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Deadly threat spreads across Mexico, U.S.

Swine flu epidemic raises health alerts

By David Brown
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The United States formally declared a “public health emergency” Sunday as countries from New Zealand to Scotland investigated suspected cases of illness that they feared might be a strain of swine flu that has been identified in Mexico, the United States and Canada.

As of Sunday, however, no confirmed cases of the newly emerged flu strain had been found outside those three countries. Many of the

people under observation around the world reported recent travel to Mexico.

With the U.S. announcement, civilian and military stockpiles of antiviral drugs were being readied for rapid distribution in the event that transmission of swine-flu virus accelerates. The declaration also called for greater vigilance at border crossings and in airports for travelers who are coughing or appear ill.

Those steps fell far short of those that could be invoked in a confirmed pandemic, which could include restricting travel, actively screening travelers for fever or illness, quarantining the

sick, closing schools and banning public gatherings. In Mexico, where the infection is suspected of causing as many as 86 deaths and more than 1,300 illnesses, Masses were cancelled and a high-profile soccer game was played before an empty stadium as officials urged the public to take precautions.

In Geneva, the World Health Organization urged increased surveillance for influenza worldwide. The U.N. agency's public health emergency committee planned to meet again tomorrow to decide whether the outbreak warrants elevation of the pandemic threat level, which in turn could trigger international travel restrictions and other measures.

“The committee unanimously agreed that we are in a situation that really warrants the utmost attention,” Keiji Fukuda, WHO's head of health security, said. “So on the basis of that ... we have requested countries to help clarify this situation and to provide as much information as possible.”

Suspected cases were being reported in Brazil, Spain, Colombia, New Zealand, France and Scotland, and some nations issued travel warnings for Mexico and the United States, wire services reported.

As of Sunday night, there had been 20 con-

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Protesters demonstrate peacefully outside of City Hall in downtown Orlando Wednesday, April 15 during a nationwide Tea Party campaign.

Collin Dever, Valencia Voice

Frustration fuels fight

National Tea Party continues protest

By Collin Dever
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On a day that is usually marked by stress and chaos along with waiting in long lines at post offices to file last minute tax returns, a group of citizens opted to meet at Orlando's City Hall to protest the flagrant spending of money that they have worked so hard to make.

In today's world, marked by corporate bailouts and large spending projects stems one of the worst economic downturns in this nation's history which makes it only natural for many to be concerned with how our

nation is spending the people's money.

On April 15, all across the country approximately 700 Tea Party protests took place with citizens amassing in large numbers to stand against the nation altering decisions being made by our government.

Drawing its name from the famous Boston Tea Party of 1773, whose aim was to protest the taxes imposed on the colony by the British Monarchy, many members in the crowd adorned tea-bags in all sorts of manner to draw parallels to that historic event.

Small numbers of protesters began appearing in front of City Hall around 5 p.m. even though the official start time of the event was 6 p.m. according to the event organizers.

Participants were asked to bring hygiene products, non-perishable food and other

items to be donated to the local homeless organizations. According to the official Orlando Tea Party website the reasoning for these donations was “to send the message to our politicians that we the people do NOT need government to expand their charity business and that we can take care of the needs of our community from within the community.”

By the time that the event actually kicked off there was little standing room left in front of City Hall causing police to arrive in order to help keep traffic moving efficiently around the scene.

A large roll of brown colored construction paper was on hand for protesters to sign, drawing resemblance to the declaration

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Obama hits hallmark day of his reign

By Michael D. Shear and Shailagh Murray
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — For a White House that claimed disdain for measuring its progress by an artificial 100-day deadline, the administration appears to be suddenly embracing the moment with enthusiasm.

“A Hallmark holiday,” says David Axelrod, Obama's senior adviser — a moment with no real meaning. And yet, on Day 100, Obama's top aides are stage-managing quite a show. They have prodded Congress to pass his budget on that day. The president will fly to St. Louis to mark the occasion. And that night, Obama will hold his third prime-time news conference.

“I'm sure they will say it's merely a serendipitous confluence of events,” said Democratic strategist Chris LeHane, tongue planted firmly in cheek. “To their credit, this is a White House where everything is well planned.”

After he announced the news conference Thursday, White House press secretary Robert Gibbs was asked whether there was significance to its scheduling.

“I'll have to get back to you,” he deadpanned. The trip to suburban St. Louis will place Obama in one of his favorite forums: a town hall where he can talk about his accomplishments without a media filter and answer questions directly from citizens.

And the budget's passage that day would underscore another achievement: a fiscal 2010 spending plan that makes room for Obama's top domestic priorities.

Senate Majority Leader Harry M. Reid, D-Nev., said budget negotiators could complete work on a final plan by Monday. A senior member of the House leadership said the White House is urging congressional leaders to wrap up action by Wednesday, the official 100-day mark.

Several issues remain unresolved, however.

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103 die from flu outbreak

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firmed cases of swine flu in the United States, 19 in Mexico, and six in Canada. The U.S. cases are in California, Texas, Kansas, New York and Ohio. Mexico reported suspected cases in 19 of its 32 states.

In Canada, four cases were reported in the Atlantic province of Nova Scotia and two on the Pacific Coast in British Columbia. The American and Canadian cases appeared to generally to be milder than the Mexican cases, and none had been fatal.

The A/H1N1 swine flu confirmed in the Mexican, U.S. and Canadian cases is a previously unknown combination of pig, human and avian flu viruses. Pigs, which are easily infected with all three types of flu, can function as “mixing vessels” in which flu viruses exchange genetic material and emerge in new forms.

At a White House briefing, Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano said the emergency declaration was in large part a procedural step. “That sounds more severe than really it is,” she said. “This is standard operating procedure and allows us to free up federal, state and local agencies and their resources.” She noted that the government had made the same declaration for recent flooding in North Dakota and Minnesota and for the inauguration of President Obama.

Among the steps being taken: readying drug supplies sufficient to treat 3 million people for flu from the Department of Health and Human Services’ “strategic stockpile,” which can treat up to 50 million. The Defense Department was readying supplies sufficient for another 7 million people for use by military personnel.

The declaration also allows use of certain medications and diagnostic tests in children and releases money to purchase more drugs if necessary. The World Bank on Sunday said it would give Mexico an immediate loan of \$25 million for medicine and equipment, along with longer-term loans of \$180 million.

Major airlines, including American, United and Continental, began revising their policies so that travelers flying to Mexican cities could change their plans without fees or penalties. About 5.9 million U.S. citizens flew to Mexico in 2008. The 20 confirmed U.S. cases of A/H1N1 swine flu Sunday were an increase from the 11 reported Saturday.

Lab tests confirmed eight cases among students at St. Francis Preparatory School in Queens, N.Y., where more than 100 students last week came down with flu symptoms. The school cancelled classes for Monday. Ohio reported a case in a 9-year-old boy from Lorain County, near Cleveland, who was recuperating at home.

Fewer details are available about the outbreak in Mexico. Health officials there have said they are investigating more than 1,000 cases of suspicious, severe flulike infections, with as many as 86 people reportedly dead. Fewer than 20 cases

of swine flu have been confirmed there, however.

Why the same virus appears to be acting so differently in Mexico and the United States, where there have been no deaths and all reported cases have been relatively mild, is one of the unanswered questions about the outbreak. The other is whether the virus is still spreading in Mexico.

Napolitano said that people crossing from Mexico into the United States “from a location of human infection of swine flu” will be asked whether they are ill. Those who are will be isolated and given masks. Airlines will also be told to be on the lookout for people who look sick and are about to board planes.

“Right now we don’t think the facts warrant a more active testing or screening of passengers coming in from Mexico,” she said.

Richard Besser, acting director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in Atlanta, said that as physicians aggressively look for flu and test patients, more cases of the new swine flu strain will almost certainly be found, and some are likely to be severe. He also predicted that swine flu will reappear in the fall, when the traditional flu season begins.

“In terms of detection ... we’re going to find cases in many different parts” of the country, he said. The officials said people should be thinking what they might do if the virus spreads, schools are closed and travel is restricted. In the meantime, they should wash their hands, keep their fingers out of their mouths, and stay home if they are sick.

“Clearly we all have individual responsibility for dealing with this situation,” said deputy national security adviser John Brennan. Scientists are preparing a “seed strain” of the new virus that could be used to make a vaccine. Drug companies are in the early stages of making next season’s flu shot, a mixture of three flu strains currently circulating the globe.

If companies stopped that work to make a swine-flu vaccine, the first shots would not be available for at least two months. Another possibility being pondered is whether to add a fourth, swine-flu component to the current recipe.

Epidemiologists from Mexico, Canada, the United States and WHO are investigating cases in Mexico. Experts say that until more is known about what is happening there, it will be hard to evaluate the pandemic potential of the new strain.

Only a few throat swabs from Mexico that have been tested in the United States and Canada have shown swine flu, which suggests that a sizeable number of Mexican illnesses may have another cause. “How different is this from seasonal influenza? Does this virus have a different potential to cause severe illness? That is what is so critical to find out about Mexico,” a high-placed HHS scientist said Sunday, speaking on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to discuss the situation publicly.

“If you didn’t know about Mexico, what is happening here would just be a few strange cases of flu happening late in the season,” the scientist said.

—LATWP News Service

Opposing students overwhelm anti-gay protest on school name

By Daniel de Vise
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — A group of seven congregants from Topeka, Kansas, set up outside Walt Whitman High School in Bethesda, Md., Friday to protest the sexual orientation of the dead poet for whom the school was named.

The police presence — 40 officers, five horses, blocked-off streets and a football field’s length of yellow tape — seemed comically disproportionate until the counter-protest arrived.

At 2:10 p.m. dismissal, 500 students issued forth from the campus and lined up, several students deep, along the police tape, across Whittier Boulevard from their foils.

They alternately chanted the school name and “Go home!” drowning out voices from across the street.

Whitman, a 19th century poet with major influence on American literature, is generally regarded as gay, but his sexual identity remains enigmatic.

The Westboro Baptist Church has gained national notoriety for its anti-homosexuality demonstrations, staged provocatively outside military funerals and at schools that are putting on the musical “Rent.”

