

## In the Voice



Olivier Douliery, Abaca Press / MCT Campus

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# ValenciaVoice

Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

## Letterman caught in scandal

### Late night host victim of sex-capade extortion plot

By Matea Gold  
Los Angeles Times

NEW YORK A chagrined David Letterman apologized to his staff Monday and noted that his wife has been horribly hurt by the news that he slept with women who worked for him on CBS Late Show in the years leading up to their marriage.

If you hurt a person and it's your responsibility, you try to fix it," he said on the program.

Let me tell you, folks, I got my work cut out for me.

Letterman struck a notably more contrite tone than on Thursday, when he revealed that a man allegedly had sought to extort \$2 million from him to keep quiet about the comic's affairs.

I get in the car this morning, and the navigation lady wasn't speaking to me," he said in his Monday monologue.

The comedian started the day facing a torrent of headlines about the scandal. Dave's Love Grudge, shouted the New York Post. Show Will Go On, proclaimed the New York Daily News.

CBS The Early Show jumped into the fray with a piece bearing the on-screen caption Late Show Lovers. Correspondent Bianca Solozano reported on two women who have been romantically linked to the comic, while anchor Maggie Rodriguez interviewed the lawyer of the man accused of extortion.

The alleged attempt by 48 Hours Mystery producer



SSGT. Reynaldo Ramon, US Air Force / MCT Campus

David Letterman, host of the Late Show on CBS apologized on his show on Oct. 6

Robert Joel Halderman to blackmail Letterman put CBS in the awkward position of reporting on a scandal involving two of its own. So far, the news division has devoted an amount of coverage comparable to its competitors, even as

Halderman's colleagues have puzzled over his behavior.

All of us here at CBS (are) just shocked to hear that our own David Letterman was reportedly being blackmailed by a CBS News employee, Ro-

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## Gay rights activists march on Washington

By Nelson Hernandez and  
Yamiche Alcindor  
The Washington Post

WASHINGTON Tens of thousands of gay rights activists marched Sunday in Washington to show President Obama and Congress that they are impatient with what they consider piecemeal progress and are ready to fight at the federal level for across-the-board equality, including for the right to marry and the right to serve in the military.

Key votes on same-sex marriage are coming up in Washington, D.C., and Maine, and Obama promised Saturday to end the don't ask, don't tell policy that forces gay and lesbian members of the armed forces to keep their sexual orientation a secret.

But organizers of the National Equality March and participants said they want to shift the political effort toward seeking equality in all states, rather than settling for local and state-level victories.

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Nikki Namdar / Valencia Voice

Fadia Jourieh & Maha Moarechpour of the Arab American Culture Club demonstrate traditional clothing and dance

# Students celebrate culture

By Miguel DeLeon  
mdeleon@valenciavoice.com

ORLANDO, Fla. The Arab American Culture Club partnered with the Student Government Association on Tuesday, October 6, 2009 to host their biggest event this year.

The Arab American Culture Club is a group on the West Campus that acknowledges all students here at Valencia that have roots to the 21 Arab States in the middle east.

Maha Moarechpour, 18, is the president of the Arab American Culture Club said, "That we wanted to introduce the student body here at Valencia to the cultures of the middle east."

Even though she is not Arab herself, she is Iranian, Moarech lived in Dubai for the majority of her life before moving to the United States and major in Biology.

The event started off with a guest speaker from the University of Florida. She started explaining that even though she was born here, she was raised learning about her middle eastern roots and that prompted her to major in Middle Eastern Studies.

She then proceeded by reading a poem titled "What is an Arab?" and then read another poem entitled "My Soul Counseled Me."

After the poem reading, the festivities continued with a

special fashion show.

Students and faculty strutted down the runway in traditional middle eastern clothes and scarves in various colors: red, green, white, and gold were among the numerous colors of the fabrics.

Members of the Arab American Club performed the arab traditional dances

Bijal Patel, 19, explained that henna tattoos are Arabic, and are a big tradition when women get married.

Jamie Persaud, 19, and Nisha Ramnarine, 17, each got one of the temporary tattoos.

Persaud stated "The reason I got this was because I liked the design and it is a big thing in my family because I'm Hindu."

# Letterman causes mixed-feelings

CONTINUED FROM COVER

driguez said on the air Friday in one of two pieces "The Early Show" did on the story that day.

National correspondent Jeff Glor did a three-minute piece about the alleged extortion plot for CBS Evening News on Friday, reporting that Halderman had a relationship with a woman who worked for Letterman.

"We're following the story as aggressively as we cover any story of this kind, trying to learn what we can and get the critical interviews," execu-

tive producer Rick Kaplan said.

"It's of no matter that CBS has so many connections to the main people in this story, and it has no impact on what we are doing."

In a round of interviews on the network morning shows Monday, Halderman attorney Gerald Shargel said the CBS producer did not have criminal intent when he took a \$2 million check from Letterman's attorney. Shargel declined to provide details, but he accused Letterman of holding back facts.

"He's a master at manipulating audiences; that's what he does for a living," Shargel told NBC's Ann Curry. "So to think that David Letterman gave the entire story, and there's nothing more to be said, is simply wrong."

"Somebody did someone wrong ... other than my client," he said, adding: "It's not only a question of having sexual affairs. ... I think the larger issue at the trial will be, who did he have the affair with?"

LATWP News Service

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COLUMBIA COLLEGE



# InBev sells SeaWorld



Families marvel at the killer whales at Shamu Stadium in Florida's SeaWorld Orlando as they glide out of the water during a show.

Angel Valentino, South Florida Sun-Sentinel / MCT Campus

**By Hugo Martin**  
**Los Angeles Times**

Anheuser-Busch InBev reached an agreement Wednesday to sell its theme park empire to Blackstone Capital Partners for up to \$2.7 billion.

Under the deal, Blackstone will buy Busch Entertainment Corp., the nation's second largest entertainment park operator, for \$2.3 billion in cash and the right to collect on Blackstone's return, capped at \$400 million.

