged by officers through the building’s main door to the sidewalk.

Another was carried out to a police SUV and rushed away.

Ervin Romans, 43, and Daniel Sakai, 35, both sergeants and SWAT team members, did not survive, and as the gunfire subsided Moore could hear the agonized cries of officers as they absorbed the toll of a brief but furious gun battle: “I heard one of them saying, ‘It’s not looking good. It’s not looking good.’”

Moore could hear other officers shouting commands to Mixon’s sister.

She said there had been “a lot” of shooting “on both sides, from him and from them.” Oakland Police Department spokesman Jeff Thomason said Mixon was armed with an “assault weapon” in the apartment shootout.

He would not say what kind of weapon was used in the earlier shooting.

—LATWP News Service

Drug cartels smuggle people across border

WASHINGTON — Mexican drug cartels and their vast network of associates have branched out from their traditional business of narcotics trafficking and are now playing a central role in the multibillion-dollar-a-year business of illegal immigrant smuggling, U.S. law-enforcement officials and other experts say.

The business of smuggling humans across the Mexican border has always been

brisk, with many thousands coming across every year. But smugglers affiliated with the drug cartels have taken the enterprise to a new level — and made it more violent — by commandeering much of the operation from beginning to end from independent coyotes, according to these officials and recent congressional testimony.

U.S. efforts to stop the cartels have been stymied by a shortage of money and the fail-

ure of federal law-enforcement agencies to collaborate effectively with each other, their local and state counterparts and the Mexican government, officials say.

For many years, U.S. authorities have focused efforts on the cartels’ trafficking of cocaine, marijuana, heroin and methamphetamines, which has left a trail of violence and corruption in its wake.

Unlike the drug-trafficking problem, the cartels’ involvement in human smuggling has received scant attention in Washington.

The cartels often further exploit illegal immigrants by forcing them into economic bondage or prostitution, U.S. officials say. In recent years, illegal immigrants have been forced to pay even more exorbitant fees for being smuggled into the U.S. by the cartels’ well-coordinated networks of transportation, communications, logistics and financial

operatives, according to officials.

Many more illegal immigrants are raped, killed or physically and emotionally scarred along the way, authorities say. Organized smuggling groups are stealing entire safe houses from rivals or trucks full of “chickens” — their term for their human cargo — so they can resell them or exploit them further, according to these officials and documents.

Rep. Loretta Sanchez, D-Calif., said greed and opportunity has prompted the cartels to move into illegal immigrant smuggling.

“Drugs are only sold once,” Sanchez, the chairwoman of the House Homeland Security border subcommittee, said in an interview. “But people can be sold over and over. And they use these people over and over until they are too broken to be used anymore.”

—MCT Campus

Controversial pill to be reconsidered for minors

By John Riley
Newsday

MELVILLE, N.Y. — A Brooklyn federal judge on Monday gave the U.S. Food and Drug Administration 30 days to begin allowing minors who don’t have a prescription to buy Plan B, the morning-after pill that was the subject of intense political battles during the Bush administration.

Judge Edward Korman ruled that the FDA, which has restricted over-the-counter access to the emergency birth-control drug to women 18 and older, must begin allowing 17-year-olds to buy it, and must also reconsider its ban on nonprescription sales to minors as young as 11.

In a blistering 52-page decision, Korman found that under the Bush administration, FDA restrictions on the drug had been influenced by conservative ideology and involved “political considerations, delays and implausible justifications,” rather than being grounded in science and “reasoned decision-making.”

“The record is clear that the FDA’s course of conduct regarding Plan B departed in significant ways from the agency’s normal procedures regarding similar applications to switch a drug product from prescription to nonprescription use,” he wrote.

Plan B advocates had already been looking forward to a more favorable climate at the FDA under President Barack Obama, who called for the separation of science and politics when he lifted Bush-era restrictions on stem-cell research a few weeks ago, and they lauded Korman’s decision as an important advance.

“Today’s ruling is a tremendous victory for all Americans who expect the government to safeguard public health,” said Nancy Northup, head of the Center for Reproductive Rights, which brought the suit. “The message is clear — the FDA should put medical science first and leave politics at the lab door. We are encouraged that the agency, now under new leadership, will take that message to heart.”

But the New York State Catholic Conference, which opposes all over-the-counter sales of Plan B, said making it easily available to younger women could open the door to its overuse as a primary method of birth control, with potential medical risks.

“It’s a scary situation when a judge who is not a doctor can overrule the FDA on the proper age when someone can take a medication,” said conference spokesman Dennis Poust. “It’s completely inappropriate.”

Because the drug needs to be taken quickly to be effective, proponents pushed for over-the-counter approval.

Despite studies and a scientific consensus that it could be safe and effective without a prescription, Korman found that over-the-counter approval for adults over 18 was delayed until 2006 amid evidence of “pressure emanating from the White House” and “departures from normal procedures.”

He said there was no evidence at all that Plan B would be safer for 18-year-olds than 17-year-olds.

For younger women, he said he thought it was better for the FDA — under new leadership — to make a medical decision than a federal judge.

—MCT Campus

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Brazilian art fills Valencia

By Kyle Beard
kbeard@valenciavoice.com

An explosion of color filled the lobby in Osceola campus' auditorium where dozens of Valencia students gathered to admire the paintings of renowned Brazilian artist Clóvis Júnior.

A native of Paraíba, Brazil and a resident of the city of João Pessoa, Júnior showcased over 20 of his favorite paintings on Friday, March 20.

Júnior's paintings represent a unique style that combines both beauty and message. Delving from themes such as the rich folklore of Brazil, nature itself and his own faith, Júnior uses his craft as a method to send a message.

"I want to help man reapproximate himself with nature," Júnior said while explaining the theme of his artwork. "Some people are afraid to even put their bare feet in the sand. This is absurd!"

To Júnior, the message he sends is nearly as important as the artwork itself.

Júnior's status as a renowned international painter was first recognized when in 1993, he entered a painting titled "Our Future in Drugs" in the National Billboard Competition — an event promoted by the United Nations and nearly 150 countries.

Júnior pit his painting against approximately 4,000 other entries and came out on top with first prize. His "naïve" style of painting is now recognized in over 55 different countries.

"He tries to promote joy and happiness in his work," said Conso Nansaram, a general studies major here at Valencia. "It's a toast to the simpler things in life."

Nansaram, as well as many other attendees were particularly fond of "Bumba Meu Boi on Times Square", which is a painting that depicts a famous Brazilian folklore bull with cashew fruits for horns visiting New York City.

Another favorite — titled "A Ceia" — depicts Christ and his disciples at the Last Supper.

"It's about Jesus and it represents my faith," said Edward Rivera, another Osceola campus student, "All of his disciples are represented by different colors or cultures. It's a very powerful message."

"I love life. I love living" said Júnior, "Hope has become my greatest drive."