Friday morning, before heading to Whitman, they showed up at the funeral of the Middletown, Md., family that perished in a murder-suicide last week, claiming that those deaths, like the mili-

tary casualties, were God’s wrath toward a godless people. Police asked them to leave.

But at Whitman, the protesters arrived to palpable excitement.

Faculty had spun the event into an interdisciplinary lesson.

English teachers spent the day teaching Whitman’s verse. Social studies teachers led a unit on tolerance. Math teachers fanned through the crowd, attempting a head count.

It was the first taste of protest for many Whitman students, and the first they had paid much mind to their namesake.

“This is my school, and this is where I live, and that makes it personal to me,” said Maddie Oliver, 18, a senior.

She wore one of many blue T-shirts emblazoned with the Whitman passage, “Let your soul stand cool and composed.” Principal Alan Goodwin helped choose the slogan and hoped students would see its wisdom.

Indeed, no one was injured, and no property damaged. Rebekah Phelps-Davis, daughter of Westboro pastor Fred Phelps, said it was “the duty of the servants of God to go where the message needs to be heard.”

Susan Russell, 17, a junior, said she hoped publicity stirred by the protest would “highlight how ridiculous they are. I mean, that sign — ‘You will eat your babies’ — that doesn’t even mean anything.”

—LATWP News Service

The right of citizens to protest, change policies and procedures that they find unjustifiable was so crucial to the founding fathers, that they protected the freedom under the constitution; without it, the government would become stagnate unable to flow with the times.

As for the future for the Tea Party movement more events are schedule to take place before the 2010 election in order to continue to bring exposure to their message.

The next protest is scheduled to take place on Independence day holiday.

For more information on the Orlando Tea Party and its cause, visit its official website at <http://orlandoteaparty.webs.com/>.

Obama: Day 100

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The White House is seeking special “reconciliation” rules to protect its health-care initiative and an expansion of the federal student loan program from a Senate filibuster and to allow the bills to pass with 51 votes.

Some Democrats are unhappy about the proposed student loan changes because they

would eliminate the role of private lenders in the Pell Grant program. And Republicans who want to play a role in health-care reform warn that reconciliation would effectively shut them out, stoking partisan rancor in a landmark debate that cries out for consensus.

The House budget blueprint includes reconciliation instructions, but the Senate version does not. Negotiators agree that reconciliation is likely to be included.

—LATWP News Service



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Tea party protest rages

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of independence.

Rich and poor, young and old, black and white, members of of all walks of life were present, demonstrating that the issue was felt equally among all.

Though the protest organizers stressed that the protest was non-partisan it was apparent that the majority of protesters were opposed to the current administration.

The Tea Party struck at core American values such as the right to protest and freedom of speech.

Precarious south essential to Sudan

By Stephanie McCrummen
The Washington Post

BOR, Sudan — The nascent government of southern Sudan, a key U.S. ally in the volatile nation, is threatened by severe problems including severe cash shortages and growing ethnic tensions spawned by a national ruling party determined to see the south fail, southern officials say.

The future of Sudan as a whole is closely tied to what happens in this oil-rich region, where the rebel Sudan People's Liberation Movement, or SPLM, fought a brutal, 21-year civil war against the government rooted in claims of discrimination by a northern, Arab elite. More than 2 million southerners died in the conflict, and millions more were displaced.

A U.S.-backed deal ending the war in 2005 transformed the rebels into a semiautonomous government, and promised power-sharing with the central government and a referendum on southern independence in 2011. In the process, the SPLM emerged as a symbol of hope for millions of Sudanese and became one of the few viable political challengers to the ruling party led by Sudanese President Omar Hassan al-Bashir, whom the International Criminal Court has charged with war crimes in a separate crisis in the country's western Darfur region.

But as attention has focused on Darfur, the south's troubles have multiplied. The four-year-old government is facing a \$100 million-a-month cash-flow shortage caused by declining oil revenue, according to a recent report by the group Refugees International. And across the south, massive cattle raids are overwhelming local authorities and increasing tribal tensions kept at bay during the war.

In the scrubby landscape surrounding this town where the civil war began, the spear-and-machete raids of the past have become more like military operations. Machine-gun toting, camou-



Above: Dinka elders mourn a fellow villager, who was killed when cattle raiders struck. Below: A family in southern Sudan gathers materials to build a cattle pen. The oil-rich region is reeling from enormous cash-flow shortages as well as an epidemic of cattle raids spawned by intertribal tensions.

flage-wearing tribal militias use satellite phones and launch rocket-propelled grenades to move thousands of stolen cattle. In February, young militiamen from the Lou Nuer tribe captured an entire town, displacing at least 5,000 people as southern soldiers stood by and watched, according to local officials and aid workers, who say that more than 700 people were killed in the incident. A retaliatory attack by the Murle tribe against the Lou Nuer this month killed more than 250 people, according to local officials.

"With this insecurity, we can't collect taxes, we can't open schools, we can't drill for water," said Abraham Jok Aring, the Bor county com-

missioner. "Sometimes people tell me it was better during the war, because at least then we were getting support from the international community."

Southern officials accuse Bashir's inner circle of continuing to arm tribal militias that were used as proxies during the civil war and of other dirty tricks aimed at destabilizing the region ahead of the 2011 referendum on its independence. They say the north has gerrymandered boundaries to ensure that oil areas are in the north, undercounted southerners in a recent census, and dispatched militia leaders to contested oil areas to intimidate war-weary southerners.

The incidents are "indicative of the ruling party's intention to sabotage the referendum," said John Prendergast, co-chairman of the Enough Project, an advocacy group working to prevent genocide. "This regime will set the south on fire using these proxy militias rather than allow a referendum to occur."

Increasingly, though, southerners are blaming the southern liberation movement itself.

In recent years, southern officials have been caught up in corruption scandals in which they have been accused of wasting millions of dollars.

Tribalism is emerging in southern politics, with politicians accusing one another of manipulating ethnic divisions for their own gain.

Some complain that power is concentrated in the hands of the Dinka, the tribe of the movement's revered late leader John Garang.

Government campaigns to disarm civilians have been spotty at best, with weapons left over from the war fueling the cattle-raiding epidemic devastating southern communities that depend on cows for everything from marriage dowries

to school fees.

"The SPLM has not endeared itself to many parts of south Sudan," said Taban Lo Liyong, a literature professor at the University of Juba, in the regional capital, and a frequent critic of the movement. "You can't keep repeating, 'It's the Arabs, it's the Arabs, it's the Arabs.'"

The government of southern Sudan started from scratch four years ago. Newly appointed officials fresh from the bush had to learn to call one another "honorable" instead of "comrade," as well as how to run a government. Juba, the swampy capital, was essentially a collection of straw huts along the Nile River. Outlying towns, including Bor, were mostly bombed-out bush clearings.

These days, the capital has a few paved roads, power in some spots, newly constructed government buildings and fleets of government sport-utility vehicles that clog the roads along with goats and cows.

But as millions of southerners have returned home, the government has had trouble extending its reach beyond the capital, a problem evident in this town four-hours away by dirt road.

Maj. Gen. Riak Akon Riak, the state police commissioner here, said he has 3,000 officers to patrol his state, Jonglei. Most of his police officers don't have weapons. For the entire force, he has eight trucks. By comparison, he said, the various tribes in his area are "armed to the teeth," with people able to acquire a Kalashnikov for about two cows.

"All the counties around here have tribes that took on the military culture during the war," he said. "And the police cannot do anything unless the tribes are disarmed."

—LATWP News Service





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Our Voice

People remain intrigued by UFO's

Okay, so maybe it sounds a little ridiculous that this week's editorial is all about aliens, and yes we admit, it's definitely not our biggest concern in the world. But, its still an issue and why not spend sometime contemplating the mysteries of the cosmos? So, stay with us.

It made national headlines when former astronaut Edgar Mitchell announced last week, among a group of UFO enthusiasts, he believed that there was intelligent life outside of our planet and that these beings have visited earth in the past.

Mitchell not only made that claim, which upon first glance seems conceivably true, perhaps possible, some would say rational. But he also pronounced his belief that aliens landed on planet earth and he goes on to say that he believes that the government is covering up the fact.

Which not for nothing is an impossible and rather pointless task, why would the government cover up

evidence of aliens when it doesn't make any difference whether the populous knows or not? Maybe the government is staying tight lipped because they believe people wont believe them, but when do we? Besides a cover up like this would not benefit the government what so ever, plus it would cost billions of dollars a year, money the government does not have but, I digress.

The madness from Mitchell's press conference doesn't end there; he claims that the government should release all of the evidence they have of alien life, which is none, and that, we should prepare ourselves because as Mitchell said "In my opinion it is our destiny to join the planetary community."

Which fist of all, is a pretty ridiculous thought, as if there is some sort of interstellar United Nations and that they would want, of all the civilizations among the universe, to induct our planet. We have global warming, swine flu, and enough

explosives to destroy all the life on earth. I don't even want to live on this damn rock. And how do we fulfill that our destiny? Build a giant flare gun and fire into space, hoping someone will find our signal?

But, all of this nonsense about aliens and conspiracies begs the question. Why should we care; why is this making headlines? Well its because Mr. Mitchell worked for NASA, he went to the moon, is there a better voice on this issue than an Apollo astronaut? But that doesn't really qualify Mitchell to make such a bloated claim like that.

But lets admit it we're interested, we want to know more about life beyond our planet, and a figure like Mitchell may provide vindication for believers, a spark for intriguing debate among those on the fence and proof to skeptics that UFO freaks are just as nuts as ever, whether or not they have actually made it to space.

It still captivates us, cultures around the world have their own legends about alien life, but should we really bother ourselves with pondering it to such an extent?

we really bother ourselves with pondering it to such an extent?

Well its quite probable that life exists outside of Earth, we found bacteria on Mars for example, its as much of a problem when somebody claims that there isn't intelligent life outside our planet as it is when somebody claims there is. But, for what it's worth it's nearly a certainty.