Busch Entertainment Corp. operates 10 theme parks across the U.S. -- including SeaWorld parks

in San Diego; Orlando, Fla.; and San Antonio, and Busch Gardens parks in Tampa, Fla., and Williamsburg, Va. In total, the parks draw about 25 million visitors each year.

The deal was not a surprise considering that when Belgian beer giant InBev acquired Anheuser-Busch last year in a \$52 billion deal, InBev officials said they planned to sell noncore assets to help pay for the deal.

In a statement, Carlos Brito, chief executive of Anheuser-Busch InBev, said: Busch Entertainment Corp. is a high-performing asset with a world-class management

team, but not a core business for Anheuser-Busch InBev.

Blackstone Partners is already a big player in leisure and entertainment. Last year it acquired a stake in Harrah's Entertainment Inc., the casino and hotel company, and it is co-owner of Universal Studios Orlando. It also controls Merlin Entertainments Group, the company that operates the LegoLand amusement park in Carlsbad, Calif., and Madame Tussauds, the celebrity wax figure attraction with nine galleries in Europe, Asia and the U.S., including a recently opened attraction in Hollywood.

*LATWP News Service*

# Marchers aim to remind Obama of his promises

**CONTINUED FROM COVER**

We're not settling, said Cleve Jones, co-chairman of the march and founder of the Names Project, the AIDS memorial quilt that recognizes Americans who have died from HIV/AIDS. There's no such thing as a fraction of equality. We want equal protection under the law.

The march was coordinated by Equality Across America, a group that formed this year. Organizers said they represent those who want immediate fundamental change in the legal status of gays, as opposed to those who think patience is needed as legal obstacles are overcome.

Some in the latter group are political veterans, such as U.S. Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., the highest-ranking openly gay political figure in the United States. Last week, Frank said he thought the march was useless, a remark that was attacked at the rally.

How many more tears should be shed before some politicians in a back room can decide it is convenient to join us and fight for our freedom? asked David Mixner, a longtime activist who spoke at the rally.

Attendees expressed complicated feelings about Obama. Nearly every person interviewed said he or she had voted for him, but many people said they were disappointed by what they see as a lack of action on key gay rights issues, such as letting gays serve openly in the military.

Thousands of people marched from McPherson Square, a few blocks from the White House, down Pennsylvania Avenue, chanting President Obama, let mama marry mama! and L, G, B, T, we demand equality.

Marchers carried signs reading We Won't Wait for Full Equality and Mind Your Own Marriage. Spectators watched from the street and the roof of the Newseum, many cheering the participants. As the march ended about 2:30 p.m., people gathered on Capitol Hill for a rally.

The marchers spanned the spectrum of a movement that makes a point of including people of different lifestyles -- a teacher from Pennsylvania who said she was afraid to give her name because she feared retaliation at work, preppy-looking professionals from the Logan Circle neighbor-

hood of Washington, skimpily dressed self-described radical faries and a leather-clad man from the D.C. Bear Club.

Many supporters identified themselves as heterosexual, carrying signs with slogans such as I'm Not Queer But I'm Here.

Organizers seemed surprised by the turnout. They told me that you didn't care and you wouldn't come, Mixner told the crowd. "The president asked us to help him, and help him we will.

Obama pledged Saturday night at a fundraising dinner for the Human Rights Campaign that he would end the military's don't ask, don't tell policy, but he provided no specifics on how he would do it. Many gay activists said that they are tired of waiting and that he should immediately move to repeal the military's policy and the Defense of Marriage Act.

I love President Obama, said Kendra Bopp of Ashtabula, Ohio. He's not perfect, but his heart's in the right place, and he's trying.

*LATWP News Service*



# Tortillas on the rise in tough times

Economic downturn has fewer americans sending flowers and more munching flour

By Bethany Clough  
McClatchy Newspapers

FRESNO, Calif. In a recession, it seems, people eat more tortillas and stop buying flowers for their sweethearts.

It's not actually that simple, but tortilla makers landed on a recently released top-10 list of best-performing privately held companies, and florists landed in the bottom 10.

Sageworks Inc. compiled the sales data. The Raleigh, N.C. -based firm's accounting software tracks industry sales but keeps company names anonymous. The firm looked at 12 months of sales from September 2008 through August while the country was mired in a recession.

The rankings reflect a variety of factors, experts say. Florists landed toward the bottom due to people cutting back on unnecessary extras. Tortillas ranked near the top because consumption is rising as shoppers save money by buying more food at the grocery store, among other reasons.

Every recession is different, but one thing they have in common is that people will cut back spending on luxuries and continue to spend on necessities, said Jeff Michael, an economist with the University of the Pacific in Stockton.

Industries that suffer tend to sell or make such big-ticket items as cars, or anything that needs to be financed, such as houses, he said.

But companies that make necessities

tend to do well, Michael said and some, such as food, are even recession-proof.

Tortillas have moved into the mainstream for consumers of all ethnicities, said Helen Chavez-Hansen, owner and president of La Tapatia Tortilleria Inc. of Fresno. Tortillas are now at the point where they are regarded as a staple product, she said. Her company's tortillas are distributed in schools, on grocery store shelves and for such dishes as quesadillas at Claim Jumper and the Elephant Bar Restaurant.

Grocery products of all kinds have seen increased sales as people eat out less, Chavez-Hansen said. Indeed, other food manufacturing topped tortillas on the Sageworks ranking, with a sales increase of 15 percent.

Another part of the increase is steady growth in the Hispanic population, Kabbani said. As of last year, there were nearly 50 million Hispanics in the United States, according to the U.S. Census Bureau.

Kabbani noted another reason for the increased tortilla sales: Earlier this year some tortillas were included in the U.S. Department of Agriculture's WIC program, which provides vouchers for healthy food for low-income women and children.

Chavez-Hansen estimates that roughly half of the 14 percent sales increase for tortilla manufacturing and bakeries is attributable to rising cost of such ingre-



Mark Crosse, Fresno Bee / MCT Campus

**Dozens of tortillas roll off the line every minute at the Tapatia tortilla factory in Fresno, Calif.**

dients as wheat and corn. Those commodities, particularly corn, skyrocketed last year.

