

This Week In The Voice:



Ardin Snider / MCT Campus

Hear the case for saving John Allen Muhammad on **page 6**.



MCT Campus

Get a sneak preveiw of the new James Cameron film "Avatar" on **page 10**.



Harry E. Walker / MCT Campus

Delve into the latest drama surrounding the health care debate on **page 3**.

NOVEMBER 11 2009
VOLUME 7 • ISSUE 8
VALENCIAVOICE.COM

ValenciaVoice

Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

Gunman strikes downtown Orlando reels in wake of office shooting

By Kenny Wagner
kwagner@valenciavoices.com

ORLANDO, Fla. — The City Beautiful was brought to a stand still as an unexpected act of barbarism shook the downtown corridor. A crazed gunman, disgruntled and disturbed by the loss of his job, opened fire at 1000 Legion Place.

Jason Rodriguez left one man dead and five injured in his wake when he went on a shooting spree at the offices of Reynolds Smith and Hills, an engineering firm where the suspect, now in custody, was formally employed.

According to Detective Barbara Jones of Orlando Police Department: "He was terminated from his job in 2007, now the next question is; is that what, I'm going to say, set him off?"

Police say Rodriguez entered the building at 11:44am Friday morning. Shortly there after, eyewitnesses say Rodriguez was standing near the receptionists' desk in the front of



Orlando Police Department

Jason S. Rodriguez was arrested on charges of first degree murder

the office when they saw him lift his shirt, reveal a weapon, point it directly at a victim, firing at least two shots striking him dead.

The victim was 26 year old Otis Beckford, an AutoCAD technician and father. Beckford is survived by his fiance Daneicka Coley and their 7 month old daughter Danielle.

In his fit of rage, Rodriguez shot five other employees all resulting

in injuries, no other fatalities were reported. Rodriguez then fled the scene in a compact Hyundai 4-door, and marked the beginning of a 150 minute manhunt in efforts to find and bring

Rodriguez, now in custody, to justice; charged with murder in the first degree.

Between the shooting and escape of Rodriguez from the downtown high-rise, OPD in conjunction with various other law enforcement agencies, closed down Interstate 4 as far south as John Young Parkway and cleared a stretch of the highway located directly behind the building.

Officers lined up with guns drawn toward the building for sometime, to create added security in case Rodriguez took the rampage outside. Several streets in the downtown district were also closed, bringing traffic to a standstill and the severity of the situation into the national conscious-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer standing outside 1000 Legion Place, the site of the shooting.

Shooting
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

ness. Just one day following the massacre at Fort Hood Texas, the onslaught that took place in Orlando quickly gained national media attention.

The story broke as quickly as it occurred and information began leaking into the grips of big named 24-hour news networks and juggernaut media services like the Associated Press. Some information was misconstrued, false reports of the number of slain was broadcast on live television, the gunman’s whereabouts and intentions were reported without base and the severity of the situation, critics say, was grossly overblown.

But, necessary information such as the suspect’s name, description, and vehicle were all given out shortly after the incident occurred in hopes of finding Rodriguez in a reasonable amount of time.

At 2:13pm Police SWAT ceased Rodriguez at his mothers home located in the 5400 block of Curry Ford Rd., located near State Road 436.

Rodriguez was placed under arrest and taken into police custody without incident. “We have a lot of work to do,” Detective Jones said. “The case doesn’t end just because he’s in custody.” Rodriguez only briefly gave insight into why he took up arms saying: “They left me to rot.” But he declined to comment further.

A formal announcement of his arrest came shortly there after when Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer and Orlando Police Chief Valerie Demmings held a Press conference at the sight of the shooting. “This is a tragic event but I couldn’t be more proud of OPD we were at the scene in less than a minute” Mayor Dyer commented. Dyer was soon accompanied by Governor Charlie Crist who left Tallahassee in order to add assistance to the efforts of city officials to try and reinvigorate the city. Crist Said: “When these things happen it’s shock-



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Orlando Mayor Buddy Dyer speaks to law enforcement officials at the scene of the shooting.

ing and you don’t think it can happen in Florida or Orlando, but it did.”

Rodriguez was brought into holding 2:30pm Friday where he was booked, questioned and charged with first degree murder for the slaying of Otis Beckford.

At 7:18pm Rodriguez was placed into the custody Orange County Corrections, bringing the 7 hour long saga that left a city devastated and in a panic to an end. Rodriguez is slated to appear before a judge on Saturday.



University for
CreativeMinds™

ENTERTAINMENT, MEDIA, ARTS & IMAGINATION



Campus Degrees

Bachelor’s

- Computer Animation
- Digital Arts & Design
- Entertainment Business
- Film
- Game Art
- Game Development
- Music Business
- Recording Arts
- Show Production
- Web Design & Development

Master’s

- Entertainment Business
- Game Design

Associate’s

- Graphic Design



Online Degrees

Bachelor’s

- Computer Animation
- Entertainment Business
- Game Art
- Game Design
- Graphic Design
- Internet Marketing
- Music Business
- Web Design & Development

Master’s

- Education Media Design & Technology
- Entertainment Business
- Entertainment Business: with a Sports Management Elective Track
- Internet Marketing
- Media Design



fullsail.edu/CreativeMinds

New obstacles appear on health care horizon

By David Lightman
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Republicans Monday had new hope that they could influence health care deliberations, influence that so far has eluded them, as the debate moves to the Senate, where the rules and the politics can work to their advantage.

Some Republicans are trying to win Democratic support for more help for small business, different medical malpractice policies and changes in how the health care overhaul would be funded.

Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, one of three GOP senators to vote for the Democratic-authored economic stimulus plan earlier this year, said moderates from both parties are discussing potential areas of agreement.

The odds are still long, and probably insurmountable, against the Senate's 40 Republicans having significant input into the biggest decisions, notably mandates on employers and individuals and the plan's funding. They continue to complain that, as Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tenn., put it, the bill "is being drafted behind closed doors."

Democrats control 60 of the 100 Senate seats, but as many as 12 moderate Democrats have expressed serious concerns about

the package's cost, now estimated at \$829 billion over 10 years, as well as about the government-run insurance plan, or public option.

It takes 60 votes to cut off debate and move to a vote, and Democrats probably will need GOP help on certain parts of the bill. Full Senate consideration could begin later this month. Collins was optimistic about the GOP role, saying, "I believe we can put together a bipartisan bill that could cover so many areas where there's agreement on what should be done."

The biggest controversy is likely to involve the government plan; the Senate version now includes a provision that would let states opt out of it. Sen. Joseph Lieberman, a Connecticut independent who caucuses with Democrats, has said that he won't vote to end debate on that plan, and at least two Democratic moderates are undecided. That means Democrats may have to seek votes among Republicans to shut off debate on the public option.

The most obvious choice is Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, the only GOP member of the Senate Finance Committee who voted with Democrats last month to approve that panel's health care plan.

Snowe, however, said she's "deeply disappointed" with the opt-out plan and prefers instead

the idea of a "trigger" that would allow a government option only if private insurers don't meet certain benchmarks, notably making policies more affordable. Whether Democrats can pick up any other Republican support for a public option is doubtful — Collins is opposed — but GOP influence could extend further, in small but meaningful ways.