Júnior and his paintings will also be visiting the West Campus on Thursday, March 26 in the Library. Júnior's exhibit is presented by the Central Florida Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce.



Kyle Beard, Valencia Voice

Brazilian artist, Clóvis Junior, right, discusses the basis for his paintings. Junior presented 20 of his favorite paintings to the Valencia community.

Professor makes way for art show

By Claudia Eslava
ceslava@valenciavoice.com

Brazilian artist Clóvis Junior exhibited his work to the Valencia community on Thursday, March 19, at the Osceola campus. Junior was able to travel to the U.S. and exhibit his works on campus with the help of Valencia's non-profit foundation.

Junior showcased his pieces to Valencia in order to present to the community a slice of Brazilian culture and beauty.

Steven Cunningham, a professor here at Valencia, was responsible for bringing Junior to the U.S. and spoke of how a business trip to Brazil exposed him to Junior's art over 15 years ago.

"I was on vacation in the capital city where he lives. I actually found one of his paintings in a gift shop and bought it there," he said,

"Then I heard he was having an exhibit so I went there and met him. Every time I went to his town, I went back to his home where he had his own studio so we became friends over the years."

His interest in the culture drove him to learn the language. His passion for Junior's art and their friendship allowed them to become good business partners.

"He really had a desire to come and exhibit in the U.S. and he wanted to do it in Orlando so we've always tried to find a way to get it funded," Cunningham said.

The Valencia Foundation is an award-

winning, non-profit program, charted in 1974 to provide Valencia with financial assistance that cannot be met through student income or state-aid.

The Endowed Chairs for Learning Leadership awards outstanding members of Valencia's faculty with the resources needed for the advancement of learning.

This is all possible through the foundation's investments which fund the majority of the program, but also through private gifts or donations.

This year, the Tupperware Foundation gave its support to the proposal that improved the quality of life in the community.

Cunningham's proposal about art and its overall educational effect on the community won the vote and Junior's dreams to exhibit in the U.S. became possible.

"So the faculty submits proposals [that] they choose from," Cunningham said, "And this year my proposal was accepted to bring him here, since it had to do with improving the quality of life in the community."

The event, which started with an exhibition at 6 p.m., had students and faculty buzzing not only about the artwork, but the Brazilian pastries being served as well.

This being one more step taken to help students and faculty delve into the true culture of Brazil.

"It's really great that this event is open to all the students and visitors for free,"

said Louie Esquea, a student who attended the event, "It's not often we have the opportunity to see the art from other countries much less to hear from the artist himself. And I really liked the food."

At 7 p.m. a presentation was arranged so Junior could answer questions about his work and offer his thoughts and feelings behind every one of his paintings. When speaking about the passion behind his work, he was really speaking to those students who aspired to be artists.

"When I started painting, my family didn't want me to because they told me I could not live from art," said Clóvis of his beginnings.

"My friend told me, that out of one thousand only one lives from art. So I said, I'm going to be that one out of a thousand. All that dedication and believing in what you do is what brings you success."

The evening ended with Junior giving thanks for the opportunity to share his art with Valencia and his present thoughts with everyone who attended.

"This is a very important moment in my life, since we are here talking about art. Art has the power of uniting us, by bringing people together in thought," he said during his ending speech after the presentation.

For those who missed the event, there will be one more chance to view his works at West campus on Thursday, March 26.

Farfetched family history fills new fictional book

By Cassie Weinz
cwein@valenciavoice.com

If you are the type of person who thinks that the definition of a family can only be defined as blood relatives, then you need to embrace the 21st century and read Roberta Bombonato's book, "The Unconventional Family."

The book tells the story of three very different characters, and as life would have it, they embark on a wild adventure that brings them closer to each other. During the journey, they encounter heartache, bloodshed, and tears which ultimately allow them to band together and become, "The Unconventional Family."

After reading the profound words and stumbling upon the awe inspiring situations that the characters go through, the reader is sure to walk away with a better understanding of what love and trust really mean. This

book will give you a whole new perspective on what it means to be a family and how special it is to have a family.

It almost seems strange that such an intense, real life novel could come from such a cheerful and up beat personality but that is precisely the case with Bombonato.

You might be wondering, how does such an intense story develop? Well, in Bombonato's case, it all started with a dream.

"I had a dream about a hit man and his hardships and misfortunes. It was going to be a short story but it became longer than that," she laughs playfully.

The hit man in the story goes by the name of, Marvin Costa. Marvin has had vengeance on his mind for two decades and he is finally ready to claim that revenge. Out of the two decades, he spends one of them with a woman named Carmen Moreno, who is a dancer. Carmen is a very caring woman and Marvin has not always been faithful to

her but the truth to that is revealed later on in the story.

Then, there is Keiko Akashimi, an 8 year old orphan girl whose parents were assassinated and is running from the mob.

Yes, it doesn't get more realistic than that as Bombonato points out, "It's full of blood, sex, and violent situations. I wouldn't recommend it for anyone under 15."

Despite the blood and emotional pain that is found in this book, there is a much stronger message; a message that shines brightly through the sadness of its characters and rings true for everyone. The meaning is family, which is the ultimate theme of the novel and is what Bombonato wants her readers to obtain from it.

"There isn't one way to become a family. As long as you have trust and love, that's all you need," said Bombonato.

One of the intriguing qualities about, "The Unconventional Family," is that the

characters themselves seem so real. Perhaps this is because in a small way, they make up the characteristics of the author. "The characters embody the many sides of me," she says. "I wish I was a badass like Nina, I can be childish like Keiko, Carmen is very caring and I can be righteous like Marvin."

With so many diverse characters and such in depth circumstances, "The Unconventional Family," is sure to win over the hearts of readers everywhere. Bombonato also gives her readers something to hope for with the possibility of a sequel.

Of course, the same characters will be in it but she leaves her readers room to ponder when she says, "The ones that are still alive anyway."

Yes, it would appear as if the suspense is not over but the foundation will always remain. Family is a gift and Bombonato wants to teach us that it comes in all shapes and sizes.

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Our Voice

Students look for party alternatives

After years of anti-binge drinking efforts, college students nationwide still drink heavily, according to a report released in 2008 by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism.

Although particularly alarming, especially since the majority of the students who are drinking are underage according to the same report, there are proving to be possible alternatives for the more astute and responsible student.

Spring break has finally arrived for Valencia student Jessica Domingo, and with the specter of adult life looming before her, she is welcoming the week as her “last hurrah of fun” as a college student.

There will be no mai tais on the beach.

No throngs of sunburned bodies to herald the breaking of spring.

Only miles and miles of Florida road, under the speeding wheels of her bicycle.

Domingo, a 21-year-old Orlando native, will pedal away her vacation in preparation of the future commuter rail line, beginning construction this year right here in Central Florida, trying to raise awareness about a project she thinks could be an answer to not only traffic problems, but also global warming.