Other food-related industries also landed at the top of the list, including grain farming and farm products. Food is a necessity, and related industries do well comparatively because shoppers can't cut back on it like they can on luxuries, said Ephraim Leibtag, an economist with the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Economic Research Service.

Most of the other top 10 performers are tied in some way to changes in the economy.

Meanwhile, florists are suffering as people scale back on luxuries.

Bob Azzaro, owner of San Francisco Floral in Fresno, said customers have drastically cut back on the just because orders that aren't tied to birthdays or anniversaries.

In past years, he would get phone calls saying, "Hey Bob, send a \$50 arrangement to my wife. She's having a bad day."

He doesn't get those calls anymore, he said. And sales are down about 20 percent.

Azzaro said flowers are a luxury, and he understands why people are cutting back:

"If you have to buy food for your family or flowers, what are you going to buy?"

A turnaround may already be in the works for florists, said Larry Yamada. Sales picked up slightly in August and September. He expects they'll pick up even more when the weather cools enough to put racks of flowers on the sidewalk, which drives impulse buys, he said.

Another bright spot of sorts is funerals. Flower orders for funerals have remained steady despite the recession, both florists say.

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Craig Kohlruess, Fresno Bee / MCT Campus

**Andy Azzaro, operations manager of San Francisco Floral in Fresno, California, puts together a flower arrangement for a funeral at the flower shop, September 30, 2009.**



OUR VOICE

# All style no substance

## President Obama's accolade becomes double-edged sword

In advance, the Valencia Voice accepts the Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism for the work that could potentially come from our humble publication in the future.

Ever since President Obama became a Nobel laureate it's become fashionable for people of all persuasions seeking acclaim for feats they have not actually accomplished or intend to at some later date.

To be fair, Obama did actually win the prize, but it begs the question, why? If it's appropriate for the president to win the Nobel Peace Prize for doing absolutely nothing except for wishing the worries of the world away, then it is just fair that this publication receive the highest award for writing in the country.

Now, it's not entirely fair to blast the president for receiving the award, after all he didn't ask for it and the announcement came as a complete surprise to him, so a n illuminati-esque conspiracy doesn't apply to this situation.

But the question still remains, how was he chosen? According to the Nobel Committee, Obama was selected for his "extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples."

It basically means exercising the will to do something sometime that could possibly strengthen ties between world powers at some point.

While that might seem logical to some, the fact that he hasn't actually been able to put any plan together to actually accomplish said goal means he is entirely untested. His reputation as a champion of world peace and individual rights is highly theoretical.

What if Obama turns out to be one of the most horrible warmongering, secretive, hateful individuals in the history of the United States (see Dick Cheney)? It's not impossible, it's happened before.

But, popular opinion would say otherwise, after all, Obama hasn't allowed the country to engage in any irrationally aggressive behavior during his tenure, like say . . . bombing the moon. Oh wait that did happen. A government that takes part in James Bond villain-like behavior cannot seemingly beget a Nobel Peace Prize winner.

To tentatively award someone, anyone, even the leader of the free world the Nobel Peace Prize, is another confusing move by the powers that be, pandering to what is popular.

Making Obama the world's poster boy for world peace feeds on the idea that he is charismatic and popular and could possibly be an influential new voice in the world although we cannot entirely trust that sentiment for the moment Obama appears to be all style no substance.

Tim Goheen



"Obama has done much in both his campaign and in his presidency so far (and previously, in his community service) to further our good standing in the world."

—Dallas Morning News

"This year's prize, then, is meant to reward words and not deeds."

—Los Angeles Times

"Obama has, as president, created a new climate in international politics. Multilateral diplomacy has regained a central position, with emphasis on the role that the United Nations and other international institutions can play."

—Nobel Committee

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POLL

# Nobel-ity

## America's top leader awarded Peace Prize

By Greg Miller, Janet Hook  
and Mark Silva  
MCT Campus

WASHINGTON President Barack Obama, who has pledged to place diplomacy ahead of confrontation in world affairs, won the Nobel Prize for Peace on Friday, a remarkable and controversial honor for a leader nine months in office.

Obama, as if acknowledging the unusual nature of the award, accepted it as a call to action rather than as a reward for past accomplishments.

This award must be shared with everyone who strives for justice and dignity, Obama said at a Rose Garden appearance.

The gold medallion given to recipients of the prize does not come with a ribbon, but the award could end up being a weight around Obama's neck.

Intended to honor how Obama has altered the nation's diplomatic direction, the peace prize is likely to call attention to how much of the administration's agenda from closing the prison at Guantanamo Bay to winding down the war in Iraq remains undone.

The prize also poses political risks for a president routinely depicted by Republicans as more focused on seeking interna-



Olivier Douliery, Abaca Press / MCT Campus  
President Obama presenting the National Medal of Science to recipients Oct. 7

tional approval than defending the security interests of the United States.

That criticism could be compounded if Obama rejects the military's request for an additional 40,000 troops in Afghanistan.

Winning the Nobel might strengthen Obama's diplomatic hand as he enters negotiations with nuclear rogues such as North Korea and Iran.

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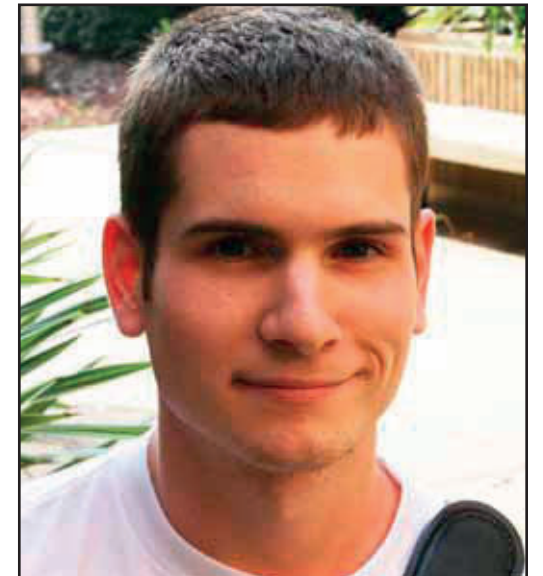
## Is President Obama deserving of Nobel Prize?