"Senate Republicans have more clout because the rules of the institution mean they get taken more seriously," said Darrell West, director of Governance Studies at Washington's Brookings Institution, a center-left research group. In the House of Representatives, Republicans were shut out of any meaningful deliberations. Under House rules, most proposals can get a floor vote only if they are first approved by the Democratic-dominated Rules Committee, which made it impossible for the GOP to get votes on specific amendments. Republicans there were allowed only to offer an alternative comprehensive plan, which lost on a largely party-line vote. In the Senate, though, anyone can bring up an amendment that leads to a full vote. Already, there have been signs of bipartisanship. When a public option plan similar to the one the House passed on Saturday came up in the Senate Finance Committee earlier this year,

Democrats joined Republicans to defeat it.

To the surprise of Senate Democratic leaders, the committee approved a plan by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, to provide \$50 million annually through fiscal 2014 for abstinence education. Two moderate Democrats, Arkansas' Blanche Lincoln and North Dakota's Kent Conrad, voted with all 10 Republicans on the panel to approve the funds.

Once full Senate debate begins, it's expected to last at least a month and feature votes on almost every controversial aspect of the bill.

—MCT Campus



Harry E. Walker / MCT Campus

Republicans protest Barack Obama as he speaks to a joint session of congress about health care.

Get Started On Your Future at UCF—Today.

You don't have to travel to Orlando to finish your degree—you can register for the classes you need at a campus right in your own neighborhood. If you've already applied to UCF, here's what you can do next:

1. Check your application status at my.ucf.edu
2. Sign up for orientation
3. Register for classes

For more information, call 407.582.5500.



www.regionalcampuses.ucf.edu

'Muslim Mafia' documents banned from Internet

Information for Kollar-Kotelly's book found to be obtained illegally

By Michael Doyle
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON —A federal judge has taken the rare step of ordering self-described anti-terrorism investigator Paul David Gaubatz to remove from his Web site some of the 12,000 documents that his son allegedly stole from the Council on American-Islamic Relations.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly also ordered Gaubatz to return documents used in his book, "Muslim Mafia: Inside the Secret Underworld That's Seeking to Islamize America," which was co-authored by Paul Sperry and portrays the council as a subversive organization that's allied with international terrorists.

The 15-year-old nonprofit civil rights and advocacy organization says its goals are to "enhance understanding of Islam" and "empower American Muslims."

"The record ... supports a finding that defendants have unlawfully obtained access to, and have already caused repeated public disclosure of, material containing CAIR's proprietary, confidential and privileged information," Kollar-Kotelly concluded last week.

The Internet publication ban lasts until Nov. 18, by which time the judge will have held another hearing. Even if it's temporary, though, the restraining order issued last Tuesday is one of the rare occasions when a judge has ordered an author to erase published material.

"It's unusual," Lucy Dalglish, the executive director of the Reporters Committee for Freedom of the Press, said Monday, "but I think

with the Internet we'll be seeing more of these kinds of cases in the future."

Dalglish added that the judge's publication-restricting order is narrowly written, noting that you "don't usually see situations where they have allegations like this."

Gaubatz said Monday that "the lawsuit was expected," and he questioned whether Council on American-Islamic Relations officials "deny the accuracy of the book or the documents" cited.

"Intimidations, threats and lawsuits are CAIR's basic tactics," Gaubatz said in an e-mail.

Rep. Sue Myrick, R-N.C., calls Gaubatz, an Arabic-speaking former Air Force Office of Special Investigations investigator, a "great American." She furnished a forward for the book and has championed it at Capitol Hill events.

"Now we have proof, from the secret documents that this investigative team has uncovered ... that (radical Islamic) agents living among us have a plan in place, and they are successfully carrying out that plan," Myrick wrote.

In a statement Monday, Myrick added that she's "glad that this matter is getting attention" and said investigations should proceed in multiple directions.

"Let's investigate the claims made by the authors and how they got the material," she said. "And let's investigate and shine some light on CAIR's books, operations and to whom they are connected."

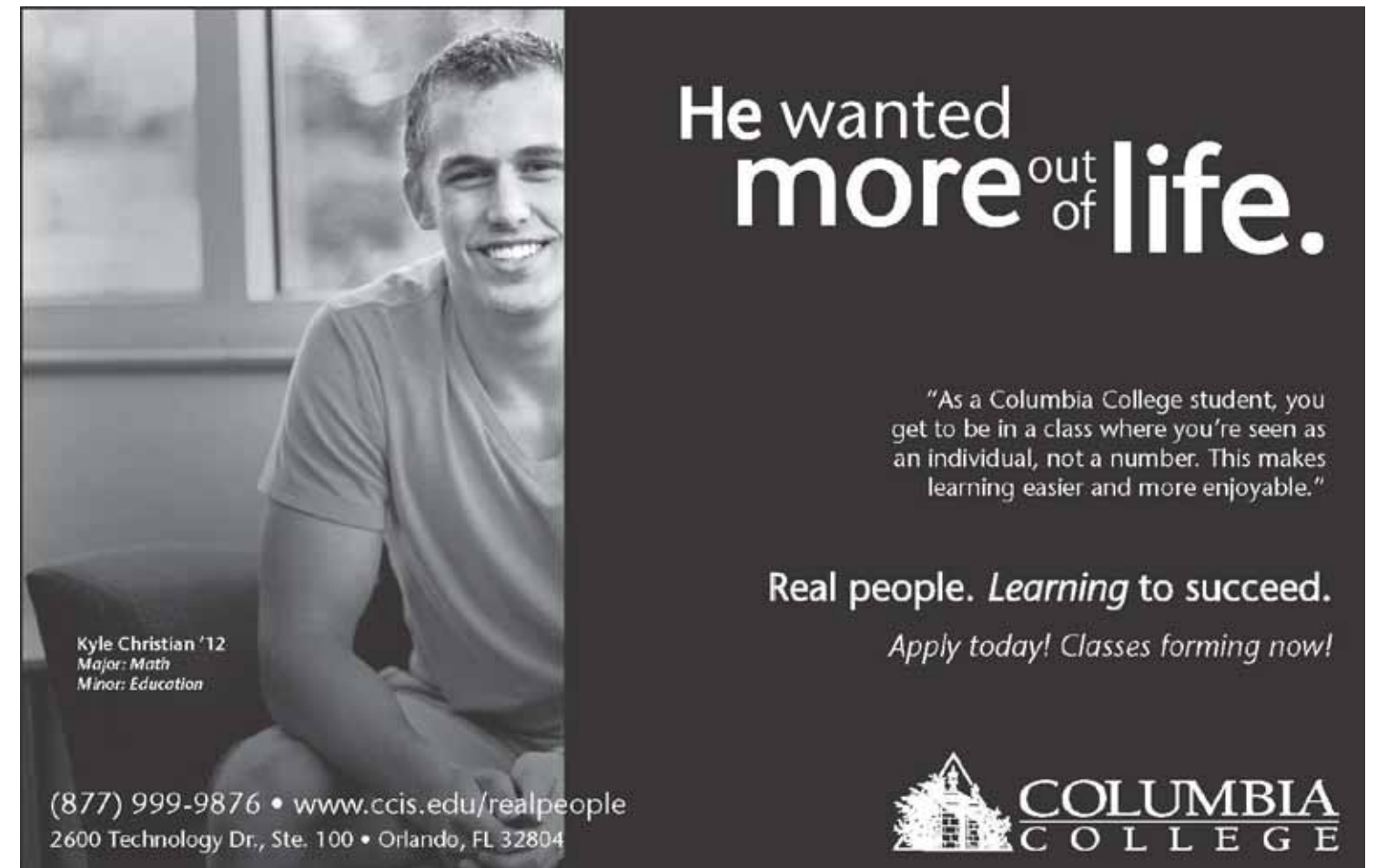
The Web site material includes some 12,000 internal Council on American-Islamic Relations documents spirited away by Gaubatz's son Christopher. The book's authors describe Christopher Gaubatz as "chief field investigator."