We should approach these issues with pragmatism; debate on this subject is good, it may not reveal the absolute truth about extraterrestrials but it could reveal a truth about ourselves, a way to better our planet by looking for theoretical examples of how other civilizations might thrive. It's about having open discussion on these ridiculous issues that reveals the greatest truths of ourselves and the universe.



Philip Brooker, The Miami Herald / MCT Campus

Your Voice

Theories hint at aliens' existence on Earth

By Adam Fishman
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There are several prevalent theories as to why there is a so-called alien presence on Earth. 1. E.T. is preparing to invade Earth and all humans will be either destroyed or enslaved. 2. Alien abductions are genetic experiments. 3. Earth is an alien vacation spot, with human behavior being the primary draw or main attraction. 4. The pollution of alien's planet, or they have used up all their resources which has forced them to come to Earth.

Which theory makes the most sense? Though some may say all are plausible, these theories are impossible to prove. They are at best speculations based on scraps of information. At worst, they are science-fiction or Hollywood inspired scenarios, cultural motifs that only seem plausible because we have seen them many times in movies, or as the plots of sci-fi thrillers.

It is ironic that the most bizarre and outlandish theories of why there is an alien presence has the most hard evidence to support it. The little known theory of why there is an alien presence was formulated by the psychic Edgar Cayce before his death in 1945. After researching Cayce's theory, he hinted that humanity's origin is not what we think it is, neither scientifically nor religiously. According to the Cayce readings, Adam and Eve were not the first humans, nor did humans evolve from lower primates. They got here on their own and became trapped here.

The key to understanding the alien presence, according to this theory, has to do with embracing the outlandish no-

tion that all the creatures mentioned in mythology like the Sphinx, mermaid, unicorn, etc. were real! They walked the planet, flew the skies, and swam in the oceans.

Though the natural inclination is to dismiss this notion of mythological creatures as the superstitions, or the fantasies of primitive people, depictions of hybrid creatures appear in every ancient culture that has ever been discovered. Images of these "abominations" in metal or ancient drawings are as prevalent as alien encounters reported today.

In ancient Egypt, some of the hybrid creatures were worshipped as gods. In ancient Greece, the giants (Titans) were worshipped as the gods of Mount Olympus; the mythological creatures were revered in ancient Rome, Assyria, and Babylon. Medallions baring depictions of unicorns have been found in the Indus Valley. Ancient India and China also have their depictions about these creatures.

The Bible also mentions giants (Genesis 6:4), unicorns, "goat-demons," and "the lines of confusion" (Isaiah 34:14). It mentions the half-brothers Chemosh and Moloch (I Kings 11:7) and how they were "abominations" that were worshipped, and how both had the heads of bulls and the torsos of men. The Cayce theory is very intriguing and appears to present a plausible explanation of why there is an alien presence.

In a nutshell, the Cayce theory hints that there is an alien presence on Earth because we're here. They're here to help us remember who we really are, where we came from, and how we really got here. Not through evolution, or the garden, way weirder than that.

Images of these "abominations" in metal or ancient drawings are as prevalent as alien encounters reported today.

From the Editors

Valencia Voice will continue in Fall 2009

By Emiliana White and Shaneece Dixon
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Throughout this semester the Valencia Voice has reported on a few breaking news stories close to the Valencia Community College family.

Probably the most newsworthy volume of the Valencia Voice, our staff has been dedicated to finding the truth not just for students here at Valencia, but also for those of you who have kept up with the news coverage our staff has provided.

As the semester comes to an end, we wanted to ensure our devoted readers that we are staying on top of all of these stories.

In the case against accused rapist Marcelo Alves,

former Valencia contracted worker, although we are staying in touch with his lawyer and our contact within the Orange County Police department, there isn't any current news and a court date has yet to scheduled.

In our reporting on the suspension of Student Success instructor, Victor Thomas, our attempts to contact Thomas as well as our quest for an official release from Valencia have gone unsuccessful.

However, we will continue to pursue any and all leads surrounding these stories as they are released.

For updates on all stories from this semester as well as stories written by new staff members, please refer to the official Valencia Voice website at <http://www.valenciavoicedotcom> and check back with us during the Fall 2009 semester.

Feel free to check out our website at: <http://valenciavoicedotcom> for more stories and visuals that we weren't able to publish in our previous issues!

VALENCIA VOICE CORRECTIONS

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Whoops! Did we miss anything? Let us know! Any newsworthy things that you feel we missed? If you spot a correction or want to let us know what you think, please send an e-mail to: copydesk@valenciavoicedotcom

Professor gives students more than just theories



Ida Bowers, a professor at California State University at Stanislaus, (second from left) leads a geography field trip class at Golden Canyon in Death Valley National Park, California.

By Merrill Balassone
McClatchy Newspapers

TURLOCK, Calif.— Ida Bowers once camped out with her students on a volcano on Hawaii's Big Island, watching rivulets of lava explode in the distance.

She calls this "great fun."

The 70-year-old geography professor will retire in June after 37 years at California State University, Stanislaus; she's taken her students to exotic reaches ranging from Indonesian jungles to the artists' villages and temples of Bali.

Two weeks ago, Bowers spent spring break in Death Valley braving windstorms so fierce they shook her tent.

"I think they just think I'm crazy," Bowers said of her students. But, she said, "it's so boring in that classroom."

Undergraduate Cameron Pallotta said watching Bowers hike 30 miles worth of desert terrain in a week reminded him more of "a kid in a candy shop."

"She was just right there with everyone else and never uttered a complaint," Pallotta said. "The smile never left her face most of the day."

On April 20, Bowers was back at work on campus, watering a newly planted butterfly garden and a plot meant to mimic a forest setting.

Bowers has been practicing sustainable farming techniques—"going green" in today's

lexicon—long before Leonardo DiCaprio ever bought a Prius. She grew up in the 1940s and 50s on an isolated Michigan farm with no car and no electricity. Her father prided himself on planting techniques that would keep the soil fertile and forbade pesticides.

Her uncle was a geographer who brought back slides of his travels to India and Asia.

"I got that fiddle-footed thing," Bowers said. "I just had to see it."

She earned her master's degree from the University of Hawaii on the topic of Indian agriculture and did her Ph.D. work in Indonesia, although she dismisses her title of "Dr." with a flap of her arm. Bowers prefers "Tbu Ida," which means "Mother Ida."

The term, used for Indonesian teachers, reminds her that teaching "is more responsibility than just giving out facts and theories."

In Indonesia, Bowers saw the negative effects of a government push for farmers to grow hybrid rice, use chemicals and rely on irrigation.

"One farmer told me, 'Idid everything the government said and I can't feed my family,'" Bowers said.

As southeast Asian refugees began flooding into Modesto in the 1980s, Bowers saw people who needed help. She helped create The Bridge, a now-thriving west Modesto, Calif., community center for Hmong, Cambodian and Laotian residents. It has served about 35,000 people since it

opened 20 years ago.

But The Bridge started out humbly. Bowers and co-founder Cammie Lear, a now-retired Modesto Junior College cultural anthropology

instructor, convinced an apartment manager to give them a storeroom if they cleaned it up. Inside, they found greasy stoves, rusty refrigerators and a dead cat, among other disgusting finds.

"I didn't want to go in there," said Lear, 65. "She kind of pushed me in there and said, 'We can do this.'"

Bowers said she could feel the eyes of the community on them in the three months of cleanup work before their opening in April 1989. Children would ask the women what they were doing, then run home and pass the word along to their parents. Bowers began sitting and sewing with the women, hardly a word exchanged because of the language barrier.

"As a refugee, you seek a calm, quiet place because you've been through hell," Bowers said.

Bowers envisions anything but a calm, quiet retirement. Her La Grange, Calif., house is "a jungle." She lives with her husband, Jim Bales, who accompanied Bowers on trips to Indonesia and Death Valley when he was a graduate student at CSUS. The pair also has six dogs, 10 cats, two rabbits, three chickens and a cockatiel.

When asking about calling Bowers at her house, she responds: "Leave me a message ... I may be out weed-whacking."

Lear, who was a student of Bowers', finds it hard to imagine her not teaching.

"If you have a class with her you don't forget her," Lear said. "When Ida speaks, the room is quiet."

For now, Bowers is working on the instructions she'll leave behind for students tending the gardens she's planted over the years.

"Working with life—not just people—I think is so important," Bowers said. "After I retire, oh boy."

—MCT Campus



Debbie Noda , Modesto Bee / MCT Campus

Ida Bowers takes a closer look at the blossoms on this locust tree on April 20.

'Role modeling' agency serves America

Omshantee Lee
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The room is filled with beautiful faces as hopeful young ladies file into a previously secret location, hoping to gain the title of a lifetime.

It is the first interview for the Bellanire Role Modeling Agency's Premier Model, which will be the agency's most well known face, and the most prestigious spot the agency has to offer.

The founder, Jody Coleman, and president, Ashley Bland, are not only inquiring about measurements and height, but they expect the potentials to talk about their life experiences and speak eloquently about their goals in order to land this top position.

However there is something uniquely special about the ladies of Bellanire that sets the company apart from any other agency ever founded.

In addition to photo shoots for top notch labels and runway shows for many other

trendy designers, a typical day in the life of a Bellanire model must also consist of making a difference in her community. While fulfilling these standard duties, she must also speak out on the company's four values; self-confidence, health, safety, and education. The models will promote these important issues to everyone from young children to middle aged adults as an important part of their schedule. So when Coleman proposed to make a difference of her own, there is no doubt that she must have considered models' major potential for influence when she came up with the idea for the agency.

With Bellanire, a nonprofit organization, high end clients can find everything from commercial to high fashion models to represent their products and advertise their labels with as much style and grace as the world's most highly sought after top models.

"I've been thinking about it for a long time. I grew up without a role model and that took me down the wrong road. So now I want to

reach out to the youth in a positive manner. I've always wanted to start a modeling agency, so this is just putting two and two together."

The 20 year old Miami native spoke on her own experience and encouraged the interviewees to share their own as well. Bellanire Role Modeling Agency does not limit their focus to one group alone.

Coleman recognizes the fact that no matter what your age, gender, or individual struggle, all people may need the help of a positive influence at some point or another.