To her, the call of activism was much stronger than the call of Daytona Beach.

“When it comes down to it, I could be doing something productive and fun, or just fun,” Domingo said.

She is part of a generation increasingly choosing the former.

This month, an estimated 50,000-plus college students across the country have opted for alternatives to the type of spring break glorified by MTV and the “Girls Gone Wild” franchise, according to Break Away, an Atlanta-based

nonprofit that serves as a resource for universities organizing alternative breaks.

“From what we see, that is the norm,” said Samantha Giacobozzi, 23, programs director for Break Away, in an article from the AP.

Her group, founded by two Vanderbilt University students in 1991, has seen a 10 percent to 15 percent increase in participation each year for the past five years – which is as long as the group has been tracking data.

“Several themes emerge among alternative spring break programs,” Giacobozzi said, “including poverty and education.”

Recently, student activists have expanded their interests to include immigration issues, AIDS in Africa and prison reform.

Last year, Break Away hosted a planning session about service in refugee resettlement.

“If you can think of any social issue or social problem in

the United States or internationally, these students are typically interested in it,” Giacobozzi said.

Even MTV has gotten on the altruistic bandwagon.

The network’s Think branch, launched to promote youth involvement, helped the United Way jump-start its Alternative Spring Break program in 2006.

That program has grown from a fledgling group of 100 students to this year’s 600.

Events like Sept. 11, the war in Iraq and natural disasters like Hurricane Katrina have perhaps first made them angry, and second of all, made them want to do something about it.

“Right after finals, you just want to do nothing and have no responsibility,” Domingo said.

“I’m hoping to buck that trend starting this year.”



George Skene, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus

Your Voice

Students should limit drug and alcohol use

By Adam Fishman
afishman@valenciavoicedotcom

According to a 2008 report by the Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse, 40% of college students nationwide participate in binge drinking, and one in five use drugs.

Surprised? Probably not, since many college campuses across America are known for crazy partying, drinking, drug use, and activities considered illegal in all 50 states.

The Center for Alcohol and Substance Abuse listed many ramifications that come from binge drinking and drug use, for example, bodily injuries, sexual violence, vandalism, and suicide. If you consume alcohol more than three times per week you are binge drinking. If you use drugs on a daily basis, then you’re probably an addict, in case you didn’t already know.

Have no fear, if you are one of those college students who drink often and use drugs to “get by,” the only thing you have to worry about is mediocre grades, potentially losing your job, DUI’s, humiliating yourself, and your boyfriend or girlfriend calling you a loser. That’s not too bad, right?

The problem with most students is they drink or use drugs to fit into the social scene of college. They figure their problems aren’t that bad, compared to their peers, therefore, they feel more comfort in abusing drugs and alcohol.

Not everyone handles problems and pressures the

same way. Unfortunately, the outlets most college students choose to handle pressure, such as binge drinking and frequent drug use, end up causing them more problems. It’s a vicious cycle that must be controlled with a little something called moderation.

The reality is most college students are going to do what they want regardless. The college environment is an escape for them, they don’t have their parents present to tell them what they can and cannot do, and they have a new freedom that most have not yet experienced.

A student is going to drink or use drugs no matter what some may say. In order for a student to remain productive in school and society, drinking and drug use in moderation is key (we don’t advocate drug use, but we know you’re probably going to do it anyway, and of course you must be 21 to drink). Limit yourself to the weekend or one time per week when you would like to blow off steam.

It’s obvious the pressures of school, work, and family, while balancing a social life can get to you. If you let alcohol or drugs begin to control you, your problems will only get worse.

By limiting yourself to certain times like the weekend, you will have more control over your activities lessening the chance to develop alcoholism or addiction.

When you are out, drinking responsibly and in moderation should always be practiced, you’re common sense should know what that means.

In order for a student to remain productive in school and society, drinking and drug use in moderation is key

Your Voice

Aderrall abuse kills students

By Shaneece Dixon
sdixon@valenciavoicedotcom

One drug that is becoming more and more fatal by the day is Adderall. Adderall, a mix between amphetamine and dextro-amphetamine, is a pharmaceutical drug used to treat narcolepsy and attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD).

It’s a central nervous stimulant that helps the areas that monitor impulse control and hyperactivity.

Despite the great uses that this prescribed drug can address, it has been abused by many college students today.

Some people use it without it being prescribed to them to help them focus during rigorous study hours. Others abuse to a higher extent, taking it to stay awake for long hours at a time, mainly during long parties.

College students seem to be the main group of people taking this drug to such a degree in order to alleviate the academic stress that they feel.

When taking correctly (as in doses prescribed by a doctor), the side effects are very low, which include sleep disturbance, dryness of the mouth, and in-

creased heart rate. Imagine the increased risks once the usage is more frequent. Though abusive collegiate users do obtain an interestingly high standard of academic achievement, the risks are very dangerous.

Among the higher risks involved, there are chances of paranoia, delusions, and strokes.

Though abusive collegiate users do obtain an interestingly high standard of academic achievement, the risks are very dangerous.

Of course, it is a highly addictive drug, which can cause a harder crash. Normally, the drug is taken in pill form, but it is especially consequential when it is snorted.

Many people admit that snorting the drug gives them a quicker fix. However, its effects are very similar to that of cocaine. The rush that comes from snorting creates a reinforcement mechanism that attributes the addictive side of it.

Eventually individuals will even move on to other drugs to receive similar, if not the same, effects.

It’s drugs such as this that can be hazardous for college students. Whether it’s a one-time use or frequent, drugs that are supposedly used for harmless reasons can and will be harmful if used excessively for any purpose that doesn’t include medicinal use.

VALENCIA VOICE Opinion:

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Should legal drinking age be 18?

Students can monitor themselves

By Kenny Wagner
kwagner@valenciavoices.com

In Aug. 2008 leaders of some of the best universities in the country made headlines when a petition surfaced looking to lower the national drinking age from 18 to 21; leaders of Duke, Dartmouth, Johns Hopkins, and others were all linked to the appeal, looking to change a long standing national policy.

It is time to spark debate on this topic once again, as alcoholism continues to be a problem on most college campuses. The argument made by these universities was aimed at curbing irresponsible drinking, rather than encouraging underage drinking. Their philosophy: treat college students like adults; and I couldn't agree more.

If students are irresponsible enough to ignore their studies in order to drink and party more then they don't belong in college, let them flunk out, let them withdraw. But, that does not mean the colleges should not do what they can to help students end their dependence to alcohol or help students find ways to control themselves.

Students will party, that is indisputable and in every instance inevitable and this is where the debate surrounding the drinking age stems from. In theory, if the drinking age is lowered students will be more perceptive of their proverbial limit therefore giving them the ability to control themselves in situations where drinking is involved. Plus, students age 18-20 would no longer be in conflict with the law so underage-drinking arrests will cease to exist, and students would no longer be in conflict with their college's bylaws.