In their lawsuit filed late last month in Washington, however, council officials alleged that the Gaubatzes' work is shadier. The pirated documents made public _ and which the judge ordered removed _ included the names, ad-

resses, telephone numbers and e-mail addresses of council employees and donors.

"Disclosure of a nonprofit corporation's confidential donor list might well lead to a loss of trust and good will if donors begin to feel that their personal information is not safe," Kollar-Kotelly noted, adding that "CAIR's employees have also reported a dramatic increase in the number of threatening communications since the release of Mr. Gaubatz's book."

—MCT Campus



He wanted **more** ^{out of} **life.**

"As a Columbia College student, you get to be in a class where you're seen as an individual, not a number. This makes learning easier and more enjoyable."

Real people. Learning to succeed.

Apply today! Classes forming now!

Kyle Christian '12
Major: Math
Minor: Education

(877) 999-9876 • www.ccis.edu/realpeople
2600 Technology Dr., Ste. 100 • Orlando, FL 32804

COLUMBIA
COLLEGE

OUR VOICE

Charlie Crist: Tan man with no plan

There's been a lot of speculation on how the political landscape might be altered come time for the midterm elections next year. The challenge of the next political paradigm shift might be determined in Florida where the turbulent forces of governance always come to a head. And for our lovely, slightly orange governor it might be the most important year of his career.

Charlie Crist rode a wave of popularity when he first came into office in 2004. Riding on the surge of republican victories happening all over the country while remaining somewhat moderate assured him victory in the Sunshine State.

But, his victory would be short lived, seeing that, the moment Crist moved into the governor's mansion he began to set his sights elsewhere, namely the United States Senate.

Since the elections of 2006 and 2008 Crist hasn't gotten much accomplished save an initiative that lowered property taxes on the crest of the housing crisis, and is now considered one of the main reasons the state is in such an economic mess.

Governor Crist has mainly spent most of his time trying to perfect his almond hue and figuring out what proverbial political ring he was willing to throw his hat into. He has made appearances with President Obama, hailing his Stimulus package as a triumph for the state of Florida, howev-

er, just a few weeks ago he renounced his claim, saying that Florida is breaking even on the stimulus package, and the money is not being apportioned correctly for vital services.

Poor Charlie doesn't know which movement to get behind, or if he should, like Glen Beck, sob like an infant on television and claim that he loves Thomas Jefferson. But, if he were to do that, how would he be able to compete with his main nemesis in this upcoming election, former Florida Speaker of the House Marco Rubio, who by all intents and purposes is the Republican candidate Crist wishes he could be.

Rubio is Hispanic, which will help him fill the vacancy left by fellow Hispanic politician Mel Martinez, and he is more adamant on his beliefs, he actually has character and not just a nice tan.

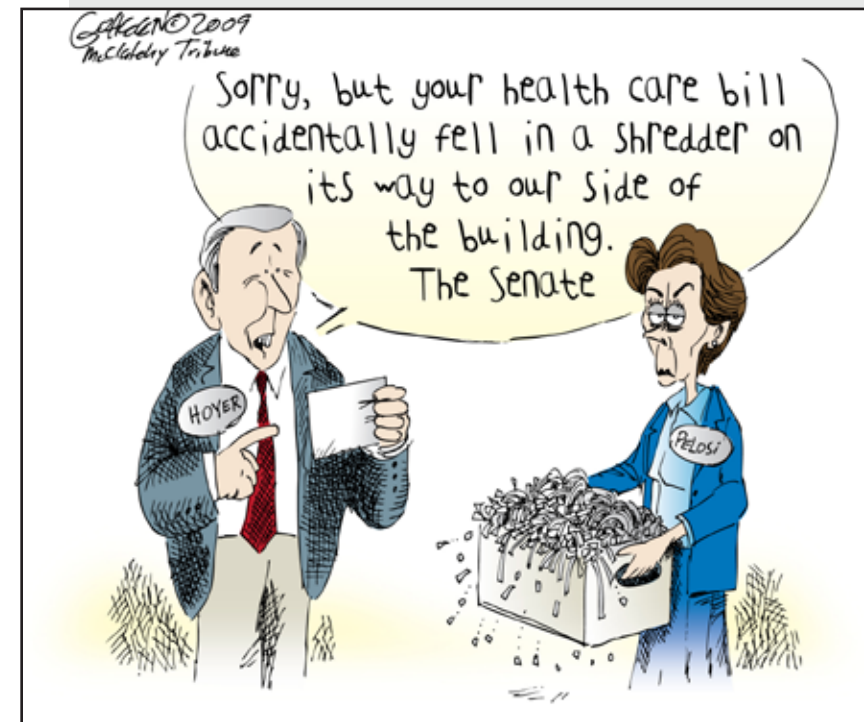
So, Crist must butter up the electorate and start from scratch in order to do well in any since of the word when it comes to next year's midterms.

Seeing how quickly he dropped everything he wasn't doing in Tallahassee to run to Orlando after this week's deadly shooting.

Charlie Crist is the tan man with no plan, so he seemingly decides on resorting to what all politicians do in desperate times, photo-ops and political pandering.

—Opinion@valenciavoice.com

Tim Goheen



"Again and again, conservatives have offered multiple proposals for health care reform only to have Mr. Obama deliberately ignore or ridicule them."

—The Washington Times

"Reid must produce a Senate health-care bill that will entice Lieberman and perhaps one or two maverick Republicans to support it."

—Scripps News

"The imperfections in the bill should not obscure the weight of this achievement. Its passage breaks a half-century of stalemate and is cause for celebration."

—The Star Ledger

ValenciaVoice
Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

Newsroom | 407-582-5040

Advisor | 407-582-1170

For comments or general inquiries

email us at:

opinion@valenciavoice.com

Editor in Chief | Shaneece Dixon

editor@valenciavoice.com

Managing Editor | Alex Barrett

abarrett@valenciavoice.com

Design | Robert Navaille

rnavaille@valenciavoice.com

News | Reese Wallace

rwallace@valenciavoice.com

Opinion | Kenny Wagner

kwagner@valenciavoice.com

Features | Ashley McBride

amcbride@valenciavoice.com

Sports | Neil Tredray

ntredray@valenciavoice.com

Sales | Jackie Minto

jminto@valenciavoice.com

Photo Editor | Collin Dever

cdever@valenciavoice.com

For advertising information contact

Jackie Minto at

ads@valenciavoice.com

POLL

Photos by Kenny Wagner

John Allen Muhammad executed for Sniper killings

By Scott Calvert
The Baltimore Sun

JARRATT, Va. — A defiant John Allen Muhammad, the sniper who terrified the Washington, D.C., region in 2002 as he orchestrated 10 fatal and seemingly random shootings, was executed Tuesday by lethal injection inside Virginia's death chamber.