When asked what their main priority was, Coleman answered "Mainly the youth, because the youth is our future, but everybody needs guidance."

In addition to offering speakers at seminars and community centered events, Bellanire Role Modeling Agency also donates 20% of its yearly profits to charity. This year, the donation will be given to Keeping America Beautiful, a foundation based in Connecticut, which supports environmental awareness.

Potential Premier Model, Makkiah Cunningham said, "I think its a great opportunity for young women, I wish I had it when I was younger. I want to be able to be a role model for my two daughters."

Every year, the agency will hold a nationwide casting call and interview to find five to six models to represent their brand. These faces will engage in yearly events in which the agency hosts including the Black and White Affair, which is held at the end of the year to bid farewell to the five and showcase their work. This summer, the casting call will take place online at www.bellanire.com.

Only 24 faces, including thin and plus size models, will be considered for the interviewing process which will be held in Orlando, Florida. All questions and/or donations can be voiced via email to rolemodels@bellanire.com.

—Additional reporting by Ashley Bland. To reach Ashley, email her at: abland@valenciovoice.com

Washington swarmed by loads of Lincolns

By Michael E. Ruane
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — The Lincolns stepped off their big red and white tour buses Saturday at 8:39 a.m.

About 50 of them.

Tall Lincolns and short Lincolns. Old Lincolns and young Lincolns. Lincolns in dark beards. Lincolns in light beards.

One Lincoln had no beard. Another had a “paste-on.” Some were wearing makeup. One wore a toupee. Another, elevator shoes.

Some looked exactly like the lanky, bewhiskered 16th president they were seeking to portray. One looked more like the late horror movie actor Boris Karloff.

All were members of the Association of Lincoln Presenters, and they turned heads across Washington as they strode through town on a gorgeous spring day — an Abraham legion in frock coats, stovepipe hats and name tags, attending their annual convention.

Like other tourists, they snapped pictures, bought souvenirs and looked sleepy as their tour guides talked.

“They’re cute,” a girl said, as the group assembled for a mass photo at the District of Columbia’s African American Civil War Memorial, where they took off their hats in unison and helped sing the patriotic song, “America (My Country, ‘Tis of Thee).”

A little before noon, passersby Bill Tucker and his wife, Melissa Johns, found themselves pushing their son, Alexander, in a stroller among a throng of Lincolns on U Street NW. “Hilarious,” Tucker said. “We saw 50 Lincolns come off the bus in our neighborhood. It’s wonderful.”

The association’s members are, for the most part, professional portrayals of Lincoln who make paid appearances at schools, ceremonies and other public events.



Rick Carioti, Washington Post / LATWP News Service

Members of the Association of Lincoln Presenters, explore the grounds of President Lincoln’s Cottage

Their day began when the buses arrived for a tour of the historic Lincoln Cottage at the Soldiers’ Home here that served as a getaway for the president and his family during the Civil War.

Among the presenters was J.P. Wammack, a life insurance salesman from La Canada, Calif. His beard was fake, he admitted. He said he was following in his father’s footsteps. He used to think it was a “dorky” pastime. But once he tried it, “I was hooked,” he said.

The group then went on to the African American Civil War Memorial, where it was joined by member Michael E. Crutcher Sr., of Nicholasville, Ky., whose portrayal of abolitionist Frederick Douglass was uncanny. The association also has portrayals

of Lincoln’s wife, Mary Todd Lincoln, and Gen. Ulysses S. Grant and his wife, Julia.

Known as presenters, portrayals or impersonators, they make up an eclectic and passionate group from all over the country. Most have business cards and Web sites. A few have Lincoln motifs on their answering machines. “With malice toward none, with charity for all, the Lincolns thank you for your call,” goes presenter B.F. McClerren’s.

Many claim cosmic connections to Lincoln.

Larry “Larry Like Lincoln” Elliott, a commercial insurance agent from Louisville, said he is Lincoln’s height (6 feet, 4 inches) and weight (about 190) and thinks he wears the same size shoes.

Height is important, he said: Many custom-

ers don’t want a Lincoln under 6-feet-2.

It also helps to look like Lincoln. Elliott colors his beard to keep it dark like Lincoln’s, and Saturday he wore makeup and a glued-on pencil eraser to simulate the blemish that Lincoln had on his cheek.

Clothes are crucial. Although some costumes this weekend seemed less authentic than others, Elliott said he has sunk \$2,600 into his tailor-made outfit. It includes a beaver-skin stovepipe hat, leather boots and summer-weight wool frock coat. “I probably have the most expensive Lincoln outfit of everybody,” he said.

Elliott works with his wife, Mary, who portrays the president’s wife. “She goes with me on 90 percent of my gigs,” he said.

One problem is that his wife is tall, and the real Mary Todd was “5-foot-nothing,” he said. Partly because of that, Elliott said his wife often is “not readily recognizable (as the first lady) without a Lincoln.”

Still, he said, “for my wife and I, it is a full-time, life passion.”

There is some money to be made as a presenter. Several Lincolns have agents, Elliott said. But you won’t get rich. Elliott charges \$150 for an appearance, plus mileage. If his wife comes along, it’s \$225. Both of them for a whole day cost \$350.

Elliott said that, in time, the character of the real Lincoln seeps into the soul of the presenter.

On Friday, for example, Elliott said he made a purchase at a convenience store for \$7.46. But he only had \$7. The clerk told him to forget it.

No, Elliott said, “I’m honest Abe,” a Lincoln presenter, a devotee of the man who is said to have once walked miles to return a few pennies he had overcharged a store customer.

Elliott said he would be back later with the 46 cents. And he was. “I actually gave 50,” he said. “Four-cent tip.”

—LATWP News Service

Entertainers take to streets with acts to wow the crowds

By Diane Haithman
Los Angeles Times

VENICE, Calif. — Contortionist Mason Davis — known professionally as Masonious Max — isn’t scared of dying during his act, which includes target shooting with a whip, dislocating his shoulders to squeeze his upper body through a toilet seat and retrieving items from a loaded bear trap using his teeth.

But Davis, who began his career in Seattle as a circus performer, used to live in fear of what street performers call “The Death.” Davis, who often works Venice Beach in Los Angeles, describes it as the uneasy period when a street artist is learning how to draw a crowd, deliver a joke and keep an audience spellbound until it’s over.

“It takes a certain amount of guts to do that,” he says. “I know a lot of people in the circus world who won’t ever do the street because they’re frightened of The Death; it’s easier to do the performance when someone has paid for their ticket and will be in their seat until the end.”

Davis, 32, is a busker, which today’s street artists prefer to call themselves. The term “busking” means performing in the streets, usually for money from the crowd. These days, busking is growing into an organized art form, with a healthy underground network, professional associations and busking festivals around the globe.

That list includes the third annual Seaport Village Spring Busker Festival in San Diego Saturday and Sunday. There Davis will join other jugglers, comedians, daredevils, sword swallows, musicians and the like at bayside festivities.

“Everyone says, ‘What the heck is a busker?’” says Terry Hall, general manager of Seaport Village. The festival gives the artists an annual showcase, but buskers hang out at Seaport Village year-round.

Although buskers say they do it for love, passing the hat is part of the game. Though many rely on other earnings, they often rate their own performances by what the crowd contributes.

Mackenzie Muldoon, entertainment and marketing director for the Toronto Scotia-bank BuskerFest, which will celebrate its 10th anniversary in August, says that free entertainment tends to thrive in a down economy. “It’s the only kind of entertainment where you get to pay what it’s worth,” she says.

But Marcus Raymond, a variety artist (juggling, fire-eating, magic) who also books buskers for a shopping center in Pleasant Hill, Calif., says that today’s buskers are definitely “feeling it in the hat” with lower donations. He also says that people who might hire a clown for a kids’ birthday party in better times might now bring the guests to San Francisco’s Pier 39 to watch a busking show instead.

Stephen H. Baird, a street folk singer, puppeteer and hammer dulcimer player in the Boston area, is also head of Community Arts Advocates, which supports the busking community.

Baird says that because jobs at birthday parties or weddings are drying up, more professional artists are crowding the streets to supplement their income.

On the bright side, he adds, some of those performers get discovered and hired for other work while doing their acts outdoors.

Davis wants to make sure buskers are seen as artists, not vagrants. “Just because I work on the street doesn’t mean I don’t have a home,” he says. “It’s really honest money. People don’t have to pay me, and they choose how much.”

Davis adds that he hasn’t yet felt the pinch of the bleak economy, pointing out that tipping a street performer is much cheaper than taking the family to a theme park. Scot Nery



Anne Cusack, Los Angeles Times / LATWP News Service

Mason Davis uses his teeth to take a \$20 bill out of a loaded bear trap while balancing on his hands.

has a similar observation. “Performers did great during the Depression,” he said. “People pay from the heart, and they pay more than they expect.”

In his 30 years of performing, musician Mark Wenzel of Los Angeles, has watched the tricks of collecting funds become quite creative.

“I’ve seen some people who do musical acts ask people to put two quarters between their thumb and first finger and make castanets, so people already have the money in their hands,” Wenzel says.

“There’s another fellow who will take a gourd and shake it and say, ‘The sound is too sharp -- I need more money to make it right.’” Wenzel adds that the most effective way to get the crowd to spend a dollar is to have a pretty woman lift her skirt to accept the money in her garter. “You see that at the Renaissance fairs. The old stuff is also the good stuff,” he says.

Contortionist Davis has been lucky enough to survive only on income from his

street act.

The Idaho native often works Venice Beach, checking a local Webcam to see where crowds are gathering before venturing out.

Davis says he relies on the camaraderie of the close-knit busking community. Early in his career, Davis found a lifeline in Lucky Diamond Rich, a New Zealander known as the world’s most tattooed man.

When they met in Barcelona, Spain, Davis went to Rich with tears in his eyes and said, “I’m a street performer, and I need your help.” He sat me down for two hours and said, “Jump, and a net will appear.” I’ve used that as my mantra for the last eight years.”

Instead of inspiring a crowd to gather, Wenzel looks for places where people are already gathered -- say, waiting in the cold for the Rose Parade in Pasadena.