To make sure that students don't seriously harm themselves or harm their grades, colleges need to look into innovative ways to curb alcohol abuse, obviously they are doing just that. But putting this law into practice is a fickle issue and colleges will have a hard time getting such a law passed unless they promise to include a clause that will force college students to take a class or seminar on the dangers and risks of drinking on campus and put professionalism first.



"No, 18 year olds are irresponsible, it means they'll be drinking right out of high school."

— **Franka Christopher**



"We shouldn't lower the age, people are still immature kids at 18. At 21 you can control yourself"

— **Mathurin Petitfrere**



"No because people who are 21 don't even drink responsibly."

— **Shannon Way**



"No we shouldn't because we would abuse it."

— **Annisha Mohammed**



"This question is tough. I come from a country where it is legal to drink at 18, and it has created a lot of problems. But, keeping it at 21 might cause more problems. There is more anticipation when you start drinking at 21, so people drink more."

— **Fabrizio Zambrow**



"Lowering the drinking age might solve the problem of kids buying alcohol illegally."

— **Shahieh Salehi**



"No because 18 year olds are going to be irresponsible and crazy while drinking."

— **Jonique Glee**



"18 is not responsible enough, in fact I think the drinking age should be raised, for guys at least. 21 for ladies, 25 for men."

— **Clarissa Harris**

Kenny Wagner / Valencia Voice

Student dies binge drinking at Kansas U

By Mara Rose Williams
McClatchy Newspapers

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Before University of Kansas student Jason Wren died, reportedly after a night of binge drinking, records describing his violations of dormitory alcohol policies were off-limits to his parents.

After the 19-year-old's death, KU turned over the records.

Jay Wren says before his son's death he begged for a description of his behavior in the dormitory, and was told those records were protected by the Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act, or FERPA, which shields student grades, health and behavior information.

The federal law and the way universities interpret it often pit students' right to

privacy against what some parents deem as their right to know.

How schools interpret the law differs. For example, Kansas State University tells parents about underage drinking. KU does not.

Some students say they want to take responsibility for their lives and learn from their mistakes. Others want their parents to know what's going on.

"The law does leave a great deal of interpretation to colleges and universities," said Jim Boyle, the College Parents of America president. "I believe they should use their interpretation to better inform parents about their son or daughter, and not use FERPA as an excuse to withhold information."

Wren, who knew that his son drank alcohol even in high school, said he would

have pulled Jason out of KU if he'd known about the repeated alcohol and behavior infractions that led to his son being kicked out of Oliver Hall and barred from even visiting it.

"They need to let parents know," said Wren, who lives in Littleton, Colo. "If they had let us know all of this, we could have sat down with him. I would have pulled him out to get him back here where we could keep an eye on him. We would have made him live at home."

Jason, a prebusiness major, died March 8 in a KU fraternity house nearly two weeks after being kicked out of his dormitory. He was found dead on his bed at the Sigma Alpha Epsilon house off campus after a night of drinking margaritas, beer and whiskey. Lawrence police have not received autopsy results.

Wren said his son told him he was kicked out of the dormitory after a few cans of beer were found in his room. Jason said he was holding the beer for a friend, his father said.

He said he didn't learn the severity of the violations until he visited KU for his son's memorial service. The dormitory violations were a clear sign that his son had an alcohol problem, he said.

Wren said he had talked to a lawyer to help him sort out the events leading up to his son's death. He has pleaded with the fraternity's local leaders to dry out the fraternity house, which is private and not subject to university policy.

Brandon E. Weghorst, national Sigma Alpha Epsilon spokesman, said Wren's plea "is being seriously considered."

— **MCT Campus**



Peter Klaven (Paul Rudd, right) befriends Sydney Fife (Jason Segel, left) in his search for a best man for his upcoming wedding in the comedy "I Love You, Man." The film opened Friday earning \$4,749,178. Dreamworks Pictures / MCT Campus

‘I Love You, Man’ obnoxiously full of laughs

By Frank Tobin
ftobin@valenciamvoice.com

There’s no closer a bond than the one shared by two heterosexual men; a “bro-mance,” if you will. You share interests, you watch ball-games, you chat about your conquests; you have all the trappings of a homosexual relationship, without the fear of your encounters being banned by state law. It’s in this “intellectual analysis” that we come to “I Love You, Man.”

This movie, neither “chick flick” nor “slap-stick,” exhibits both Paul Rudd and Jason Segel’s nearly impeccable comedic timing, which admirably extracts the maximum number of laughs from a script that can’t quite keep up with their momentum.

The plot offers virtually no surprises, and its formulaic approach to a fairly unique perspective on the awkward humor of male bonding doesn’t help the film’s impact.

Fortunately the two leads’ enthusiastic energy (and willingness to do anything for a laugh) keeps the proceedings lively, raunchy and surprisingly entertaining.

After Peter Klaven (Rudd) proposes to his girlfriend Zoë, (Rashida Jones) and they begin preparing for their big day, Klaven realizes he’s never had a close enough friend to be best man at his wedding.

Taking the advice from his family, and a little tutoring from his gay brother Robbie (Andy Samberg in a hilarious supporting role), Peter initiates several awkward and highly unsuccessful “man dates” in an attempt to find a worthy comrade.

On the verge of giving up, Klaven randomly meets Sydney Fife (Jason Segel), a brazenly straight-forward, recklessly carefree troublemaker who, oddly enough, has quite a bit in common with Peter.

As the two quickly bond, Peter’s relationship with Zoë becomes strained and he must

determine if his newfound friend’s audacious attitude is actually ruining his chance at finding true happiness.

An initial influx of crude sexual jokes gets things started in the routine humor of “I Love You, Man” :parents openly talking dirty, spontaneous vomiting in the faces of others, fart analysis and a dog relieving itself.

The foul-mouthed, unrefined vulgarity is constant and expected and seems to always get a rise from the audience. Since it never goes beyond that, those looking for remnants of intelligent humor or hilarious set-ups will be left disappointed. It’s a raunchy comedy, seeking out the easy laughs based on increasing levels of obnoxiousness and doesn’t pretend to be anything else.

At least the premise is refreshing, twisting around the idea of a man in search of a significant other. Peter isn’t trying to get laid, hook up with the hot chick, lose his vir-

ginity, or exploit any of the other numerous clichéd plots in comparable tweener/adult comedies.

It’s amusing to see that acquiring a male platonic friend is the more formidable game. In his quest, many running jokes are reused to the point of detestable - it’s a run-of-the-mill approach to what started as an original angle; the follow-through leaves much to be desired as the male bonding becomes overpowering, the dialogue is a bit too silly (“frosty-haired [insert slang word for parts of the human anatomy here]”), key points parallel the weepiest chick flicks, and the plot progression never ventures far from completely predictable.

Good for a laugh, but bad for your IQ, this movie will delight and revolt you all in the same breath. But you probably don’t have high standards when it comes to your movies anyway, so enjoy!