Muhammad, 48, was pronounced dead at 9:11 p.m., said Larry Traylor, spokesman for the Virginia Department of Corrections, speaking outside the Greensville Correctional Facility on an overcast night.

Asked if he wanted to make a last statement, Muhammad declined and "did not acknowledge us," Traylor said.

The execution took place without incident, he said.

Issuing a statement on behalf of Muhammad's family and lawyers, attorney Jonathan Sheldon said they "deeply sympathize with the families and loved ones" of the victims, and offered "prayers for a better future" for the those left behind.

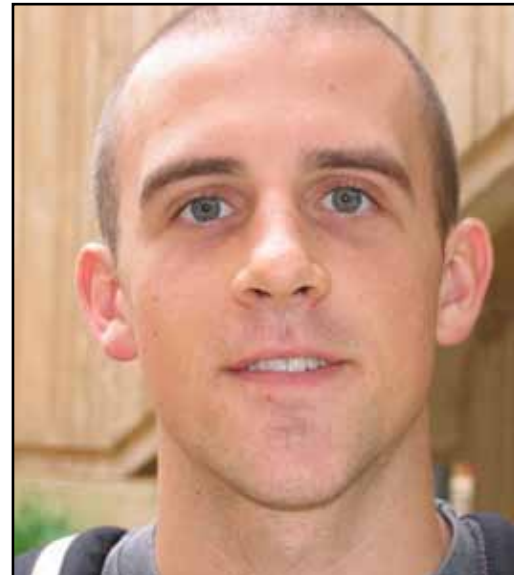
Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine denied Muhammad's appeal for clemency earlier in the day, and the Supreme Court on Monday rejected his bid to halt the execution. His lawyers had claimed he was mentally ill, an argument that had failed previously on appeal.

As his execution drew near, Muhammad "accepted his fate," said one of his lawyers, J. Wyndal Gordon, who met with Muhammad.

"He has no remorse because he maintains his innocence," Gordon said.

— LATWP

Do you support the death penalty?



>> I do not only because I'm pretty sure it costs more money to kill them than to send them to jail.

— Dan Schreiber



>> Yes I do because, if they kill an innocent person they deserve the same punishment as they give out.

— Sacha Washington



>> No I don't, I believe we should not take anybody's life, serving a life sentence is better.

— Jacky Chery



>> I don't think its right to kill someone. It's better to have them serve in a different way.

— Zapora Roundtree



>> It depends, if it was a mass murder then they should be put to death.

— Carlos Green-Niles



>> No, I think they should go to jail for what they did, have a punishment instead of being killed.

— Doirin Caryne



>> I'm a big supporter of it. Mostly because anyone who takes someone else's life deserves to have their's taken from them.

— Gregory Alayln



>> I dont support it, it doesn't solve anything.

— Jannell Standberry

YOUR VOICE

State Sponsored Murder

A case against the death penalty

By Brian Gilmore
Progressive Media Project

John Allen Muhammad, the infamous Washington sniper, should not have been put to death.

But Muhammad died on Nov. 10 by lethal injection. He was executed under the laws of the state of Virginia. No one saved him. Not the U.S. Supreme Court. Not Virginia Gov. Tim Kaine. Not President Obama. Each could do so but didn't.

I understand why families of Muhammad's victims want him to die: He terrorized a city, he ruined lives and he destroyed futures. I was living in Washington at the time, and I can still recall my own fear — for myself, my family and my friends — that there was a random shooter on the loose.

But the justified anger of the victims' kin does not justify state-sponsored killing. Capital punishment is morally wrong and irrational.

A recent report, titled "Smart on Crime" and published by the Death Penalty Information Center, exposes many of the basic problems with the death penalty.

First of all, it is not a deterrent.

According to "Smart on Crime," the nation's police chiefs rank the capital

punishment last in reducing violent crime. Criminologists cited in the same report conclude that the death penalty does not effectively reduce murders in the United States. In fact, 88 percent of the nation's top criminologists "do not believe that the death penalty acts as a deterrent to homicide," the report says. As proof, since the year 2000, executions have declined 60 percent in the United States but the murder rate has also gone down, not up, as proponents of the death penalty would predict.

Second, the death penalty is arbitrarily applied. Back in 2005, the Associated Press studied capital cases in Ohio over a two-decade period. It found that in one county, only 8 percent of those charged with a capital crime got a death sentence, whereas in another county, the rate was more than five times higher.

Third, there is a pronounced racial bias. If you murdered a white person in Ohio, you were twice as likely to be sentenced to death than if you killed a black person, the AP study found.

Another major problem with the death penalty is the cost. For example, California, which was recently borderline insolvent, spends \$137 million per year on its capital punishment program; yet, no one has been executed



Ardin Snider, Newport News Daily Press / MCT Campus
D.C. sniper John Allen Muhammad was put to death on Tuesday in Virginia.

there in three and a half years. Other states report similar cost issues.

Then there is gnawing question of innocence. How can we ever be sure that the person who is executed is not innocent? Have we already put people to death who did not do the crime? Recently, the case of Cameron Todd Willingham again called our entire state-sponsored machinery of death into question. Willingham, executed in February 2004, was convicted of killing his own children by arson. However, the evidence used to convict him of deliberately setting the fire that killed his daughters has been proven to be not sustainable. In other words, Willingham did not set the fire that killed his daughters but was put to death for that very act.

Even if we are confident that the person is guilty, however, as in the case of John Allen Muhammad, capital punishment is still wrong. It is premeditated murder, and that's immoral whether an individual is doing the deed or the state is.

—MCT Campus

Companies see cancer as marketing tool

By Roxy Smith
rsmith@valenicavoice.com

Breast cancer awareness is a serious and common topic in today's society. I feel that it is an even bigger topic among large companies.

Do you ever wonder if a company really supports breast cancer awareness or are they just using the disease as a pedestal to advertise from?

There are several companies that say a percentage of all proceeds they make will be donated to breast cancer research and will go towards finding a cure for this life threatening disease.

I often wonder if these companies really care about finding a cure and raising breast cancer awareness or do they just want to get their name out there?

Breast cancer is a growing conserve among men and women from all over the world.

Often if a company says an event they are hosting goes towards breast cancer research more people will attend even if they don't care about the event itself.

Large companies like to affiliate

themselves with this kind of topic because it is a matter of public relations. Simply put, companies will look better if they are donating to charities and pretend to care about different organizations.

In a sense this makes the company feel more down to earth because they "care" about the everyday man and woman.

By supporting different causes that affects a large number of people in a population, the company itself is being promoted and gaining more customers or followers.

However, I think that companies that don't advertise through commercials but just have the breast cancer logo on their product may actually care about finding a cure.

Statistically breast cancer affects more women than men and many of the products the logo is advertised are on products only women would need, but it still appears on products that are not gender specific.

Hopefully one day enough companies will jump on the cancer band wagon and a cure will be found.

'Goats' fails to hit comedic mark

Movie still captures viewers with engaging storyline

By James Austin
jaustin@valenciavoice.com

George is bringing back the Jedi. No it's not George Lucas, it's George Clooney in the new movie "The Men Who Stare at Goats." Clooney plays a retired special forces soldier involved in a top secret government experiment to produce psychic spies known only as project Jedi.



Nicolas Khayat, Abaca Press / MCT Campus

Ewan McGregor, shown here, plays Bob Wilton in new movie, "Men Who Stare at Goats".