“I really enjoy the street, right there in front of people,” he says. “When they are watching TV, they don’t get it. I’ve devoted my life to street performing.”

—LATWP News Service

Marine's skills help wash away grief

By David Zucchino
Los Angeles Times

OPELIKA, Ala. — He mowed his yard, re-filled his prescriptions and mopped his living room floor. Then the elderly man went into his bedroom in this placid Alabama town, sat on his bed and fired a bullet into his head.

It fell to Benjamin Lichtenwalner, an expert in the aftermath of violent death, to erase all signs of the suicide. Blood and tissue stained the floor, walls, ceiling and curtains. A round from a .44 Smith & Wesson had left a hole in a ceiling fan blade.

Lichtenwalner was part of the first Marine mortuary unit ever sent into combat. He handled the corpses of hundreds of war victims in Iraq, Marines, enemy soldiers, civilians. Now he's co-owner of Biotrauma, a small Georgia company that cleans up death scenes.

He still looks and acts like a Marine, with his high-and-tight haircut and attention to detail.

His military duties instilled in him an abiding respect for the dead, and for those left behind. When he arrived in Opelika, Lichtenwalner found the dead man's stepson standing inside the brick home, staring at the bedroom doorway.

"I can't go in there," he told Lichtenwalner.

"We're here to clean up so you don't have to," Lichtenwalner assured him.

For the next seven hours, Lichtenwalner and two employees sweated inside protective suits as they scrubbed the little bedroom. They cut up the mattress, ripped up the carpet, tore out the curtains, removed the ceiling fan and sawed up a section of floorboards. Blood had soaked through the box spring and onto the floor. Lichtenwalner wasn't surprised.

"Even a blood spot the size of a quarter will be the size of a pineapple underneath," he said.

In the end, the room was spotless.

Lichtenwalner, 27, and Ryan Sawyer, 24, a former Marine from the same unit, started Biotrauma in 2006. They decided their mortuary training could be put to good use in the United States, where roughly 32,000 suicides and 18,000 homicides a year leave traumatized survivors.

"We realized we had the skills to help people in these tragic situations," Lichtenwalner said. "We decided to try to do some good beyond being just a janitorial service, get the job done, but be compassionate and sensitive, too."

Lichtenwalner said he volunteered to serve in Iraq with the mortuary unit because he wanted to prove himself in stressful and challenging situations. As a young sergeant who sometimes dealt with several war victims a day, as well as distraught friends of the dead, he learned to confront gore and grief head-on.



David Zucchino, Los Angeles Times / LATWP News Service
Biotrauma employees Austin Lawless, left, and Allen Williamson use a high intensity light to search for blood spots in the room where a man shot himself.

"The Marines were our brothers, and they relied on us," Lichtenwalner said. "The people we deal with now are good people, too, and it feels good to help them when they need it most."

The work is emotionally draining. Some new employees at Biotrauma quit before completing the five cleanup jobs required to pass probation, Lichtenwalner said.

A few hours before the job in Opelika, Biotrauma had been called to a small home in rural Bynum, where a woman had committed suicide with a medication overdose. Her corpse was not discovered for 10 days.

The woman's son-in-law greeted Lichtenwalner outside the kitchen door. "You never forget that smell," the man told Lichtenwalner, his hand cupped over his nose and mouth.

The woman's cat had been trapped inside for all 10 days, leaving messes that Lichtenwalner promised to clean at no charge.

The son-in-law wiped his eyes. "I can't tell you how much this means to me to have y'all in here to handle this, with everything else I got going on," he said.

For the next three hours, Lichtenwalner and two technicians methodically worked

their way through the cramped bedroom. They removed the bedding and mattress. They covered the stains with black plastic so neighbors would not see them as the items were hauled to a trailer outside. (Contaminated items are given to a private, EPA-approved contractor for incineration.)

The crew sprayed the room with a hospital-grade disinfectant, plugged in an "ozone generator", a device designed to eliminate odors, and misted the house with a commercial-grade air freshener.

Lichtenwalner made a point of not looking at the family photos. "I just don't want to form any sort of attachment to the deceased," he said. "It makes it easier to get in and get the job done."

The woman's son-in-law had told them a crucifix necklace was missing. The Biotrauma crew never found it, but they did discover a trove of handwritten notebooks, which Lichtenwalner gave to the man.

Cleaning up after a loved one's death is perhaps the last thing grieving families want to think about. In most cases, Lichtenwalner said, his service does not cost them anything. He bills insurance companies, which subtract homeowner policy deductibles from Biotrauma's payments.

"After what (the families) have been through," he said, "the last thing I want to do is hit them with a bill."

A typical cleanup costs \$3,000 to \$4,000 and takes three to five hours. More than half of Lichtenwalner's jobs involve suicides, and the rest homicides or decomposing corpses.

When each job is finished, Lichtenwalner sends the family a copy of "Chicken Soup for the Grieving Soul" and a certificate saying the scene was professionally cleaned, in case the family wants to rent or sell the house.

Lichtenwalner seems to find solace in small gestures. Once, he said, he bought a new Christmas tree for a family whose original one was splattered by blood. He has combed through attics and crawl spaces to make sure they were not contaminated.

It's odd, he admitted, but he has "a passion" for a profession others find repulsive. But some of the worst jobs, such as a recent gunshot suicide in an infant's bedroom, take a psychological toll.

"It gets to me sometimes," he said.

In Opelika, Lichtenwalner was still at it at 3 a.m., scrubbing with gloved hands



David Zucchino, Los Angeles Times / LATWP News Service
Allen Williamson removes items from the room.

during a final inspection, his face inches from the walls. Finally, in true Marine Corps style, he began filling out a detailed after-action report to be mailed to the family and the insurance company.

Lichtenwalner and his workers, Austin Lawless, 21, and Allen Williamson, 28, were exhausted. Their clothes were soaked with perspiration. Their eyes were bloodshot from focusing on minute specks under harsh work lights.

But Lichtenwalner felt that he had not done enough. It seemed to him that the dead man's stepson was paralyzed by grief, and he was powerless to help.

"We're not in the counseling business," Lichtenwalner said, "but I wish we had a way to just sit down longer with people like that and talk to them and somehow make things better."

—LATWP News Service



David Zucchino, Los Angeles Times / LATWP News Service
Biotrauma co-founder Benjamin Lichtenwalner checks for spots in the room.

Long life 'Written in Bone'

Professor's dying wish granted

By Michael E. Ruane
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Diane Horton had last seen her late husband two days after his death in 2002, so when they were reunited at the Smithsonian's Museum of Natural History a few weeks ago she asked for a few private minutes with him.

He was standing under spotlights in a huge display case — all 6 feet 3 inches of him except for a few bones missing here and there. His head was thrown back and his mouth was open, as if in a big laugh, and his arms were around one of his favorite dogs.

Here was professor Gordon S. "Grover" Krantz, and all, or almost all, of the phalanges, tarsals, metatarsals and the other 200 or so bones that made up his skeleton. Reassembled with wire, glue and metal.

It was an emotional moment, Horton, 66, said.

"Wow," she thought. "You had really (an) impossible last wish. And it's been granted."

Indeed, it has.

The skeletons of Krantz and his beloved Irish wolfhound, Clyde, make up the striking display that comes at the end of the museum's current forensic anthropology exhibit, "Written in Bone."

He and two are depicted mimicking an old photograph, with the skeleton of Clyde up on his hind legs and Krantz cradling the dog's forelegs in his arms.

They make a startling sight — cleansed of flesh and fur, revealed down to the bones in the dog's tail and the dental implants in Krantz's mouth.

Which is exactly what Krantz wanted.

"He looked happy," Horton said. "And Clyde looked happy."

It hadn't been so promising when Krantz announced eight years ago that he wanted to donate his bones to the Smithsonian, with the caveat that he, and maybe the bones of his dogs, be on display.

Krantz, who died of cancer at age 70, was an eccentric and revered teacher of osteology — the study of bones — at Washington State University.

A resident of Port Angeles, Wash., he had long been fascinated with human and animal skeletons, along with the lore of the legendary bigfoot creature, Sasquatch, of the Pacific Northwest. "He was just really curious about how things were put together," said former student John Cardinal, now with the FBI in Washington.

After he got sick, and he offered his bones for display, his wife told him he was crazy.

"It was an outlandish wish," she said recently. But "he wanted his bones someplace. ... He thought he would be a good teaching specimen."



Linda Davidson, The Washington Post / LATWP News Service

The skeletons of professor G. Krantz and his beloved Irish wolfhound, Clyde, are the realization of Krantz's ultimate wish.



Krantz was in touch with several universities before the Smithsonian agreed to take the disassembled bones of man and dogs. The museum cautioned Krantz, however, that his "re-articulation," as it is called, and display would be a long shot.

"I said that would be a lot of money ... and we would have to have justification to spend that kind of money," said David Hunt, a collections manager in the museum's department of anthropology.

Hunt told Krantz that he would remember his wishes if things changed.

Krantz's bones first went to the University of Tennessee's "body farm," where scientists study the postmortem breakdown of human remains, and where the scholar's skeleton was cleansed.

It came to the Smithsonian in 2003. The bones of Clyde and two more of Krantz's dogs, who died before him, had already arrived at the museum. All went into storage drawers, where it seemed they were likely to stay.

Then came the proposal for "Written in Bone," which opened earlier this year. Spurred by the field research of museum forensic anthropologist Doug Owsley, the exhibit was planned as a study of Colonial-era grave sites in the Chesapeake region.

Owsley saw an opportunity to include Krantz as a kind of finale that would grab museum-goers just as they were leaving the exhibit.

"I just wanted something they might remember," he said. But he faced the cost of reassembling Krantz, a job that would need to be farmed out to an expensive specialist.

Owsley wondered, however, if the museum's taxidermist, Paul Rhymer, might be able to tackle the job in-house, and save money. The idea, which originated with Krantz, would be to reassemble him and Clyde together along the lines of the old photograph.

Rhymer, 46, who is also a sculptor and usually works on such animals as foxes, monkeys and penguins, agreed to try.