>> They gave it to him because he's the first black president. How many other presidents have gotten it over time? —Nicole Hurlock



>> He doesn't deserve it, you have to let people see your work before you get credit for it. —Eloudine Norcilus



>> He may not deserve it but he did inspire people without trying to. —Nick Nache



>> He was awarded the Peace Prize too early without anything to validate the fact he deserves it. —Frank Batista



>> I support it, I support him, I voted for him. —Michael Hoots



>> If he did anything worth acclamation then I'd be all for it. —Kady Peters

Photos by Kenny Wagner



## YOUR VOICE

# Social insecurity

Online networking destroys personal interaction

By Roxy Smith

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Do you remember the last time you received a letter in the mail from a friend? What about a postcard from someone who went on vacation?

Social networking and the ever growing, need for speed has deteriorated real human interactions.

As the internet expands and social networking sites continue to grow, the value of friendship is decreasing.

If someone thought about you while they were on vacation, they would write you a letter; it used to be personal.

With the invention of Facebook, Twitter, MySpace and blogger accounts, nothing is personal anymore.

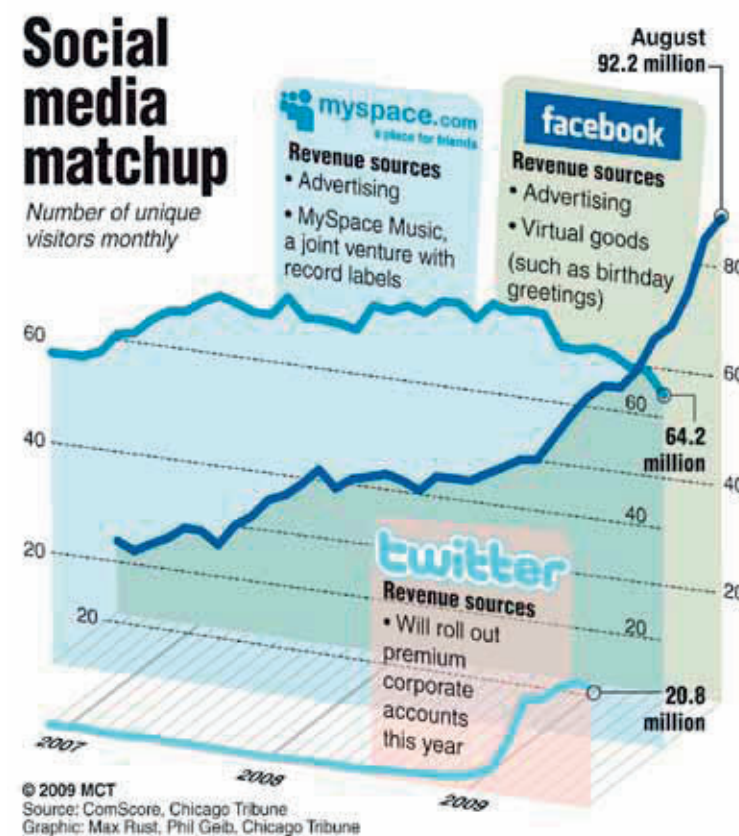
Now when someone is doing something, they leave you a comment on one of your accounts.

There is nothing special about a comment on one of my homepages.

There are just way too many social networking sites. I just don't see where people have the time to keep track of all of these pages; it is really just getting monotonous.

It used to be you'd ask someone for their phone number if you needed to get a hold of them and now the question is, What is your URL?

I understand the importance of maintaining some of these sites for professional purposes, to get your name out there and to stay in contact with people you might not otherwise talk to.



It's nice to get on the internet and see what a friend is doing without even picking up a phone.

With the expansion of social networking, I don't think people really talk to each other anymore.

Are you really staying in contact with someone because you click on the 'Like' option to something that they are doing, or just simply acknowledging that they are still there?

Social networking is great because it makes it easier to find an old friend, easier to send them a message, but wouldn't it be nice to get a letter in the mail or if some things remained personal?

# Nice Tweets

Why twitter won't last

By Colin Delany

Epolitics.com

Twitter's everywhere, or so it seems. From celebrities to brand managers to college-age kids, people around the world appear to be hell-bent on racing Ashton Kutcher to amass as many followers as they possibly can.

But every over-hyped trend sparks a reaction. Politicians and journalists adrift in a new communications environment have grabbed hold of the technology like desperate homeowners facing down a wildfire with a garden hose.

Regardless of the hype, Twitter is more than just a clever name. It's a versatile service that blends some of the best of the current generation of online and mobile technologies.

Individual users, companies, government agencies and organizations across the globe are trying Twitter for a variety of communications tasks, from organizing political action to serving as a journalistic live-coverage tool to providing a venue for reputation management.

But I doubt that Twitter is destined to revolutionize the way most of us in the wider world consume information online, and here's why.

The tool's strengths embody critical weaknesses, and it's likely to remain the province of a relatively small number of

enthusiasts for now.

Twitter's immediacy, its brevity, its reach and the social connections it offers have drawn millions of users, but each attraction turns out to contain the seeds of eventual discontent.

But for every news event or public moment shared on Twitter, we endure hundreds of updates about someone's breakfast.

The flip side of immediacy is narcissism and lack of reflection. Twitter's brevity is similarly double-edged: the length limit forces writers to cut to the chase and lets readers consume messages from many people at once, but only so much rational thought can fit into 140 characters.

Twitter may be many things, but a forum for in-depth analysis it's not, and it's revealing how many tweets are just links to articles or blog posts with room for substance.

As my friend and longtime journalist Terry Samuel said the other day, Twitter's new, but it gets old fast. But despite what some might wish, it's not going away tomorrow.