The movie begins by introducing Bob Wilton, (Ewan McGregor) a reporter who, after a failed marriage, tries to find self-worth by embedding himself in the Iraq war.

On his way into the country, he meets Lyn Cassady, (George Clooney) a "Jedi warrior" who claims to be on a secret mission into Iraq.

Wilton convinces Cassady to bring him along and let him write a story on the long disbanded Jedi project. As they travel through the war-torn country Cassady explains the history of the project and begins to convince Wilton of some of his remarkable "powers."

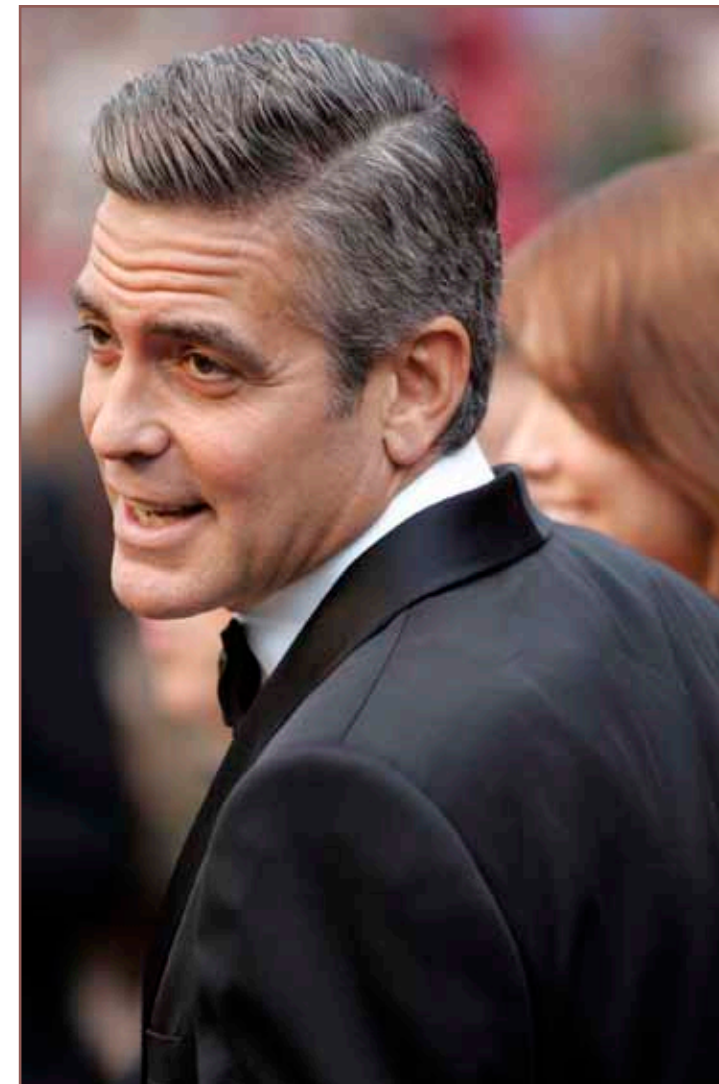
Every character was a bit outlandish, like the hippie commander of the Jedi project Bill Django (Jeff Bridges) who had a few funny lines but was mostly entertaining just because of his stereotypical 1970s peace and love attitude. Brigadier General Dean Hopgood (Stephan Lang) was also good for a few slapstick gags and a bit of funny dialogue.

This movie was unexpected. It's listed as a comedy but delivers few laugh out loud moments. It seems to try to make a point more than make you laugh.

In fact the story is eerily similar to a Star Wars movie, and it's not just that the soldiers are called Jedi or that Ewan McGregor played Obi-Wan Kenobi in the Star Wars prequels. It seems to steal from the master/teacher dynamic that is so prevalent in those movies and deals very heavily with good and evil. It seems as though this movie tries to take themes that drove the Star Wars movies: good vs evil; peace vs war; violence vs reason, and apply them to the controversies that have arisen in today's society, such

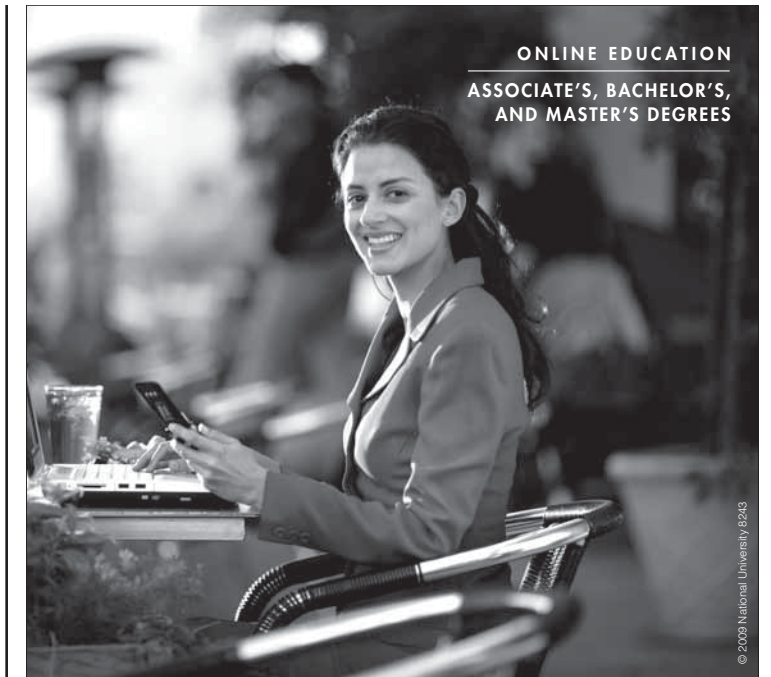
as the Iraq war.

This is a good movie. It has some outrageous situations, outlandish characters, and an intriguing storyline, but you're more likely to walk out of the theater scratching your head than holding your sides.



Daniel A. Anderson, Orange County Register / MCT Campus

George Clooney, seen here, plays slightly deranged character, Lyn Cassady in "Men Who Stare at Goats".



NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

ONLINE INFORMATION CENTER

Earn your degree with a leader in online education.

- Take a self-guided tour of online courses
- Discover the online degrees and certificates available
- Create a plan to achieve your educational goals
- Learn about available financial aid options

National University Online Information Center

25 West Crystal Lake Street
Orlando, FL 32806
407.254.1230

degrees.nu.edu/Orlando



The University of Values

An Affiliate of the National University System

Visit National University in Sodo!

Director discusses 'The Box'

Kelly explains how he brought Matheson's short story to big screen

By Rene Rodriguez
McClatchy Newspapers

Filmmaker Richard Kelly's initial encounter with Richard Matheson's fiendish little short story "Button, Button" — about a cash-strapped couple offered a million dollars to push a button on a box that will instantly cause someone they don't know to drop dead, came not on the page, but on TV.

"As a bunch of attorneys have informed me, I am not allowed to exploit the name of a certain television program to help promote the movie," Kelly says with a chuckle from his production offices in Los Angeles. We, however, are free to state that Kelly first experienced Matheson's devilish little ditty as an episode of "The Twilight Zone" revival that aired in 1985.

When Kelly later read Matheson's six-page story, he was surprised to discover the show had taken considerable liberties with the source material (enough so that Matheson insisted his name be removed from the episode's credits).