He taped up a copy of the photo of Krantz and Clyde, and took the bones, which were in boxes and plastic bags, to his museum workshop. And over several months last fall and winter he brought them to life.

He used power tools, hacksaws and a thick book on human anatomy. He got and took lots of advice.

He drilled minute holes in the bones, wired ribs together and constructed the delicate, almost invisible, scaffolding on which the skeletons rest.

"It was like a jigsaw puzzle," he said. "But it was like putting two together at the same time and having them meet somewhere in the middle."

He altered the two poses slightly from the photograph to avoid any impression that Krantz was being attacked by the dog, and to more clearly suggest a "joyful interchange."

—LATWP News Service

Designer secrets decoded

How to look fashionable on a budget

By Michelle Thomas
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON — Marc Jacobs’ spring runway shows slammed together influences from all over the map and timeline. Is it Americana-meets-Parisian-meets-Asian? Mary Poppins goes to the global bazaar? (Both of the above, perhaps?)

Jacobs combined multicolored blouses with gold-and-black striped skirts, layered butterfly-print tunics over leopard-print capri pants, tucked grunge-plaid button-ups into disco-shiny pencil skirts — and then topped it all off with zebra-print handbags, chunky bangles and lace-up espadrilles.

For those of us lustfully eyeing Jacobs’ fashion mélange while wistfully eyeing dwindling bank accounts, the secret to mimicking this collection on a budget is to echo its key elements. Here’s how:

1. Replicate the color scheme. The collection’s bold apron dress used marigold and brilliant blue for a cheerful sensibility. T-bags’ color-blocked dress features a similar color palette.

2. Cinch with a metallic belt. Jacobs lent his collection an Asian-inspired twist with metallic fabric belts fastened like a Japanese obi. Do the same with a pewter-hued vintage leather version from Marion Mercer (another option: American Apparel’s gold lame sash for \$24).

3. Pile on worldly accessories. Stack your wrists with chunky bangles, such as Forever 21’s tribal-etched and animal-print versions.

4. Find the footwear. Jacobs’ models wore sky-high platform espadrilles with black ribbons laced up the leg.

For a real-world alternative, Dollhouse’s platform wedges offer a more subdued crisscrossing style.

—LATWP News Service



Photos by Handout / LATWP News Service

Try for yourself

- Marc Jacobs’ spring collection slammed together influences from all over the map. The secret to mimicking this collection on a budget is to echo its key elements. For example, Jacobs’ bold apron dress used marigold and brilliant blue for a cheerful sensibility. T-bags’ color-blocked dress (\$224) features a similar color palette.
- Marc Jacobs’ models wore platform espadrilles with

black ribbons laced up the leg; Dollhouse’s platform wedges (\$50) offer a more subdued crisscrossing style. Jacobs piled on worldly accessories; stack your wrists with chunky bangles, such as Forever 21’s tribal-etched and animal-print versions (\$5, \$6). Instead of a metallic fabric belt, try a vintage leather version from Marion Mercer (\$135).

Where to buy

- T-Bags maxi dress, \$224 at Cusp stores. Also available for \$235 at <http://www.net-a-porter.com>.
- Leather obi belt, \$135 at <http://www.marionmercerc.com>.
- Tribal wooden bangle, \$5; animal-print bangles, \$6

- each, all available at Forever 21 stores and <http://www.forever21.com>.
- Dollhouse Ada wedge, \$50 at <http://www.piperlime.com>

Yellow's the new black

Wear yellow big and bold or soft and subtle

By **Melissa Magsaysay**
Los Angeles Times

Sunflower, goldenrod, dandelion, canary. Accessories, outerwear and even cocktail dresses are beaming shades of yellow, which was all over the runways of New York and Europe and has taken hold as the color of the season.

That's a little daunting for those who adore the cheery color but are sure they can't wear it. And that would be most of us, says Los Angeles-based color stylist Jill Kirsh, who confides that practically no one

thinks yellow looks good on them. But, in fact, she says, "Everyone can wear every color - it's all about the specific shade of that color. You have to wear the right shade for your skin and hair."

So, while your best friend can rock a more muddled hue of yellow such as mustard or an orange-tinged marigold, you might be best in an icy, pastel lemon. If you're nervous, try it in small doses - shoes, or a scarf - or in a vibrant print.

Choosing yellow that's set into a print among deeper colors can make it feel a lot less intense. Madewell has a fitted cardi-

gan with inky blue flowers that offset the brighter yellow ones in the mix, and you can temper the busyness of the print by playing up the darker tones.

Pair the sweater with gray or dark jeans, for instance, and try a necklace that has earth-tone stones.

If you never thought yellow could work for nighttime, consider a hammered silk cocktail dress from Rachel Roy. It screams 1940s screen siren - and it would look radiant against a red carpet.

Don't be afraid to take advantage of the color's graphic possibilities - or its roman-

tic ones. A tiered ruffle top from 3.1 Philip Lim softens up some tomboy cutoffs from Current/Elliott, and a bauble necklace and broken-in fedora help create an elegant, beachy look.

A solid cardigan instantly takes on a strong, modern quality when worn with a black-and-white block-print pencil skirt.

Just stay away from pairing yellow with black and white horizontal stripes or a solid black skirt - you don't want to look like a cartoon bumblebee.

This season's rule of thumb for wearing yellow is simple: Relax into it. Put aside caution, and just let the color butter you up.

—LATWP News Service



Photos by Jay L. Clendenin, Los Angeles Times / LATWP News Service



Where to buy

- Rachel Roy hammered silk dress (left), \$995 at Nordstrom, the Grove.
- J.Crew shoe (above bottom), \$118 at <http://www.jcrew.com>.
- Sperry Top-Sider shoe (above top), \$80 at <http://www.sperrytopsider.com>.

‘Obsessed’ thriller lacks punch

By **Shaneece Dixon**
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Most moviegoers are used to seeing the crazed and delusional female characters (think *Single White Female* and *Fatal Attraction*). Well those characters are brought back to life again in the new featured film, *Obsessed*, starring Idris Elba and Beyonce Knowles.

Directed by Steve Shill, *Obsessed* is a tale of Derek Charles (Idris Elba), a successful investment banker who seems to have everything working in his favor—perfect house, perfect wife, perfect career.

Things seem to be going well with his marriage to Sharon Charles (Beyonce Knowles), his former assistant. Thanks to his new promotion, Derek can truly enjoy the fruits of his labor in the couple’s newly bought house.

That is, until he comes face to face with the new office temp, Lisa Sheridan (Ali Larter).

Beautiful, poised, and perpetually cheerful, Lisa is the perfect co-worker. Yet she also shows her dark side as a manipulative, obsessed young woman, who is willing to risk it all to manages to switch schedules with the other working temps in the office in order to snatch the opportunity to seduce Derek.

Soon Derek finds her crying at work over a boyfriend and tries to comfort her. Eventually she seizes the opportunity at the company’s Christmas party (which coincidentally has a no-spouse policy), where Charles blatantly rejects her.

“I love playing sexy characters,” Lar-

ter said in an interview with *Riot Magazine*, “Playing that really delicious female villain is my first draw.”

Soon after that awkward encounter, Lisa goes off the deep end and quits her job, and follows Derek to his “vacation spot” conference, where she drugs him and attempts suicide while in his hotel room.

Eventually Lisa’s antics become an endangerment not only to Charles and his job reputation, but also to his wife and son, as she stalks the family.

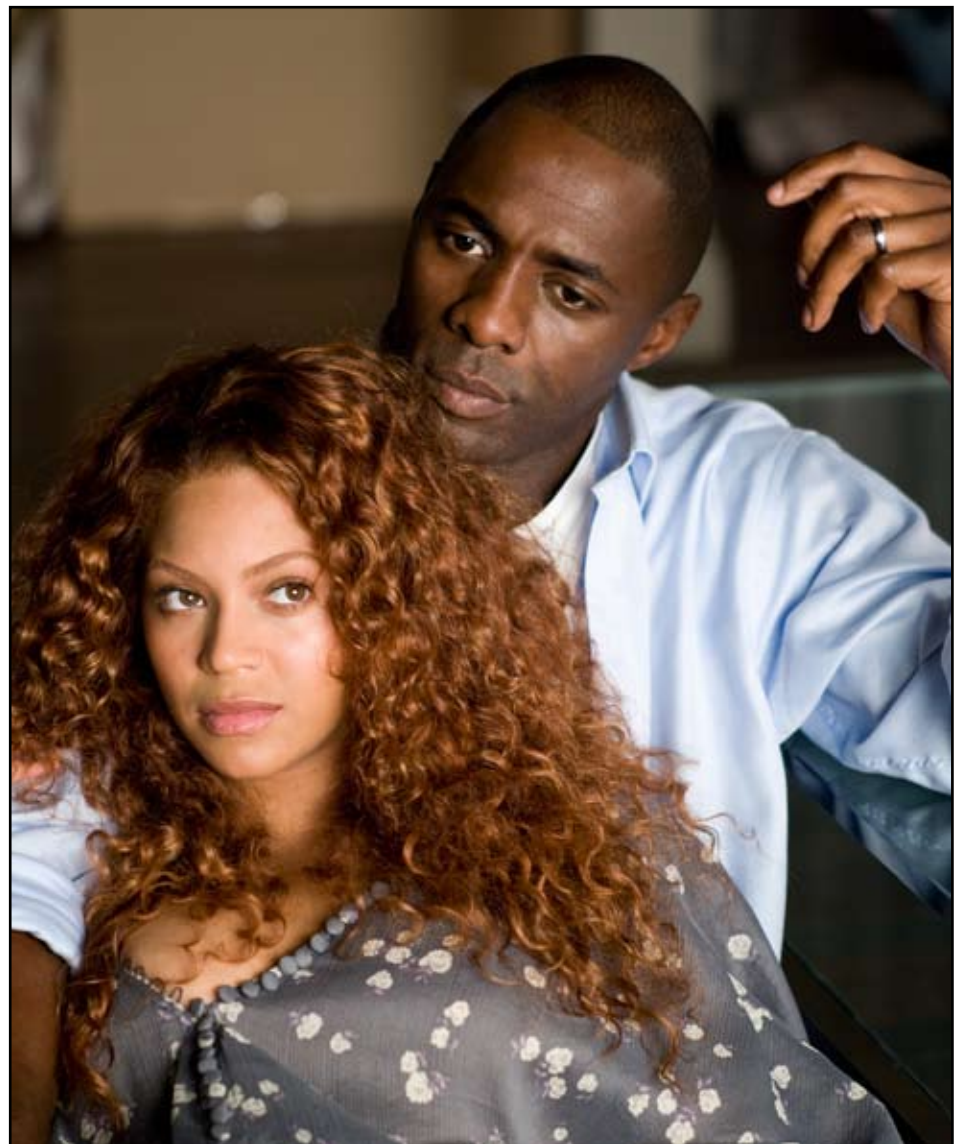
Of course, like most thrillers, there is an ultimate showdown, between Lisa and Sharon, where one remains standing.