People are into Twitter are really into Twitter, and even though 60 percent of new subscribers abandon their accounts within a month, it or a similar service seems destined to be with us for a while.

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# Viewers find 'Couples' comedy unfunny

By James Austin  
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I've come to expect a certain level of comedy from Vince Vaughn. Especially when combined with names like Jon Favreau and Jason Bateman. Unfortunately their latest title, "Couples Retreat," doesn't live up to these expectations.

The story focuses on four couples. Dave and Ronnie (Vince Vaughn, "Wedding Crashers," and Malin Akerman, "Watchmen," respectively) are a pair with the appearance of a stable marriage and two young boys. Joey and Lucy (Jon Favreau, "The Replacements," and Kristin Davis, "Sex and the City") seem to hate each other despite their marriage. Jason and Cynthia (Jason Bateman, "Extract" and Kristen Bell, "Veronica Mars," ) are a micromanaging couple struggling to keep it together. Finally there is Shane (Faizon Love, "Elf," ) who is recently divorced and trying to keep pace with his new 20-year-old girlfriend Trudy (Kali Hawk, "Lovers & Haters," ).

The group of friends is shocked to hear that Jason and Cynthia are considering divorce, and want to examine their relationship at a tropical couple's paradise called Eden West. But because they can only afford a group rate, they get their friends to all sign up, promising a vacation filled with jet skiing, parasailing and fruity cocktails with little umbrellas. Upon their arrival however, the group realizes that the couples skill building sessions are mandatory, soon revealing flaws in all of their relationships.

This sounds like a funny premise. A comedy about love, and the difficulty most people have communicating that love. Shot in the stun-



John Johnson, Universal Pictures / MCT Campus

**The cast of "Couples Retreat."**  
Clockwise from top: Kristin Davis, Fazon Love, Kali Hawk, Malin Akerman, Vince Vaughn, Jason Bateman, Kristen Bell, and Jon Favreau.

ningly beautiful tropical paradise of Bora Bora, it looks like a screen saver. Unfortunately, it sounds about as funny as your average screen saver.

This movie is very slow to start. A few one-liners and 5-year-old potty humor account for most of the laughs in the beginning. The pace does pick up a bit once they arrive at the island and meet some of the over-the-top characters, such as Salvatore, (Carlos Ponce, "Lipstick Jungle," ) a very muscular yoga instructor who is exceedingly hands-on with his teaching, and Marcel (Jean Reno), the pretentious and sometimes cryptic program director. But even then, the jokes are few and far between.

Most of the movie consisted of the couples in awkward or difficult situations struggling to

get through the week. There were occasional good sequences, for instance, the sessions with the therapists (John Michael Higgins, "Raising the Bar," Ken Jeong "The Hangover," ) who had very good performances, but unfortunately little screen time. Also Ponce did a very good job of portraying his character and provided a much needed laugh almost every time he was on-screen.

Along with the lacking comedy, there wasn't much depth to the film even based on the scale set by Vaughn's other movies. The story does very little to surprise audiences and provokes hardly any thought from the beginning to the drawn out and predictable end.

Overall, this movie wasn't bad. It was light, and briefly entertaining, but totally forgettable.

## Welcome 'Retreat'

By Cristina Bonura  
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Everyone just go see "Couples Retreat" as soon as you can. This movie was very entertaining, a comedy that was actually funny. The message coming from it was actually a good one as well.

Jason (Jason Bateman) and Cynthia (Kristen Bell) feel that they are having problems with their marriage and are considering getting a divorce. When they tell their friends about this, everyone is shocked.

In order for them to mend their marriage, Jason and Cynthia feel that they should see a couples counselor, or a therapist, and what better way to do it than at a beautiful resort? There is one slight problem though, they can't afford the trip on their own.

Jason and Cynthia find a package for four couples, which would make the trip less expensive.

Well as we all know from seeing the previews, the couples decide to go on their vacation. Upon arriving, they are told that they will be staying at Eden West (the couples resort) other than Eden East (the singles resort).

While enjoying their free meal (the resort is all inclusive) they receive an itinerary that starts with couples skill building at 6 a.m. the next morning.

Everyone, except Jason and Cynthia, is confused about why they can't do fun stuff since they aren't the ones having problems in their relationship. But they learn that if they don't follow the itinerary, they will be refunded their money and have to leave.

The rest of the movie is filled with funny mini-adventures that the couples go through during their stay. "Couples Retreat" was a great movie, and I would pay to see it again.



# Spine-chilling 'Activity' terrifies audience

By Alex Barrett

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There are really two types of scary movies in my mind, the slasher flicks and the thrillers. Slasher flicks rely normally on pure violence and gore, which can be fun; but what I really go for are the ones that screw with your head for the next week.

Paranormal Activity has no more blood throughout the movie than an average few knee scrapes have produced over your lifetime, but it is still one of the freakiest movies I have ever seen. Activity is a picture shot documentary-style, meaning that the camera work is primarily done by one of the actors unless it is on its tri-pod or sitting on a counter. While this may make some people sick with all of the bouncing and screen shifting, Activity does a great job of trying to limit the scenes where you would guess the camera is in a washing machine somewhere, which your stomach will thank you for later.

In Oren Peli's first venture into directing, he orchestrates one of the most chilling thrillers the big screen has ever known, using virtually unknown actors and actresses ala The Blair Witch Project, and much like that same movie, uses their real names. Katie Featherston and Micah Sloat (pronounced Mee-kah) are a pretty unremarkable couple, which makes them perfect for this film.

In the beginning of the movie, the producers thank the families of Katie and Micah and the San Diego Police Department for their contributions, suggesting that the couple was no longer around to do so, making the viewer feel as though the movie is real, authentic footage. It is from this simple black screen that the seeds of realistic and unrelenting terror are placed into the audience. When the movie begins, Katie is returning home from school where she is

studying to become a teacher, and finds her boyfriend of three years greeting her with a new video camera setup that would rival an actual movie studio's design, complete with flood lights and night vision. Katie explains that they have moved into the house recently and this is the first place they have lived together, and that a presence has been with her since she was eight years old. Micah is very lead-headed, and seems content on finding out what has been causing recent odd noises and occurrences around the house. The movie really doesn't get too complicated, and its simplicity is what makes it so scary. Just like any normal couple, Micah and Katie start out living normal, upbeat lives, screwing with each other as couples tend to do, having friends over, working their jobs and school work as many of us do, then hit the sack normally around 11:30 p.m.