"The story is pretty thin, but it has this absolutely brilliant conceit that was absurd and scary and kind of diabolical," Kelly, 34, says. "But it also cultivated so many ideas about greed and morality and a married couple's approach to the dilemma that this device brings into their lives. The story stuck with me for a long time."

And the dramatically different ending of the TV adaptation sparked an idea in Kelly's mind.

"I realized the story could serve as a wonderful first act of a feature film, where the button is pushed, and the couple realizes it has far greater consequences than they realized,



Dale Robinette, Warner Bros. Pictures / MCT Campus
James Marsden and Cameron Diaz in "The Box."

and they're going to be put through a much more extended psychological endurance test of some kind. The question becomes: Can they redeem themselves?"

"The Box," which stars Cameron Diaz ("There's Something About Mary") and James Marsden ("Enchanted") as the married couple and Frank Langella ("Frost/Nixon") as their exceedingly odd visitor who makes the offer, is Kelly's third film after the bona fide cult classic

"Donnie Darko" and "Southland Tales," which was so resoundingly booed at its Cannes premiere that Kelly re-edited and chopped out a half hour — and it still made practically no sense.

The early buzz on "The Box" was that this would be Kelly's grab at mainstream success, with a simple and accessible premise and an easily identifiable genre. But although the film's first half is exactly that — a thriller — its second half starts to veer away from anything resembling "simple." So many conceits and complex ideas spring from that innocuous-looking box, and woe to anyone who dares run out for popcorn when the plot kicks into overdrive.

"The Box" is intentionally set in Virginia in 1976, where Kelly grew up, because there was no way to transplant this particular tale to the present day and preserve the mystery and anonymity of the curious Mr. Steward, who brings the box only to the homes of married couples under 40 with a single child.

"The whole concept of not being able to find out stuff about someone you don't know doesn't really exist anymore. You can Google anyone today. There are surveillance cameras in every corner of the landscape. In the 1970s, we didn't have access to all that technology. Everyone had a land-line phone and that was it."

— MCT Campus

FIVE FACTS ABOUT 'THE BOX'

By Andy Edelstein
Newsday

1. The original version of "The Box" was a short story by *Richard Matheson that was published as "Button, Button" in the June 1970 issue of Playboy.

2. "Button, Button" was also adapted for an episode of "The Twilight Zone" revival that aired on March 7, 1986. The couple who received the mysterious box were played by Brad Davis and Mare Winningham.

3. Basil Hoffman, who played the mysterious Mr. Steward in "The Twilight Zone" episode, has a small role in "The Box."

4. In the movie, James Marsden plays a NASA engineer in a small Virginia town. Director Richard Kelly's father worked at NASA's Langley Research Center in Hampton, Va., during the 1970s.

5. In the short story, the couple would receive \$50,000 if they pushed the button. The amount increased to \$200,000 in "The Twilight Zone" episode and to \$1 million in the movie.

— MCT Campus

*Richard Matheson wrote the novel, "I am Legend" which was later adapted into the 2007 film starring Will Smith ("Men In Black").

HOLIDAY MOVIE PREVIEW

Films to watch this year

‘Tis the season for holiday blockbusters, ‘Avatar,’ and others prepare for screen time

By Robert W. Butler
McClatchy Newspapers

More than any other film this holiday season, James Cameron’s sci-fi opus “Avatar” (Dec. 18) has a huge buzz. For both good and bad reasons.

First, it’s a return to the big screen by the man behind the first two “Terminators,” “Aliens,” “The Abyss” and “Titanic.”

Second, “Avatar” will mark the debut of the new 3-D process Cameron has been working on for a decade.

Third, it stars Sam Worthington, maybe the best actor from Down Under since Russell Crowe.

The downside: Cameron seems to believe his “king of the world” stuff, so the film could take itself way too seriously. And early footage of the computer-generated aliens and battle scenes looks like a high-end video game — fun but not convincing.

The world’s most famous detective gets a radical do-over thanks to director Guy Ritchie (the former Mr. Madonna) and star Robert Downey Jr. in “Sherlock Holmes” (Dec 25).

Roland Emmerich, who has made a career of trying to wipe out the human race (“Indepen-

dence Day,” “Armageddon,” “The Day After Tomorrow”) is back to his f/x-heavy tricks with “2012.” Opening Nov. 13, it’s an epic of destruction inspired by ancient Mayan doomsday prophecies. The spectacle should be first-rate, and the key players — John Cusack (“1408”) Amanda Peet (“Martian Child”), Thandie Newton (“W.”) — are always watchable.

Another sort of spectacle will be provided by the Chinese-made “Red Cliff” (Dec. 11). Directed by Hong Kong action auteur John Woo (“Stranglehold”), this epic tale of civil war and intrigue during the Han dynasty features the proverbial cast of thousands (as well as recognizable faces like Tony Leung “Hero”). It’s a prime example of kill-them-all theater.

The starless “Ninja Assassin” (Nov. 25) sounds like a dozen kung fu-ers we’ve already seen — but we’re mildly intrigued that James McTeigue (“V for Vendetta”) is at the helm.

Fans are in a frenzy over the Nov. 20 opening of “The Twilight Saga: New Moon,” the second installment in Stephenie Meyer’s vampire phenomenon. This time Bella (Kristen Stewart) is torn between the vampire Edward (Robert Pattinson) and her American Indian pal Jacob (Taylor Lautner) who, it turns out, is a werewolf. Perhaps new director Chris Weitz (“The Golden Compass”) will provide an edge.



Sam Worthington and Zoe Saldana star in James Cameron’s new film, “Avatar.” (Dec. 18)

In “Did You Hear About the Morgans?” (Dec. 18) an estranged NYC couple (Hugh Grant “Love Actually”, Sarah Jessica Parker “Sex and the City”) are forced into an uncomfortable cohabitation when a witness protection program ships them to the Wyoming boonies.

And who says there’s no romance once you’re past a certain age? “It’s Complicated” (Dec. 25) lives up to its title with a plot about a woman (Meryl Streep, “Julie & Julia”) who’s being courted both by her ex (Alec Baldwin “30 Rock”), and long-time friend Steve Martin “Shopgirl.”

“The Blind Side” (Nov. 20) is based on a true story of a pampered suburban mom (Sandra Bullock “Miss Congeniality”) who adopts a hulking, homeless African-American boy (Quinton Aaron, “Be Kind Rewind”) and turns his life around with a lot of love and bit of football.

Opening the same day (Nov. 20) is “The Messenger,” in which an Iraq war hero (Ben Foster, “Pandorum”) is ordered to spend the final

weeks of his enlistment informing families that their loved ones have been killed in action. Woody Harrelson (“Zombieland”) is the hard-bitten veteran who teaches him the ropes.

A 1990 Italian film starring Marcello Mastroianni is the inspiration for “Everybody’s Fine” (Dec. 4), in which widower Robert De Niro “Righteous Kill” travels around the country visiting his estranged children.

“Brothers” (Dec. 4) is an American version of a celebrated Danish film of the same name.

When a soldier (Tobey Maguire “Spider-Man”) is reported missing in action in Afghanistan, his never-do-well brother (Jake Gyllenhaal “Rendition”) straightens up to look after his distraught sister-in-law (Natalie Portman, “The Other Boleyn Girl”) and the kids. To his amazement he discovers he loves the responsibility and his brother’s wife.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

HOLIDAY MOVIE PREVIEW

Latest films offer something for everyone, holiday season peppered with lots of variety

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

In his dotage Clint Eastwood "Gran Torino" continues to conquer new territory. "Invictus" (Dec. 11) is the true story of how newly elected South African president Nelson Mandela (Morgan Freeman, "The Dark Knight") united his country through its national soccer team. Shot on location in South Africa, it co-stars Matt Damon ("Good Will Hunting") as the coach.