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Nicolas Cage, right, and Rose Byrne star in the Alex Proyas directed flick “Knowing” which opened friday in the number one spot in the box office at \$5,762,243 despite the harsh reviews from credits.

‘Knowing’ should be left unknown

By Piel Thach
pthach@valenciavoice.com

The biggest anticipation in ‘Knowing’ is knowing when the film is going to end.

Directed by Alex Proyas (Dark City) and starring Nicolas Cage, ‘Knowing’ offers an intense thriller but has its fair share of cheesy scenes and mediocre acting.

In 1959, a time capsule is buried at an elementary school with letters of drawings by first generation students.

Instead of a drawing, a disturbed girl, possessed with voices in her head, scribbles random numbers until she is interrupted.

Fast-forward fifty years, the time capsule is unraveled by a new generation of

students.

John Koestler’s (Cage) son coincidentally chooses the letter written by the disturbed girl.

Cage, an MIT professor comes to find out these numbers depict the dates of every natural disaster and its death toll over the last 50 years.

Unfortunately for Cage, there are more disasters to come and it is up to him to save the world from ending.

With such a shallow plot, the film still manages to come up with twists and turns, not any of which I enjoyed.

Don’t be surprised to see beach blonde hair aliens with giant spaceships in some scenes.

For those with strong religious and or

scientific beliefs on how the world began and its evolution, leave that at home, or you may be offended.

A scene that did grab my attention is a realistic plane crash with burning passengers running out.

Explosions of planes, cars, and trains kept the momentum of the film going.

It certainly isn’t Nicolas Cage who seems to be reading every line in his script.

He actually plays this nonchalant slow speaking character in all of his movies so I can’t be too harsh.

Overall, save the \$10 and maybe on a boring day, go out and rent it.

‘Duplicity’ rips off past efforts

By Frank Tobin
ftobin@valenciavoice.com

Individual success does not always make for duo chemistry. Clive Owen and Julia Roberts, while both enjoying their fair share of silver-screen accomplishment, can’t quite find a foot-hold in their newest adventure together.

If you’re going to make a movie with a plot so intricate and fiendishly conceived that it basically has to be spelled out for your audience in its conclusion, you’d better make sure the protagonists are ones worth tagging along for the ride. “Duplicity” tries to be too smart for its own good as it unfolds a winding tale of deception and corporate espionage, but fails to lure the audience with characters engaging enough to sympathize in their elaborate predicaments.

After a encounter in Dubai ends in deceit and regret, corporate spies Ray Koval (Owen) and Claire Stenwick (Roberts) seem destined to have their paths cross—multiple times. Working for opposing global marketing giants Equikrom and Burkett & Randle, Ray and Claire plot out a complex scheme to outsmart and outplay their employers amidst a desperate hunt for a revolutionary new mystery cream (or lotion, for those of you who are experts in the field of therapeutic fluids).

From Dubai to Italy to London to Miami to Cleveland and then Zurich, “Duplicity”

has its leads not only travel back and forth across the globe but also through the past and present. Constant flashbacks to increasingly smaller segments of time count down like a bomb whose explosion has about as much punch as a story written by a 5th grader.

With each previous encounter a little more is revealed about our protagonists’ master plan, but of course even when we think we finally know what’s going on there’s one more twist that changes our perception of everything we’ve just seen. Similar to the cons in the ‘Ocean’s’ movies, but with fewer characters and fewer thrills, “Duplicity” just tries too hard to be clever and the outcome feels far less refreshing and original than it could have been.

While Clive Owen and Julia Roberts may not exhibit the most alluring of chemistry, perhaps the fault lies more with the deceptive and often hostile intricacies of their characters’ personality traits and their subsequently precarious relationship. Due to the nature of their profession, trust is something always questioned and rarely given. Even the occasional exchange of clever dialogue can’t brighten these characters’ minimal charm or sort out a timeline so fragmented that it makes “Memento” look perfectly chronological.

This movie was better when it was called “Mr. And Mrs. Smith.” Approach with caution.

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Courtesy of Capcom

The highly anticipated fifth installment of the Resident Evil series promises to be classic, gorey, zombie-killing fun.

‘Resident Evil’ hails supreme

By Frank Tobin
ftobin@valenicavoice.com

Gun gripped in hand, facing an onslaught of the worst monsters seen this side of a B-Rate horror movie, you take aim and fire, only to discover that you don’t have enough bullets.

Thankfully, your partner can add to the destruction.

Unfortunately, the addition of cooperative play isn’t the most prevalent piece of information surrounding this release.

“Resident Evil 5” is the first title in the series to really elicit any sense of controversy aside from the typical “violent video games debate.”

Taking place in a fictional area of Africa named Kijuju brings with it a certain amount of baggage, most notably, needing to feature Africans.

The initial outcry was intense, and screams of racism surrounded the title after the native Kijujians were shown as inhuman, blood-thirsty monsters.

In context, however, it all makes sense, considering the series is known for its blood-thirsty, inhuman monsters.

On top of needing to get past the initial fears, “Resident Evil 5” also needed to be one of the best in the series for more reasons.

Aside from continuing the franchise on next-generation consoles, Capcom has said that this will be the last in the series, and a proper send off for such a well-established and beloved franchise is the least gamers could ask for.

The original ‘Resident Evil’s’ star, Chris Redfield, is sent to Kijuju, after the inhabitants have become overwhelming aggressive.

A new age of terrorism has gripped the world, and after the Umbrella Corporation’s falling their products have become a commodity.

Chris isn’t new to the idea of Biological Organic Weapons, otherwise known as zombies, and is joined in the area by another member of the Bioterrorism Security Assessment Alliance, Sheva Alomar.

Unlike past ‘Resident Evil’ titles, where the

two characters travel different paths to the same inevitable plot points, Chris and Sheva move side by side, assisting each other, and creating the first original entry in the main series with cooperative play.

The game sees itself exploring fantastic locations, from dark, dreary caves to crocodile-infested marshes.

It’s well paced, and features a variety of different enemy types. The basic “zombies” are, as they were in “Resident Evil 4,” not actually zombies.

Infected by a similar Las Plagas that created the Gonados in “Resident Evil 4”, the Majini are fierce combatants, and the more evolved Las Plagas have created even more terrifying beasts.

Besides that, classic monsters return more vicious than ever, and the bosses are horrifyingly awe-inspiring. There are also vehicle segments, on-rails battles, and everything that could be expected out of an action game.

In fact, the white-knuckle action replaces any sense of fear and the game is closer related to “Gears of War” than it is to the pre-

vious Resident Evil games.

That’s not necessarily a bad thing, but it will surely upset anyone who was truly put off by the series departure from survival horror in the first place, since the only horror aspect is the fear of running low on ammunition.