The bedroom door has a clear view down the upstairs hallway, where Micah believes the hauntings are strongest besides the couples bedroom, so every night he sets up the camera with a clear view of the bed and hallway, and leaves their door open. Get used to this picture, you will spend almost all of the movie in this perspective, watching the demon torment the couple at night at first, and then take over their lives as the movie goes on. There isn't much to be said about this flick that isn't going to give any of it away, but take my word for it, you will be scared.

The couple bring in ghostly experts and against his recommendations, Micah continues to film and acquires a Ouija Board from one of his friends, and really ticks off the ethereal force slowly dooming the Californian couple. There are big things happening all the time in the house, but there are even more little, far weirder things happening that would make most people run to the hills, and are quite frightening as you start to notice behavioral changes in the house members as the film carries on.



Barbara Davidson, Los Angeles Times / LATWP News Service

Director Oren Peli, left, and John Morn.

After you watch the film, you can check out the first attempt that was released in 2007 for festival use, and since then the movie has been tapered down about 11 minutes, and the ending has changed to provide a more intense experience. Speaking of experience, this is one I will tell you that you absolutely have to see in the theaters, some of the subtler happenings may be lost somewhat on the small screen.

I have never been to a movie that had the audience so scared I could hear people crying on more than one occasion. If you are freaked out easily, and find it hard to control yourself, this movie is not for you. At least a quarter of the original people in the theater at the start of the movie were gone by the 16th night in the house, and even they missed the really scary stuff. I'm going to go crazy here, for what this movie does

with its \$15 million budget, it is amazing. I give the flick a 9 out of 10, easily the highest score I have ever given in a review for this publication. Paranormal Activity exists to chill you to your core and make sure you don't get a lot of sleep that night when you go to bed. With that knowledge, I will be the first to tell you that this review would not have been written without the coffee next to me keeping me awake.

Orlando is fortunate enough to be only one of about 20 theaters nation-wide (at time of writing) showing this film, but once their Web site, paranormalmovie.com reaches one million demands, it will be expanded to more theaters for more people to see. Get to Universal Cineplex early, as the ushers are turning thrill-seekers away due to sell-outs, and make sure you don't go to this one alone. You've been warned.



# ‘American’ tale warms hearts

Scottish novelist struggles to achieve ‘American Dream,’ suffers from alcoholism, divorce, and death of his parents

By Jimmy Tater  
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Written by the CBS host of *The Late Late Show*, Craig Ferguson, *American on Purpose* tells the story of the late night host growing up in Cumbernauld, Scotland.

It also gives a first hand look at the uncertainties of life in the entertainment business.



Nicolas Khayat, Abaca Press / MCT Campus  
Craig Ferguson.

Included are scenes that explore relationships that affect Ferguson positively and negatively throughout his life. He learns to be a tough guy among the other rough students in the 1960's Scottish school system.

He experiences the destruction of alcoholism and other intoxicates on personal relationships. Ferguson endures the wavering health of his beloved parents, and discovers his passion to make an audience laugh while he performs on stage.

*American on Purpose: The Improbable Adventures of an Unlikely Patriot* is an excellent book for anyone interested in hearing a story about the life of an immigrant to the United States and the cultural perspective it can provide.

He was able to transcend the humble lodgings of Cumbernauld to come to America and find work as a successful talk show host on a major network like CBS.

Also, it can give anyone interested in the entertainment industry a glimpse at tension found in studios when a project is being made, as well as the frustrations and ef-

forts one would have to display to be successful.

He quit the failing sitcom, *Maybe This Time*, that he starred in alongside Betty White (*The Golden Girls*) because the writing was terrible, and found a role as the provocative English boss on ABC's *The Drew Carey Show*.

But it proved to be a limited success since he was called less and less to fill the guest role as the show neared its cancellation.

The story also addresses alcoholism which affects Ferguson's relationships and was a factor that resulted in his first divorce. He describes a crippling anxiety attack he suffers in the early stages of his alcoholism.

In 1992, he declares himself sober and he goes to a rehabilitation center and cleans up his life, and provides his personal insight into the disease of alcoholism.

The narrative contains quips and other minor additions that shows the great comedian and writer that he is. But aside from that it should be enjoyed for the unique story that it tells.

## OTHER VIEWS

*American on Purpose* reads as if Ferguson had snorted Angela's Ashes, .

David Hirshey, Harper Collins

If *American on Purpose* is, in part, a memoir about Ferguson's alcoholism and his triumph over it, it is also an account of an addiction he's unlikely to kick: his obsession with America.

Andy Borowitz, *The New York Times*

Ferguson is a kinetic cutup teeming with foolishness, brilliance, defiance and heart."

Frazier Moore, *Associated Press*

Heartfelt, fun, and inspiring.

Barnes & Noble

The book has a great cover, as I am holding up for the viewers. Of course the title, *America on Purpose* couldn't be a better title.

Greta van Susteran, *FOX News* (interview with Ferguson)

A great read . . . almost as good as my memoir.

Carrie Fisher, author of *Wishful Drinking*

[Ferguson] has, instead, written a book that is hilarious and irrepressibly daft, yet also kind, poignant, and undeniably wise. It was a joy to read.

Dennis Lehane, author of *The Given Day*



# Strategizing in 'Souls' is key to survival

## Avid gamers struggle not to die in nearly impossible situations

By Ashley McBride  
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The toughest game ever? Hardly. PS3's "Demon's Souls" was rumored to be one of the hardest games ever made, but if you select the right character to play, it is rather simple.

After playing the different characters, I discovered that melee attacks are virtually impossible by themselves. Playable characters who use only that attack, will quickly get you killed.