"The Lovely Bones" (Jan. 15) is a heavy-duty fantasy based on the best-seller by Alice Sebold, in which a murdered girl (Oscar nominee Saoirse Ronan "Atonement") watches her distraught family (Mark Wahlberg "Four Brothers", Rachel Weisz, "The Mummy") and her murderer/rapist (Stanley Tucci, "Swing Vote") from the hereafter. After years of big-budget spectacles (the "Lord of the Rings" trilogy, "King Kong") it will be interesting to see director Peter Jackson return to the emotional intensity of 1994's "Heavenly Creatures."

"Pirate Radio" (Nov. 13) is about the off-shore radio stations that in the 1960's beamed rock 'n' roll into Great Britain (the BBC was too stuffy to satisfy a tune-hungry public). Among the wacky characters on the boat are Philip Seymour Hoffman ("Capote") and Bill Nighy ("Love Actually"). Kenneth Branagh ("Valkyrie") plays the bureaucrat determined to bring them down.

Director Jason Reitman, who wowed with "Juno," soars back with "Up in the Air" (Dec. 25) about a corporate downsizing expert (George Clooney "Ocean's Eleven") who lives out of

suitcases and never really comes to earth. His own job is threatened just as he discovers what could be the perfect woman (Vera Farmiga, "Orphan").

In the animated "Planet 51" (Nov. 20) an astronaut lands on a remote planet, only to find that life there is a little-green-man version of Earthly suburbia...and that the residents regard him as an invading alien. Duane "The Rock" Johnson ("The Game Plan") heads the voice cast.

Based on a story by Roald Dahl (of "Charlie and the Chocolate Factory" fame), "Fantastic Mr. Fox" (Nov. 25) has an unusual pedigree: It's a stop-motion animated fantasy from Wes Anderson ("The Royal Tenenbaums") with George Clooney ("Syriana") providing the voice of the sly fox who always eludes the farmers bent on his demise.

For something different, try Disney's "The Princess and the Frog" (Dec. 11), a retelling of the bedtime classic that here is rendered in good old-fashioned cell animation (you know, the way cartoons looked before "Toy Story"). And here's a Disney first: The heroine, a girl living in '20s New Orleans, is African-American.

On the live action front is "Old Dogs" (Nov. 25), in which business partners John Travolta and Robin Williams are saddled with 6-year-old twins. It's directed by Walt Becker of "Wild Hogs" fame.

And finally, live action and animation blend in "Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel" (Dec. 25), reuniting the singing critters with hu-



Weinstein Co. / MCT Campus

Kodi Smit-McPhee and Viggo Mortensen star in the adaptation of Cormac McCarthy's "The Road."

man pal Dave Seville (Jason Lee). Will the fans who made the first film into a \$217 million smash come back for more?

"The Road" (Nov. 25) is not a pretty picture. It's based on Cormac McCarthy's Pulitzer-winning novel about the post-apocalyptic trek of a father and son. An emaciated, coughing Viggo Mortensen "Hidalgo" struggles to find a safe haven for his boy and a reason to go on living.

"Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire" (Nov. 20) has wowed audiences at Sundance and beyond. This story of an obese, illiterate young woman (newcomer Gabourey Sidibe) carrying her own father's child has oomph both behind the camera (Oprah Winfrey and Tyler Perry co-produced) and on the screen (Mo'Nique, Mariah Carey, Lenny Kravitz). Lee Daniels directs. It might be this year's "Slumdog Millionaire."

Before she became a stuffy gray lady on coinage, Britain's Queen Victoria was a hottie. Or at least she had a fairly normal sex life. That's the allure of "The Young Victoria" (Dec. 25), which features Emily Blunt "Sunshine Cleaning" as

Her Highness, Rupert Friend ("Pride & Prejudice") as her beloved Prince Albert and a strong supporting cast that includes Paul Bettany ("Legion") and Jim Broadbent ("Inkheart").

"Nine" (Dec. 25) has Oscar written all over it. This musical adaptation of Federico Fellini's classic "8 1/2," features Oscar-winner Daniel Day-Lewis ("There Will Be Blood") reminiscing and singing about the many women in his life: Kate Hudson "Bride Wars", plus Oscar winners Penelope Cruz ("Volver"), Marion Cotillard ("Public Enemies"), Sophia Loren ("Lives of the Saints") Nicole Kidman ("Moulin Rouge") and Judi Dench ("Casino Royale"). It's directed by Rob Marshall, who won an Oscar his first time out with "Chicago."

Finally there's "The Imaginarium of Doctor Parnassus" (Dec. 25) featuring the last screen performance of the late Heath Ledger ("The Dark Knight"). Terry Gilliam's cinematic fantasies have always been more art house than mainstream, but perhaps a last chance to see Ledger will push this one over the edge.

— MCT Campus

Oprah, Perry 'push' novel to motion picture

By Michael Phillips
Chicago Tribune

TORONTO— Oprah Winfrey did not write "The Bluest Eye" or "Middlesex" or "Love in the Time of Cholera." But her formidably influential book club has helped many an author _ alive or dead, famous or no _ reach a wider audience. (Sample thank-you note from the beyond: "Oprah, thanks for your support of 'Anna Karenina.' Leo.") Now the multinational corporation disguised, cunningly, as a cultural arbiter and television personality hopes she can do a similar favor for a film she "really, really, really loves."

It is "Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire." Already this year, director Lee Daniels' adaptation, from a script by Geoffrey Fletcher, has won key awards at the Sundance and Toronto film festivals. There should be many Academy Award nominations in its future. The film may tone down the grim oppression of the 1996 novel, but it's nonetheless a wrenching experience.

In 1987 Harlem, a teenage girl named Claireece "Precious" Jones lives life one crushing day at a time. She is illiterate, obese and pregnant with her second child—both times, she was impregnated by her own incestuous and abusive father. Her mother offers no protection. As portrayed by Mo'Nique, she is a fearsome, almost feral physical and sexual abuser herself, a barbed-wire hurdle the protagonist, played by newcomer Gabourey Sidibe, must clear before getting on to what life holds in store.

During the Toronto Film Festival a few weeks ago, I talked to Winfrey, Daniels and, separate-

ly, Winfrey's fellow executive producer Tyler Perry. While Daniels (who also produced) is the man who made "Precious"—"Talk to him," Winfrey told me, nodding to Daniels, "He did the movie, I'm just support"—Winfrey and Perry make for a pair of high-profile champions.

Highest you can get, in fact, in the realm of African-American entertainment power brokers.

Perry and Winfrey came to the project after the project was finished. Daniels, who previously produced "Monster's Ball" and directed Helen Mirren and Cuba Gooding Jr. as assassins and lovers in "Shadowboxer," sent a screener of "Precious" to Perry, whose entertainment empire is spearheaded by his drag character, Madea. "After I saw it," Tyler said, "I called Oprah (whom he'd known since she had him on her show in 2001) and said: You gotta see this."

She did. "It struck me in a way that nothing else has," she said.