“We worked with the best stunt doubles that we could find,” said Larter, “But I like to do as much as I can. I think you can really tell when the actor is there.”

This movie gets an average rating. The plot, though typical of the thriller genre, lacks originality and in-depth characterization.

Larter tries too hard to be the manipulative vixen, Knowles’ character has more personality than given lines, and Elba’s Derek is blander than oat bran cereal without the brighter female personalities and the occasional sexist remarks from his gay assistant Patrick (Matthew Humphreys) and friend Ben (Jerry O’Connell).

The movie wasn’t extremely terrible, but it definitely suffered from the copy-cat syndrome—taking a cliched idea from a cliched genre, yet not attempting to be different. In fact, because of the movie’s predecessors, *Obsessed* was just interestingly predictable. However, it’s worth giving a shot in theaters.



Suzanne Tenner / Sony Pictures

Beyoncé Knowles and Idris Elba star as husband and wife in the Screen Gems’ thriller ‘Obsessed’.

‘The Soloist’ fails to inspire audience

By **Cassie Weinz**
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There are some movies that leave you feeling uplifted and happy. Then there are movies in which you leave feeling inspired or empowered.

Well, that is not the case with “*The Soloist*,” a that movie will not leave you with a happy thought or an inspired stroke of genius.

However, this movie is very true to life representation of what people in unfortunate circumstances go through everyday as this movie was made about real people for real people and hopefully.

Viewers will walk away with a greater appreciation for life and the things that you hold most dear.

In the greater Los Angeles area, there are 90,000 people who walk the streets homeless everyday.

Nathaniel Ayers, played by Jamie Foxx, is one of those unlucky people.

Ayers a schizophrenic musician wanders the downtown street of Los Angeles with

a shopping cart full of useless garbage and a violin with only two strings.

While sitting in a park one day, a columnist for the Los Angeles Times named Steve Lopez, played by Robert Downey Jr, stumbles across Ayers playing Beethoven and immediately becomes hooked on writing a story.

After engaging in conversation with Ayers, Lopez quickly discovers that there is more to Ayers than just his gifted ability for music.

It’s quite clear that Ayers has a mental condition but Lopez is unsure as to his diagnosis.

Fixated on the fact that such a talented musician has found himself homeless and unstable, Lopez taps into his journalistic resources and begins to investigate the situation.

Lopez discovers that Ayers was a student at Julliard but never graduated and dropped out.

Lopez was also able to tract down Ayers sister who presented a mouth full of knowledge concerning Ayers unfortunate

living conditions and musical downfall.

With such an intriguing character and a plethora of unfortunate events, Lopez’s column becomes a hit and readers love it.

The columns followers want to know more about Ayers and naturally, want to hear him play.

Due to the column, doors begin to open for Ayers and he suddenly finds himself receiving gifts as well as help from people who he has never met.

Such people would include other fellow and accomplished musician who offers to provide Ayers with private lessons to further strengthen his musical abilities.

The lessons end up leading to a concert in which it is confirmed to the audience members that Ayers is indeed, a schizophrenic and needs help.

Lopez feels that he his now responsible for Ayers’s well being and wants to offer him help in any way possible.

Just when it seems like Ayers is going to receive professional help, he lashes out on Lopez and the two go their separate ways.

Now that Ayers has been out of his life

for an uncertain length of time, Lopez begins to realize how important it is to have a family and prioritize his life.

Ayers has transformed his way of thinking and Lopez now has a deeper appreciation and gratitude for the things in his life that he holds dear.

Overwhelmed by the love that Ayers has for music, Lopez is determined to make things better between them and tracts down the only known living family member, Ayers’s sister.

The Soloist is about finding peace within your surroundings and discovering grace within yourself.

This is not a feel good movie because it is filled with real heartache but it is also filled with beauty and honesty.

Hopefully, after seeing this film you will discover grace within yourself and appreciation for the life you have been given.

If there is one single message that should be taken away from this film, is it simply grace. Grace for those around you and grace for yourself.

‘17 Again’ surpasses expectations

By **Leah Reidenbach**
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When initially watching “17 Again” it was not expected to be an enjoyable experience.

The flick first seemed to be catered towards boy-crazy teens that love Zac Efron.

But instead, it ended up being a great comedy with well-executed acting and directing.

Although this movie follows the same lines as any other “age-switch” movie, it still kept me laughing all the way through.

In the film Mike O’Donnell played by Matthew Perry is going through a divorce

with his wife, Scarlett O’Donnell, played by Leslie Mann, because she is tired of him regretting his past.

In high school Mike was the popular basketball star who turned down a scholarship to marry his pregnant high school sweetheart Scarlett.

After that, he spent the rest of his life looking back at what could have been.

When Mike returns to his former high school to reminisce on the best days of his life, he meets a mysterious janitor who grants his wish of reliving his high school days.

That’s when the transformation takes place and Mike O’Donnell regresses back

to his 1- year old self, played by Zac Efron. With the help of his best friend Ned Gold (Thomas Lennon), the “Star Wars” nerd, Mike tries to fulfill his dream of becoming a college basketball player.

Efron did a great job at making his character believable and likable helping viewers to really care about what was going to happen to him, which path in life he was going to take (college basketball player or family man).

Efron’s acting was honestly outstanding proving that he is much more than your typical Disney star. He has a lot of potential and it shows in this movie.

As for the cinematography there where

some cheesy things that you could expect from a teen movie such as this, but that was expected.

The music choice, for instance, sometimes left you thinking, “What were they thinking?”

But, these things can be easily overlooked by the lay movie watcher.

Although “17 Again” has a predictable story line, director Burr Steers managed to take this movie in the right direction.

It’s a great balance of comedy and drama that makes this movie somewhat original.

Overall, this movie is definitely worth seeing. You might be surprised, if you give it a chance; bet you’ll probably like it.

‘Final Fantasy’ classic in the RPG hall-of-fame

By Frank Tobin
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For a game company on its financial heels, reeling from multiple business failures, Squaresoft wanted to go out with a bang... so they named, what would then be their last game ever made, “Final Fantasy.”

History decided on a much different fate for this fledgling franchise.

“Final Fantasy” is one of the cornerstones of videogame history. It’s outnumbered and outdone by nobody, and is probably the most widely known RPG in the world, next to the ‘Dragon Warrior’ and the ‘Chrono’ series.

It comes as no surprise however, that the first game in the series is “unique,” in that it certainly isn’t good by any of today’s standards.

But back in the day, when this game was released on the NES and Famicom, it was one of the greatest games ever made.

It pulled a failing company out of its hole, and began something so fresh, and so innovative, that it’s only fair to give this game its due.

The mythology behind the first ‘Final Fantasy’ is rather simple, but when you look at it, you need to think about what other games

were around when this game was created.

The most forward example, is Super Mario Bros. “Saving the princess from a bad turtle man” has nothing on this game.

You play the “Light Warriors”, who are sworn to protect the crystals that barricade the earth from impending doom.

Every few centuries, new Light Warriors are born, and it becomes their job to do away with evil once again, and unravel a simple, yet delicate story. Now, there aren’t very many twists and turns in the plot, but what is there, is magnificent for what it was.

Named with whatever name you give them, the Light Warriors are a band of heroes, whom strengths and weakness you decide. You are the creator here, and it is up to you to chose what “class” each person will have.

The amount of detail in the battle system is astounding. Even though the commands are basic, the number of spells you can cast, as well the number of status effects is breath-taking.

There are over 60 spells to cast, and all of which have different effects, and have different strengths and weaknesses, and are used in different situations.

For example, the spell “TMPR” is an abili-

ty that increases your strength, so you can deal twice as much damage; a good use for said spell would be to dispatch enemies with high strength, quickly and effectively, and secondly, would also be useful for an enemy who boasts a very high defense stat, which can only be broken using stronger attacks. (Loving the geek-speak yet?)

Spells like “HRM,” are extremely powerful, but only work on undead enemies like Zombies.

Other spells like the staple fire, bolt, and ice are all available, and all allow you to play off your enemies elemental weaknesses.

These features, with several others, create something so intricate, and so finely tuned, that it’s amazing to think Square could fit it all in once neat little package.

The world map is huge, covering more square mileage than any game in its time.

The number of locations you can visit is awe-inspiring, and the different means of transportation through this world is widely varied.

The world is complex, and you cannot just venture anywhere.

You may see several locations hidden, or inaccessible under normal parameters, which means you’ll have to return once you’ve ob-

tained newer vehicles, or even the airship to reach them.

Visually, this game is charming, to put it politely. Quite in fact, you might ask yourself if games like this were ever considered, even in the early 80s, “good-looking.”

Well, the answer is yes. “Final Fantasy” was one of the best looking first generation NES games.

The characters were fairly detailed, while still retaining that digitized, bit-like, sprite type charm that popularized games of its time.

The battlegrounds, though dark and limited in their palette, still added depth to the game.

The adventure itself offered well over 15-20 hours of gameplay, which compared to contemporary RPGs, is a good chunk of gaming goodness.

Don’t be fooled, even though this game is ancient history, it’s still one to pick up if you still have an operating NES.

If you’re a huge “Final Fantasy” fan, then this glance into the looking glass of videogame history will fill you in on a past that isn’t very well known, but should be.