After trying out multiple characters, the Royalty class seemed like the right person to go with. They can parry and fight up close but they can also use magic. They come equipped with a ring that slowly regenerates their magic throughout the levels.

Arachnophobics everywhere will shudder at the gigantic "demon spider" at the end of level 2, Stonefang Tunnel.

Spells are a godsend here, because that is the only way to defeat the fire-breathing, web-shooting demon spider.

The levels can be confusing, as there is no map to guide players along. There are hints scattered

throughout each level, however, and those are essential for staying alive.

This game requires an internet connection and as you play, you can see other players (they are outlined in white and look spectral), playing a level alongside you.

Another effective tip to stay alive is finding bloodstains.

The bloodstains are where other players have died, and it can help you discover, what not to do in the game. By selecting the stain, a red outlined character appears reenacting how the player died.

One trick of this game though is if you die in a particular level, even if you are close to the end of that level, you have to start that level all over again from the very beginning.

Touching your own bloodstain allows you to regain your soul.

Once you complete a level, touching the archstone returns you to the "Nexus," a warp room where you can upgrade your weapons, learn spells and advance your abilities.

Level one comes equipped with dragons, and those should be avoided at all costs.

The graphics in the game are good though they could be im-

proved upon further.

The creatures in the game are unique, including a molten lava komodo dragon demon.

If you proceed up the stairs in the Nexus and enter the "Pantheon," you can see who has beaten the game in the gigantic showroom.



Handout / MCT Campus

The minds at Sony Computer Entertainment Inc. have created many games including "Demon's Souls," "Resistance: Fall of Man," and "God of War," (above).

So far only one has done it, so maybe Demon's Souls really is the hardest game ever. Or simply not enough people have played it.

Do you think you are an avid gamer? Try Demon's Souls and see if you believe it is the most difficult game ever.

## OTHER VIEWS

One misjudged situation, one step too far, and you'll end up with a torch in your face or several limbs broken. And yet, even though I certainly don't think of myself as a glutton for videogame punishment, Demon's Souls continues to be addictive. It's Stockholm Syndrome on a disc.

**Ray Barnholt, 1UP**

The game is very hard, but not unfairly so; each time you die, you'll learn a bit more about the level, and you'll be able to progress a bit further.

**Adriaan den Ouden, RPGamer**

Demon's Souls, on the other hand, is as long as you are stupid. Its length will be determined by how impetuous you are.

**Heather Anne Campbell, Play Magazine**

Nearly everything about the game's no-nonsense approach to delivering the action can be summed up in one very simple example: you can't pause the game. Ever.

**Sam Bishop, IGN**

"It is one of the most difficult modern videogames in existence, refusing to make even the slightest concession to your happiness or mental well-being. For this reason, developing a devotion to Demon's Souls has been the gaming equivalent of falling in love with an emotionally stunted, occasionally violent sociopath.

**Keza MacDonald, Eurogamer**

There is so much freedom and underlying strategy involved in Demon's Souls that every time you die, you'll feel like it's your own fault.

**Chris Carter, Gamer Limit**



# Tuskers open inaugural UFL season with win

By Neil Tredray  
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ORLANDO, Fla. The Florida Tuskers got their first season in the United Football League off to a strong start with a 35-13 victory over the New York Sentinels Saturday night at the Citrus Bowl.

The game started badly for the Tuskers as the Sentinels started off scoring 10 unanswered points, and a 35-yard field goal attempt by Tuskers kicker Matt Bryant missed wide right.

In the second quarter, Tuskers quarterback Brooks Bollinger was intercepted by cornerback Paul Pratt, who returned the ball to the one yard line.

The Sentinels' offense took the field poised to make the score 17-0, but the Tuskers defense twice stuffed New York's LaBrandon

Toefield. Former Super Bowl MVP Dexter Jackson was in on both tackles for the Tuskers.

Then, on third down, Tuskers linebacker Tim McGarigle jarred the ball loose from Toefield's hands and Darius Vinnett recovered the fumble for the Tuskers in the end zone.

"We were going to go up 17 points and then disaster happened," said Sentinels head coach Ted Cottrell.

After a shaky start, we settled down after we got that turnover and we kind of flipped things on them," said Tuskers head coach Jim Haslett. That play was indeed the turning point for the Tuskers.

After starting on their own 20 yard line, Bollinger led the Tuskers on an 80 yard drive which featured receptions by five different Tuskers receivers, including a 9-yard touchdown pass to receiver Frank Murphy.

Two plays later, the Tuskers defense forced another turnover as Fakhir Brown intercepted an errant Quinn Gray pass.

Bollinger needed just one play and one receiver for the next score, as he found Taye Biddle wide open in the middle of the field for a 35-yard touchdown pass.

The Sentinels scored their last points of the game on their next possession, a second field goal from kicker Piotr Czech that brought the Sentinels within one point.

After the half, the Tuskers took the field leading 14-13, and Bollinger led a third consecutive scoring drive.

Helped by a rush of 27 yards from Michael



Pittman and one of 12 by Tatum Bell, Florida moved to New York's 16 yard line, where Bollinger found Chas Gessner wide open in the end zone for six.

On the Sentinel's next play from scrimmage, Toefield again had the ball jarred loose, this time by defensive tackle Claude Wroten. McGarigle fell on the ball, and after a coach's challenge confirmed the ruling of a fumble, Florida took over on New York's 31.

This time, the Tuskers allowed their running back duo of Bell and Pittman to do most of the work, but Bollinger had his final touchdown pass of the night on the drive, a one yard toss to Ryan Neufeld.

Bollinger completed 20 of 26 passes for 225 yards, four touchdowns and an interception. Bell also scored on a running play in the fourth quarter.

Defensively, the Tuskers held the Sentinels to 63 offensive yards in the second half.

The Tuskers' next game is Thursday in Las Vegas against the undefeated Locomotives.