There’s a focus on the epic, as well as large-scale encounters, and Capcom seems to have pushed the ‘Resident Evil’ formula – or at least what’s left of it – to the absolute limit.

All in all, very little negative can be said about “Resident Evil 5”. The cooperative gameplay might not be what some expected or anticipated, but it’s hard to deny that it adds something unique to the series.

The fear is gone. Entirely. There’s really nothing scary at all. Either way there are very few games that can deliver the overall experience that “Resident Evil 5” does.

It’s presentation, mixed with the absurd amount of polish makes it a must own. “Resident Evil 5” is a great conclusion to the series, and an experience that shouldn’t be missed.

Top U.S. Video Games in February

1. “Wii Fit” (Nintendo Wii), 644,000
2. “Street Fighter IV” (Xbox 360), 446,000
3. “Street Fighter IV” (PlayStation 3), 403,000
4. “Wii Play” (Wii), 386,000
5. “Killzone 2” (PS3), 323,000
6. “Wii Mario Kart” (Wii), 263,000
7. “Call of Duty: World at War” (Xbox 360), 193,000
8. “Mario Kart DS” (Nintendo DS), 145,000
9. “New Super Mario Bros.” (DS), 144,000
10. “Guitar Hero World Tour” (Wii), 136,000

—MCT Campus

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—**Amanda Mirek**




"No, because she might post up pictures of some random woman online and send that to me."
—**Robert Padilla**




"No because he might be ugly and he might be crazy. If I did go I would bring a friend...and a weapon."
—**Jessica Hill**




"I don't think I would do it. If it was a group of people then I might feel safer, but other than that, no."
—**Nick Law**



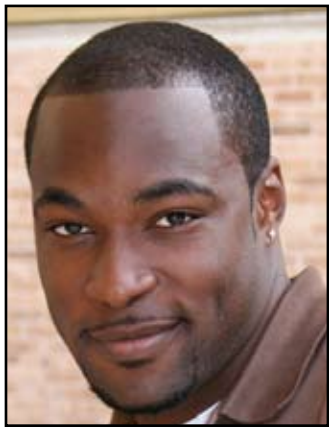
"No. Just because I don't know the person."
—**Lisa Catanese**




"I would, but I never have."
—**Nabil Nonaydi**




"I have my own friends, I don't need strangers. I feel like that's kind of desperate."
—**Jaimie Rosenberg**




"I don't know. The person might be crazy or something."
—**Gardy Jean**



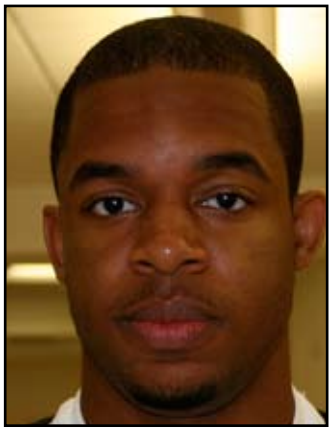
"No, just because a person can act a certain way in an online setting, and they can be a completely different person in real life. There's predators out there; you have to be very careful."
—**Rachel Miller**




"No. Its a lot of crazy people out in the world today and I don't trust anybody."
—**Brittany King**




"No. Its kind of like a blind date; its kind of lame. I'm not really into myspace in the first place."
—**Jordan Klein**




"No I would not, just to be safe. You never know who's out there."
—**Pierre Payen**



"No, because she could be totally different; she could be a killer."
—**Reggie Denmark**



"No, I'm not comfortable with that."
—**Melissa Seenauth**



"I think its really unsafe because you never really know whose behind that screen. It could be some 50 year old biker that could just want to get you in bed."
—**Clarissa Gerena**

U.S. can't keep up with Japan

By Al Balderas
The Orange County Register

LOS ANGELES - Japan scored five runs in the fourth inning to reach the finals of the World Baseball Classic with a 9-4 victory over the United States on a cold and windy Sunday night at Dodger Stadium.

Japan will appear in its second consecutive WBC final game, playing Korea on Monday night. It will be the fifth time the teams will have faced each other since the tournament started on March 5. They split the previous four games, with Japan holding a 21-9 edge in cumulative runs.

"They were fundamentally sound," Jimmy Rollins of the U.S. said of Japan. "They took advantage of mistakes. They didn't worry about trying to drive the ball out of the park. When you put the ball in play, you can find some holes. They definitely did that."

The United States took a 1-0 lead Sunday on the second pitch of the game when Brian Roberts hit a home run to center field.

Japan tied the score in the second on a sacrifice fly by Kenji Johjima, only to watch Team USA go back on top in the third. Philadelphia Phillies shortstop Jimmy Rollins singled with two outs, stole second and scored on David Wright's double off the right-center field wall for a 2-1 U.S. lead.

Boston Red Sox pitcher Daisuke Matsuzaka started for Japan, and although he looked shaky at times, he gave his team 4-2/3 solid innings.

The U.S. had runners on base in four of the first five innings and left 10 runners on base in the game.

"Dice-K was Dice-K," Rollins said of Matsuzaka. "A lot of pitches and a way to squeak out a win."

Houston Astros and Team USA starting pitcher Roy Oswalt said before Friday's workout, that he could throw 100 pitches if necessary.

For the first three innings it looked like he was up to the task. His night ended after throwing 66 in 32/3 innings.

Atsunori Inaba and Michihiro Ogasawara singled to start the bottom of the fourth and Kosuke Fukudome followed with a hard grounder off Roberts' glove at second base. Inaba scored on the error and Ogasawara scrambled to third.

Johjima tied the score at two with his second sacrifice fly of the game and Akinori Iwamura hit a two-run triple to give Japan a 4-2 lead.

Japan pulled away with an RBI single by Munenori Kawasaki. Kawasaki scored on a two-out double by

Hiroyuki Nakajima, giving Japan a 6-2 advantage.