This game takes us back to our roots, and makes us appreciate how far ‘Final Fantasy’ has taken us, how far it can still go.

Unsigned hip-hop artist rivals artist with similar name

By Piel Thach
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With similar names, not only his voice, but flow, lyrics and even on his ad-libs Jay-holla sounds a lot like the infamous Jay-Z, particularly Jay-Z’s track “American Gangster.”

With that said, that’s definitely more positive than a negative.

If you’re going to sound like someone, why not it be the greatest rapper alive.

Jay-Holla, residing in Atlanta has a heavily New York influenced sound.

You can hear this mix in coasts in “We Get Jayholla.”

With a laid back east coast flow over crunk beats, he really shines on this track. It is a breathe of fresh air too.

Unlike other up and coming rappers, Jay-Holla has a natural swagger on his tracks, making the content of his lyrics believable.

His choice in words creates imagery where you can mentally see him doing what he raps about.

In “Real Jay-Holla” he raps about the celebration of his hustling lifestyle.

“All the Time” is a smooth melody for the ladies.

With the ten songs provided on his Myspace, each has it’s own sound with the right formula to make it mainstream.

If you’re looking for something you can bump in the car, holla at Jay-Holla at <http://www.myspace.com/blockfamil-ly>.



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NFL Draft winners and losers

By Dan Pompei
Chicago Tribune

We are about three years away from knowing who picked well and who picked poorly in the draft over the weekend. But it is not too soon to identify some winners and losers who might have escaped your attention.

Winners: Dope smokers.

The fact that wide receiver Percy Harvin failed a drug test at the combine did not prevent the Vikings from taking him in the first round. The Patriots took another player who reportedly failed the drug test at the combine, wide receiver Brandon Tate, in the third.

And at least three other players who were first-round picks failed drug tests at their respective colleges, according to multiple NFL front-office sources.

Harvin and his agent, Joel Segal, executed a brilliant strategy and avoided what could have been a draft free fall. They never acknowledged that he failed a drug test. They never issued a public apology. Instead, in the two weeks before the draft, Harvin personally phoned NFL general managers and head coaches, offering to address concerns and answer any questions.

Vikings coach Brad Childress subsequently asked if he could visit Harvin, and he flew to Florida on Wednesday to spend the day with him. Three days later, he made Harvin the 22nd pick in the draft.

One personnel executive said he believes the use of marijuana is so widespread among college players that NFL teams have become numb to failed drug tests. NFL teams, it seems, are only alarmed about marijuana smokers if they are failing drug tests once they are in the league.

Loser: USC's defense.

The Trojans' "D" lost eight players in the NFL draft, which is a wonderful reflection of the talent in the program, but a huge blow to the team. Included in the USC class were two first-rounders (linebackers Brian Cushing to the Texans and Clay Matthews to the Packers) and two second-rounders (linebacker Rey Maualuga to the Bengals and defensive tackle Fili Moala to the Colts).

Winner: 'Wildcat' offense.

The Dolphins started a trend last year with the throwback formation, and now they added a weapon that should sharpen their Wildcat claws. Second-round quarterback Pat White has the athleticism to line up



Julian H. Gonzalez, Detroit Free Press / MCT Campus

Detroit Lions head coach Jim Schwartz, left, and number one pick over all quarterback Matthew Stafford pose for a photo during a press conference in Allen, Park, Michigan, on Sunday, April 26.

in several positions, to throw, run and catch and force defenses to account for him in unconventional ways.

Loser: Faith in former Patriots coaches.

While Bill Belichick worked the draft like the master he is, two of his proteges did poor imitations. Denver's Josh McDaniels and Cleveland's Eric Mangini did a lot of moving but might not have gotten very far.

McDaniels, who invited criticism with his handling of the Jay Cutler affair, drafted a running back in the first round after signing three runners in free agency. And then he traded away a first-round pick next year

(he had an extra one from the Cutler deal) for a second-round pick this year in a weak draft.

Mangini, meanwhile, could have added a dynamic player with the fifth pick, but he traded down. Not once. Not twice. But three times. Then he drafted center Alex Mack not exactly a pick that had them dancing on the shores of Lake Erie. In the process of trading down, Mangini acquired three players from his old team which, by the way, was not very good.

Winner: Donovan McNabb.

The Eagles quarterback got himself a

new wide receiver to throw to in Jeremy Maclin and a new running back to hand off to and throw to in LeSean McCoy as the Eagles used six of eight draft picks on offense.

"I talked with Donovan and he's excited," Eagles coach Andy Reid told me Sunday morning. "I was surprised Maclin was available. I thought he would have been gone much earlier in the draft. And the runner fits our system pretty good."

Winner: Kyle Orton.

No Mark Sanchez, no Josh Freeman. The Broncos only drafted Tom Brandstater in the sixth round. Orton still is Cutler's heir apparent.

Loser: Leroy Hill.

Shortly after drafting linebacker Aaron Curry with the fourth pick, the Seahawks took the franchise tag off Hill, who also is a linebacker. Hill reportedly turned down a six-year, \$36 million offer and did not sign a tender worth \$8.3 million. In January, he was arrested and charged with marijuana possession. He has not shown up for the team's off-season activities, including a mini-camp.

Loser: Shawne Merriman.

His contract is up after the season and he missed most of last year. If Merriman doesn't bounce back from his knee injury or if he is difficult to sign, the Chargers have given themselves an option, drafting Northern Illinois' Larry English in the first round.

Chargers general manager A.J. Smith expressed his admiration for the way Merriman has played but said: "His contract is up and he is coming off the knee [injury]. I don't know what the future holds."

Winner: Arizona Cardinals.

They get to keep wide receiver Anquan Boldin and they gain negotiating leverage with him. If no other team was willing to give him what he says he was worth, why should the Cardinals?

Losers: Undrafted players who should have been drafted.

In alphabetical order: Wisconsin outside linebacker Jonathan Casillas, South Carolina safety Emanuel Cook, Texas wide receiver Quan Cosby, Texas Tech quarterback Graham Harrell, Wisconsin running back P.J. Hill, Michigan State quarterback Brian Hoyer, Clemson wide receiver Aaron Kelly, Miami cornerback Bruce Johnson, Iowa defensive tackle Mitch King, Indiana wide receiver Andrew Means and Virginia wide receiver Kevin Ogletree.

—MCT Campus

Bulls win in double OT, to tie series at 2-2

By K.C. Johnson
Chicago Tribune

CHICAGO — If there's any justice in the Chicago Bulls' universe, Norm Van Lier spent his Sunday afternoon high above the United Center, maybe sharing a drink with his friend Jimi Hendrix, and smiling at what transpired in the new Madhouse on Madison.

Van Lier's widow, Susan, presented the honorary game ball and then the Bulls and Celtics engaged in one of those knock-down, drag-out playoff battles for the ages that Van Lier so loved.

When the last elbow had landed and the last floor burn had cooled, the Bulls somehow escaped with a 121-118 double-overtime victory, knotting this Eastern Conference quarterfinal series at 2-2 with Game 5 on Tuesday night in Boston.

A ridiculous three-pointer by Ben Gordon that forced the second overtime didn't hurt either, which is why Gordon answered quickly when asked where this game ranked in his five-year career.

"This is No. 1, easy," Gordon said. "This is the biggest game of our careers. This says we never give up. We have a lot of fight on our side."

Derrick Rose flirted with a quadruple-double, tallying 23 points, 11 rebounds, nine assists and, ahem, seven turnovers in another classic

battle with Rajon Rondo, who posted a triple-double.

Rose scored 13 of his 23 points in the fourth quarter, almost single-handedly winning the game on a flurry of relentless drives before Ray Allen forced the first extra session with a three-pointer with 9.8 seconds remaining.

Kirk Hinrich gutted out 43 minutes and offset a critical missed free throw in the first overtime by tirelessly chasing around Allen and Pierce, the latter who scored 29 points but shot 9-for-24.

"We should be proud with the way we bounced back after a humiliating Game 3," Hinrich said.

The Bulls led 95-93 on Gordon's runner with 31.2 seconds left in regulation and, following a Glen Davis miss, had Tyrus Thomas at the line. But he made only the second of two, giving Allen a chance to reprise his stunning Game 2 three-pointer.

In the first overtime, the Bulls trailed 105-100 when John Salmons knocked down a three-pointer with 1:47 to play.

"I haven't been shooting the ball well," Salmons said. "My teammates were keeping me up, telling me the next one would go in."

Gordon committed a costly turnover, but Salmons stripped Pierce and fed a streaking Hinrich, who drew a clear-path foul from Brian Scalabrine. Hinrich only split his free throws and Gordon's banker rimmed out, leaving the



Jose M. Osorio, Chicago Tribune / MCT Campus

Chicago Bulls Derrick Rose leads a break in the first quarter against the Boston Celtics during Game 4 of the Eastern Conference playoffs at the United Center in Chicago, Illinois, on Sunday, April 26, 2009. The Bulls beat the Celtics, 121-118.

Bulls down 107-106.

Pierce split two free throws with 18.9 seconds left, but Gordon, who landed hard on his back as Davis fouled him, did the same nine seconds later.

When Allen made two free throws with nine seconds left, the Bulls needed a miracle. Gordon delivered.

"I got a short memory," Gordon said. "I'm able to focus more when the game gets tighter. (Coach Vinny Del Negro) drew up a great misdirection. I flared and wasn't open right away so I took one dribble to create space and it felt good."

The Bulls felt even better when Gordon scored to open the second overtime, Salmons followed with a reverse layup and their de-

fense prevented Boston from scoring until Eddie House drove and dished to Davis for a dunk that made it 114-112 with 1:44 remaining.

Down 117-112, Pierce converted a three-point play with 27.3 seconds left. Salmons made two free throws, but Pierce countered with a three-pointer. Salmons made two more free throws and then blocked Pierce's final attempt.

By the end, people were downright giddy. Fans hooted and howled as they spilled onto Madison. Noah turned an on-court postgame interview into a monologue with fans, grabbing the microphone to thank them and grinning wildly.

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