## NEW RULES

### >>Overtime

Both teams have an opportunity to possess the football during the 15-minute overtime/sudden-death period. Sudden-death rules apply after both teams have had an opportunity to possess the football.

### >>Intentional Grounding

Not a penalty by the quarterback who is either inside or outside the pocket area and under duress to legally ground the football as long as the pass hits on or beyond the line of scrimmage.

### >>Unsportsmanlike Conduct

Tasteful individual or group celebrations are allowed in the end zone or bench areas only. If a penalty is called, the severity of the penalty will determine if the player remains in the game.

### >>Forward Pass

When a player is holding the ball to pass it forward, any intentional movement of his hand starts a forward pass. It is a fumble if the player loses possession of the ball as he is attempting to tuck it back towards his body.

### >>Fumble Out of Bounds in End Zone

A fumble in the field of play that goes forward into the opponent's end zone and over the end line or sideline is returned to the fumbling team at the spot of their fumble.





# It's all fun and games until someone gets a penalty

By Kevin Sherrington  
The Dallas Morning News

The SEC official who inadvertently helped an LSU comeback by flagging a Georgia player for excessive celebration is so sorry about the call that, according to his supervisor, he's beating himself up, which is entirely unnecessary. Any number of Georgia fans would gladly oblige him.

Now don't get me wrong. I'm not advocating violence. It's an oath you're required to take when writing about the Big 12, a kinder, gentler conference.

Example: If one of his Longhorns looks like he's about to go T.O. in an end zone, Mack Brown has told his players to run down and hug the offender.

Under similar circumstances, Nick Saban would order his Alabama players to clothesline the guy. Woody Hayes would have done it himself.



Ron Jenkins / Fort Worth Star-Telegram / MCT Campus

**Terrell Owens is flagged for excessive celebration last season after a touchdown.**

Anyway, you can only hope all the attention on the penalty and the uncertainty it has incited

"Honestly," Texas' Sam Acho said, "I don't know what the line is — will lead to the recall of an anal retentive rule.

Then again, maybe not. Nothing happened when Washington's quarterback was flagged last year for flipping the ball straight up after a touchdown against BYU. Backed up 15 yards on the extra point attempt, Washington's kick was blocked and the Huskies lost, 28-27.

Of course, the BCS consequences were more crucial last week in Athens, where Georgia nearly ruined this week's matchup between LSU and top-ranked Florida.

Even if you don't believe in SEC conspiracy theories, Georgia quarterback Joe Cox put the situation in perspective when he said, "It must have been really bad if they throw it when you score a touchdown against the No. 4 team in the country with one minute left.

Translation: The NCAA is trying to stamp out joy with its big clown feet.

This isn't a question of Billy White Shoes Johnson rubber-legging it or T.O. pulling a Sharpie. Whether you liked those harmless acts or not, they would have been, in the parlance of the NCAA's Rule 9-2, section D, guilty of a "delayed, excessive, prolonged or choreographed act by which a player (or players) attempts to focus attention upon himself (or themselves).

Unless you count the fact that he crossed the goal line all by his lonesome, Georgia's A.J. Green didn't draw attention to himself. Neither did the LSU player who scored the winning touchdown, also flagged, and a pitiful attempt at a make-up call at that.

While trying to root out excessive ego, the NCAA is fighting a cultural war it can't win. In

the process, it's whittling away at what makes its athletic endeavors great.

A college sports culture primer: The best thing about them is the emotion, whether it's a century of tradition electrifying a Cotton Bowl split down the middle or the mood swings that turn a game on a dime. Pro athletes know it's best to remain on an even keel. College athletes haven't figured that out yet. They wear their emotions on their sleeves, and it's often a pleasure to witness.

If I can see that from up in a press box, it seems an eagle-eyed official should be able to tell the difference between joy and a taunt or choreographed act on the field. If not, the NCAA should eliminate rules that put their officials in such ten-

uous positions.

In one sense, you can't blame the NCAA for trying. Everywhere you look, it's a "me-first" society. Youth are encouraged from birth to think of themselves as special, when, in fact, most are no different from the next kid milling around the periphery of a soccer scrum who still gets a trophy just the same.

At our house, where the attic is chock-full, the kids know the next trophy that comes in the front door had better be a Heisman. Or at least an Oscar.

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(Picks are winners, they do not take odds into account.)

LAST WEEK
HOU @ CIN
CLE @ PIT
KC @ WAS
CAR @ TB
NYG @ NO
DET @ GB
BAL @ MIN
STL @ JAX
PHI @ OAK
ARZ @ SEA
TEN @ NE
BUF @ NYJ
CHI @ ATL
MONDAY NIGHT DEN @ SD



Alex Barrett

58-16  
11-3



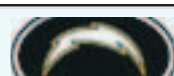
Reese Wallace

43-31  
8-6



Neil Tredray

42-32  
8-6



# Reelin' in the big fish

## Jared Allen leads NFL in sacks, forced fumbles, terrifies opposing quarterbacks weekly

By Alex Barrett  
abarrett@valenciavoice.com

Fresh off leading the NFL in sacks a year ago for the Kansas City Chiefs, Jared Allen is at it again.

The almost seven foot, 270 pound behemoth of a man is getting to the quarterback faster than ever, and is a major reason the Vikings have been able to retain the top seed in the NFC North division.

If you can look at the 8.5 sacks Allen has amassed in just four games this season and still not be impressed, take a look at Albert Haynesworth's great season last

year, where he posted 8.5 sacks as well, but over the entire season.

Toss a league - tying three forced fumbles into the mix, and Allen is proving to be the best free - agent pickup this summer. If he can keep his pace to this point, he would finish the season with 34 sacks, shattering the record set in 2001 by Michael Strahan (22.5) and 12 forced fumbles, three more than Jason Taylor's record setting campaign in 2006.



Jared Allen

**Preview:** Both Denver and San Diego have been off to tremendously hot starts, and will meet this Monday in California. Both have marquee reiev-

ers in Vincent Jackson (SD) and the disgruntled but talented Brandon Marshall (DEN), and they should play a huge role in this probable shoot-out.