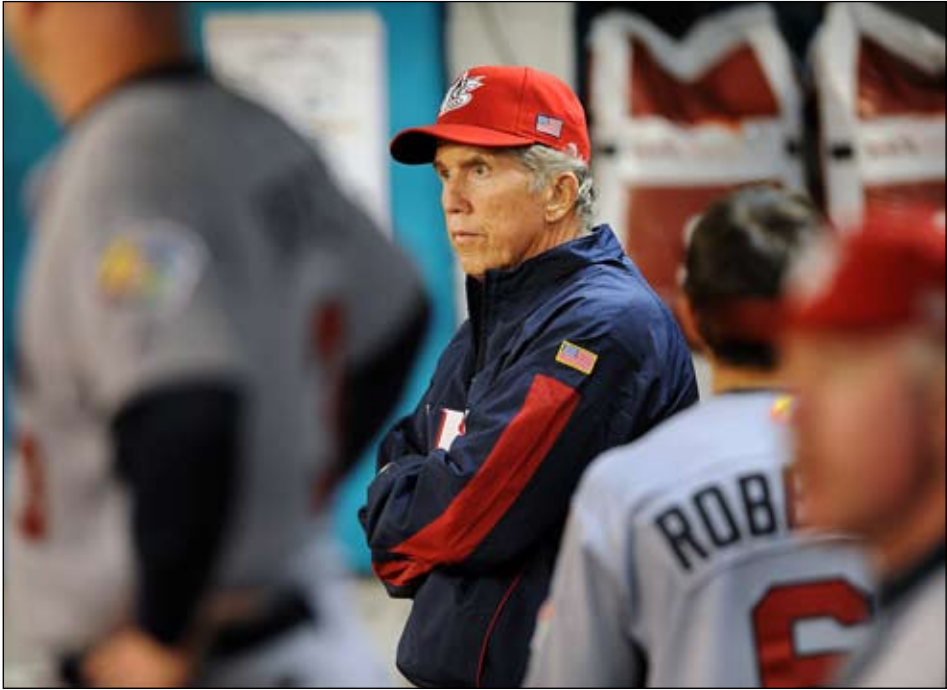
Oswalt was replaced by John Grabow, who got the final out of the inning.

"I had hoped to have him (Grabow) ready by the eighth hitter (Iwamura) but it was awful cold out there," Team USA manager Davey Johnson said.

"I didn't think it was going to take him so long. It was my fault. It took him longer in the cool weather to get loose."

The U.S. crept closer by tagging Takahiro Mahara for two runs in the eighth inning. Mark DeRosa doubled to score Ryan Braun and Brian McCann, cutting Japan's lead to 6-4.

DeRosa wound up at third base when left fielder Norichika Aoki overran the ball



Robert Duyos / Sun Sentinel / MCT

USA skipper Davey Johnson carefully watches the action in the second inning against Japan Sunday.

in the left-field corner. But Evan Longoria struck out and Roberts grounded to the pitcher for the final out.

Japan responded with three runs in the bottom of the eighth inning, one of which was charged to Angels reliever Scot Shields.

Two of the three runs for Japan in the eighth inning were unearned because of a throwing error by Derek Jeter.

The loss in California Sunday is another disappointment for team USA, who has not won either of the first two World Baseball Classics after being somewhat favored heavily in those two tournaments. With teams like Japan and Korea sending

the best of the best from their prospective nations, it is clear the US must do the same in order to attempt to compete in future outings, many potential MLB All-Stars declined spots on the roster to say healthy for the regular season that begins in a month, and many say their making the right choice - just look at the seven members of Team USA that had to bow out of action or take a game off because of injuries and nagging problems.

The Japan team battled it out with South Korea on Monday resulting in Japan taking home their second straight World Classic championship.

—MCT Campus

Cinderella take a bow

By Greg Cote
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — Cinderella has left the bracket.

The Sweet 16 went on without her Sunday, March Madness a bit diminished for it, the NCAA Tournament left with big dogs and top dogs but no underdogs.

Cleveland State was the last hope in the heartwarming category, but the Vikings were the Little Team That Couldn't Quite, falling to Arizona 71-57 at Miami's downtown bayside arena in the Tournament's second round.

Upstart Cleveland State drew within four points with less than seven minutes to play but could get no closer despite my violating every tenet of journalistic neutrality by openly hoping for yet another upset win by the aberrations from Cleveland who'd stunned Wake Forest earlier in the Tournament.

It was too bad (sorry, Arizonans) because no other men's college basketball team fighting this weekend to stay alive could match Cleveland State in terms of the kind of shock-the-world possibility that is the Tournament's charm and stock in trade. Cleveland, a 13th seed, would have been the lowest-rated entrant in the Sweet 16, in only its second NCAA Tournament appearance and first since 1986, before any of these players was born.

"Us against the world," as guard Cedric Jackson put it. "Who else believed we'd be here?"

Arizona probably can stake an underdog claim itself now, as a 12th seed advancing, but the Wildcats are a fake Cinderella despite that seeding. Not even close. This is a team playing in its 25th consecutive March Madness, an astounding streak that included the 1997 national championship and three other Final Four shots.

True Cinderella status requires not just a double-digit seeding but a program bereft of national status, a team whose players require Hello My Name Is tags and whose appearance in the Tournament elicits a collective "Who!?" from the nation at large.

That was Cleveland State. Arizona center Jordan Hill admitted being "in shock" that it was the little Vikings pounding on the Sweet 16 door Sunday. Wildcats guard Nic Wise, accurately



Al Diaz / Miami Herald / MCT

Cleveland State's Norris Cole protects a recovered ball in an upset of Wake Forest in the opening round of the 2009 NCAA Tournament.

more than insultingly, called Cleveland State "a small-name school."

Yet this was the team that won the lightly regarded Horizon Conference to win a ticket to the Big Dance, then shoved Wake Forest off the floor to kindle hope that, in an unpredictable, wide-open season, maybe the Vikings weren't done.

The Sweet 16 teams in place now have together made 433 NCAA Tournament appearances and won a combined 18 national championships. That includes Miami's other qualifier, Syracuse, in its 32nd Tournament and the 2003 national champ. Other than Arizona, no surviving team is lower than a fifth seed. The remaining team with the shortest tournament resume, Gonzaga, is in its 11th consecutive March.

Quality has advanced, for sure. It is a big Sweet 16. It is an impressive-looking one. Among all the giants, there is no little guy left to root for.

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Gonzalez shies from K.C. trade

By Adam Teicher
McClatchy Newspapers

DANA POINT, Calif. —One day after chairman Clark Hunt said the Chiefs would not seek to trade Tony Gonzalez, the Pro Bowl tight end said he remained neutral on the matter.

“I’m just going with the flow,” Gonzalez said Tuesday.

Gonzalez has said he would like the chance to play for a Super Bowl contender and asked last fall for a trade. The Chiefs held discussions with a number of teams and came close to dealing Gonzalez.

After the October trading deadline, Gonzalez softened his public position some, taking a wait-and-see attitude regarding the Chiefs’ offseason moves before deciding whether he would again request a trade.Hunt also indicated Monday that Gonzalez was excited about playing for the Chiefs and looking forward to playing in new coach Todd Haley’s offense.

Gonzalez wouldn’t respond to Hunt’s comment. At the recent 101 Banquet in Kansas City, Gonzalez responded to a question about playing for Haley and Scott Pioli by saying the new Chiefs coach and general manager have a proven track record and would win a lot of games with the Chiefs.

The Chiefs said they would not change their position that they would not seek to trade Gonzalez. Chiefs coach Todd Haley appears more interested in what Larry Johnson does than what he says.

He heard Johnson’s oft-repeated request to be traded or released. He also heard through running backs coach Maurice Carthon, who has spoken with Johnson, that the enigmatic running back is softening his hard-line stance. Haley said he’ll be more impressed by Johnson’s attitude if he appears for the start of the offseason conditioning program on Monday.

“I’ll go by what I see,” Haley said. “We’ll know pretty quick here. Part of my evaluation process is trying to find guys that want to be Kansas City Chiefs. Not talk about it but want to be (Chiefs) and want to be part of something special, eventually.

“I’m excited about working with all of these guys. This is an exciting time. We don’t know what we have right now. You can look at some of the things they did last year, but until we get the guys on campus and see them running around working, we don’t know.

“That guy, what I’ve seen from him as a runner, he gets 5 yards every time he carries the ball. I know his average wasn’t 5 yards, but from what I’ve seen, the ability is there. What I’m looking for, and what our staff is looking for, is who’s all in.”

—MCT Campus

Michigan State defeats former coach

By Michael Rosenberg
Detroit Free Press

EAST LANSING, Mich.—So how is that dream job going for you, Coach P. You having fun? For too long, Michigan State wasn’t good enough for Joanne P. McCallie. Tuesday night, Michigan State was too good for her.

The ninth-seeded Spartans beat former MSU coach McCallie and top-seeded Duke, 63-49. It was one of the biggest upsets in women’s NCAA Tournament history, and surely one of the most compelling. MSU coach Suzy Merchant said afterward that the win belonged to her players. But this story is largely about the coaches, precisely because Merchant says things like that. Michigan State now has a coach who puts her players and school ahead of herself.

This wasn’t just a game. It was justice, at least as far as the coaches are concerned. And if that sounds too harsh, please understand: the issue was never, ever, that McCallie left for Duke. She had done a wonderful job at MSU. She was entitled to go.

No, the problem was that McCallie thought MSU didn’t deserve her. She had some of the best facilities in the country, but she wanted more. A new locker room. A higher salary. When she left, McCallie called Duke her “dream job.”

“I don’t think her heart was here,” Izzo said during the first half Tuesday, before the night felt magical. “The way the last couple of years went, it didn’t seem to matter what the administration did. It wasn’t enough.”

At the end of the 2007 season, McCallie secretly interviewed with Florida. She talked to LSU. She was obviously interested in going to Texas. MSU offered her a contract extension worth \$500,000 per year. She signed, then bolted three weeks later, when the Duke job opened up.

“At least two years,” Izzo said. “When you’re



Mandi Wright , Detroit Free Press / MCT Campus

Michigan Aisha Jefferson celebrates with fans after a 63-49 victory over Duke in NCAA tournament.

not happy, and things go on like that, it’s very difficult. It’s hard to be in these programs and not have your whole heart in it. It was a divorce waiting to happen.”

McCallie left Michigan State a solid roster, but one with obvious holes. Merchant is a master at hiding holes, going back to her days at Eastern Michigan. In 2004, she brought EMU to the tournament as a 14 seed. The Eagles came within a last-second three-pointer of upsetting Boston College. Merchant thought the Spartans would be ready for this challenge. But until the game started, she didn’t know.

“You try to get a feel for your kids, and you don’t really know,” Merchant said. “You’re playing a No. 1 seed. Then you’re playing Duke. Then you’re playing a former coach. There were three big softballs we could swing at, and were we going to hit one out of the park? We did.”

Stars Mia Johnson, Lauren Aitch and Lykendra Johnson deserve most of the credit for

that. But Merchant badly outcoached McCallie. Even as MSU built a 25-20 halftime lead, it was obvious that Duke had superior talent. Merchant had her team more focused. In the final minutes, it was the Spartans who kept their composure while the mighty Blue Devils folded.

This looked like a gross mismatch on paper, and not just because Duke was a No. 1 seed and MSU was a No. 9. The Spartans don’t have a natural point guard and the Blue Devils love to press.

It seemed set up for a triumphant return for McCallie—and since McCallie is still a leading cause of raised eyebrows in East Lansing, people wondered if she set this up. Was it a coincidence that the chair of the selection committee is Duke associate athletic director Jacki Silar?

McCallie should have pressed the whole game. She didn’t. Merchant adjusted her zone defense to improve MSU’s rebounding.

—MCT Campus

Wildcats anticipate Sweet 16 game

By Mark Whicker
The Orange County Register

TUCSON, Ariz. _ The ghost of Shakespeare, a fellow who could definitely make plays, has spent the last six months using his joystick to direct Arizona basketball. Then the chain of events jumped from mere drama into grand opera. Let’s stop the action and work backward:

The Wildcats are in the regional semifinals Friday, against Louisville, coached by Rick Pitino, in Indianapolis. In 1997, they won an NCAA championship, in Indianapolis. Over Kentucky. Coached by Rick Pitino.

They lost their first round Pac-10 tournament game to Arizona State. It was their fifth loss in six games, their 10th in 19 league games, their 13th overall. They were cooked, of course, and the Wildcats had to spend three days waiting for the selections. “That was a long, frustrating time,” Chase Budinger said, “especially when we saw teams winning their way into the bracket.”

But when U of A’s name flashed on the screen, their self-inflicted shackles fell off, and

Arizona winged its way past Utah and Cleveland State in Miami last week. Before Christmas, Arizona seemed a comfortable bet. They beat Kansas by 17, and Gonzaga. Even in the midst of their Pac-10 troubles they beat Washington and blew out UCLA. But Arizona’s RPI was 61, worse than 13 teams that weren’t selected.

Russ Pennell is the interim coach, and not in an aren’t-they-all sense. The locals believe that only a Final Four appearance – which would mean an upset of Louisville on Friday, and another upset of Michigan State or Kansas on Sunday – would bring Pennell back. Three Arizona recruits de-committed in the fall, and the program craves a recruiting wizard. Pennell’s previous job? Radio analyst for Arizona State basketball.

And, like King Duncan’s ghost, Lute Olson still attends U of A games. He basically re-created Arizona basketball, beginning 24 years ago. The Wildcats’ tournament trip this year is their 24th consecutive, longest streak in Division I. But Olson sat out the 2007-08 season, for reasons undisclosed. Kevin O’Neill took his place,

was designated as Olson’s eventual successor, and was reassigned when Olson announced he was returning. Then Olson quit on Oct. 24. Later we learned he was recovering from depression, brought on by a stroke. Most prominent name on Arizona’s coaching wish list? Rick Pitino. So that’s the Cliff’s Notes version. Much Too-Doo About Everything.

But the bubble, toil and trouble has subsided, replaced by basketball. The Wildcats are the only 12th seed to get to the Final 16, yet are far more dangerous than that. Jordan Hill, at 6-foot-10, has stormed up the NBA draft list, averaging 18.4 points and 11 rebounds.

“Now we’re energized. We didn’t practice once between that ASU game and the selections, and then we just had a conditioning drill right before the show came on. We’ve been at a very high level ever since. We were in the middle of something and now we’ve broken out the back side. “I can tell you this. We’re not going to Indianapolis just to get our Sweet 16 T-shirts and smile.”

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