"The only thing that came close was reading 'The Color Purple'—that's how struck I was. It took the breath right out of me."

Winfrey called Daniels in January on the night, and at the moment before the actual moment, in fact, he walked up to the stage to receive an award at Sundance in Park City, Utah. She offered her support and encouragement alongside Perry's. She offered some money as well, which Daniels declined. Both said they plan to collaborate in the future on something.

"Mariah Carey (who plays a social worker in 'Precious') wanted to invest too," Daniels said, "but I knew if I were to accept money from Mariah I couldn't get the same performance

out of her. I can't get truth if they're cutting a check."

Winfrey has spoken freely of her childhood sexual abuse. Perry, too, has gone public with his own horror stories, and in Toronto he spoke quietly but candidly about "Precious" echoing his own experiences growing up in New Orleans.

Watching the film, he said, "was like seeing my life as a child played out in front of me. What sealed it for me was when Gaby's character, in the middle of her trauma, retreated to a fantasy world. Bam, she's out of the picture. I could relate to that. When all hell broke loose in my house, it was the same thing for me. My father is the Mo'Nique character.

"That's what made me say: I have to be involved. I have to bring this to my fan base. I have to let them know about this film."

Winfrey didn't think the film could be made, at least effectively.

"The language, and the violence, and the brutality ... 'Push' is relentless. In 'The Color Purple' you get to skip through the flowers a little, and go to church, at least."

She and Daniels share a big, warm laugh.

"There's some relief, some lyricism." But Daniels' interpolation of fantasy sequences, showing Precious imagining herself as a paparazzi-dodging diva and superstar, did the trick, according to Winfrey.

Perry agrees, though he told me, "Everybody talks about how dark the subject matter is. Yet the power of it comes from a very simple place: This young woman makes it to a better place. She comes through it."

—MCT Campus



COLLEGE FISHING \$100,000 National Guard College Fishing
Southeast Regional Championship

reel life festival

free admission. win prizes. get great giveaways.

Presented by **IOA**

Weigh-ins daily
IOA Plaza
(outside football stadium)

Saturday, Nov. 21:
10 am – Reel Life Festival
National Guard Warrior Challenge
Geocaching
5:30 pm – Weigh-in at IOA Plaza
★ iPod Nano® Giveaway ★

Sunday, Nov. 22:
12 pm – Reel Life Festival
Live Music
National Guard Warrior Challenge
4 pm – Weigh-in at IOA Plaza
★ iPod Nano® Giveaway ★

Monday, Nov. 23:
4 pm – Weigh-in at IOA Plaza
Live Music
National Guard Warrior Challenge Finals
Closing Ceremonies
★ MacBook Air® Giveaway ★

for more information go to
collegefishing.com

MacBook Air® and iPod® are registered trademarks of Apple, Inc. and are not associated with this promotion.

Intramural sports gaining popularity at Valencia

By Jolene Krause
jkrause@valenciacc.edu

ORLANDO, Fla- East campus of Valencia Community College has students from all branches coming together to participate in intramural sports which include basketball, racquetball, dodgeball and volleyball.

To be active in the sporting events, all you need is a current Valencia identification card, and a pen to sign a waiver.

Intramural volleyball started last week on the campus, and will be played in league style competition until the week before finals.

Student development advisor Vladimir Vo-

yard-Tadal is in charge of intramural sports on the East campus. This is his first year at Valencia and has already organized a basketball league that just recently ended before volleyball began. "This is a great opportunity to let students get active within Valencia," said Voyard-Tadal.

"We continue to have great turnouts, everyone in Valencia that loves playing sports should get involved."

Before the students begin play, Voyard-Todal lays down the ground rules for those in attendance. Most importantly, don't forget your Valencia ID. Without your school ID you will not be able to play, and every team

is suggested to have 10 players because of situations that arise such as homework and studying that may prevent some teams' students from participating.

Intramural volleyball brought in more than 50 students from many of the Valencia campuses on Wednesday who wanted to get involved; while many students came to enjoy sports, the majority of students felt like the event could have used more organization.

Freshman Tatiana Quiroz found it hard to find a team because many students had already come to play with a group of friends.

"Mix it up to make it more fun for everyone." Said Quiroz. "It's not fair to have all the good players against the beginners, it doesn't make it very fun."

Quiroz wasn't the only student who found difficulty with the organization of the event that night.

"They should have paired people up." Said freshman Ashley Rodriguez. "In the end it should be equal, it would be more fun."

Although for some students it was initially hard to find a team, other students just got in and played.

"Taking cards to pick out teams would have been a lot more organized for everyone." Said sophomore Dillion Batenich. Batenich jumped in and started playing with his friends and they easily formed a team to compete with.

The students meet Mondays and Wednesdays at 6:30 p.m in the East campus gym and are able to play until 9:30 p.m. The league style play will start Nov. 11. If you wish to get involved, you may contact Voyard-Todal on the East campus to make sure you have a spot in the upcoming tournament.



Mike Shears spikes the ball over Brain Mallavi and another participant.

Emily Ceskavich / Valencia Voice

UCF FOOTBALL

ARMORED IN BLACK

VS

SATURDAY AT NOON
BRIGHT HOUSE NETWORKS STADIUM

VALENCIA STUDENT SPECIAL!

TICKETS ONLY \$20!!

CALL 407.823.1000
TO BE A PART OF ALL THE ACTION!

UCFATHLETICS.COM



Gary W. Green/Orlando Sentinel/MCT
Dwight Howard is off to another MVP year leading the Orlando Magic to first place in the Southeast division.

Magic need to put it all together

By Alex Barrett
abarrett@valenciavoice.com

The Orlando Magic are averaging nearly 110 points a game this season. But they're giving up almost 100 to opponents. The Magic reached the NBA Finals last season with an awesome offensive attack, led by a myriad of three-point threats spreading the perimeter around the league's best center, Dwight Howard. This season things are shaping up a little different, as the Magic have been scoring in the 120's and the 130's, but the defense has somewhat gone missing. Matt Barnes and Brandon Bass were added to help the team become a little more aggressive in the offseason, and their tenacity has

helped, but where is the defense that was holding opponents to under 90 points per game last season? The Magic need to not allow themselves to slip into thinking they can just outscore everyone, it didn't work for the Phoenix Suns of the late 1990's, it won't work now. Defense wins championships. With the Heat and Hawks keeping pace in the Southeast division, it seems like the Magic will need stellar play to remain one of the league's top teams. One thing is for sure, if Orlando can find a way to combine their torrid scoring with an equally as devout defense on the other end of the court, a very scary team could emerge to help get the Magic back to the finals this year.

Transfer to Webster University and keep your day job.



Webster has class hours that work around your schedule, classes that meet one night per week, one-on-one attention, and a faculty that practices what it teaches. Webster University's bachelor degrees give you the insight and skills you'll need to succeed. With completion programs in **accounting, business administration, human resources management, management, and psychology**, you're sure to find what you need. Contact us today for a personalized degree completion plan.



North Orlando
Sanlando Center
2180 W.S.R. 434, Suite 5100
Longwood, FL 32779
407-869-8111

South Orlando
Westwood Corporate Center
6750 Forum Drive, Suite 300
Orlando, FL 32821
407-345-1139

1-888-302-8111 • orlando@webster.edu • webster.edu/or



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

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



Alex Barrett

101-26
8-4



Reese Wallace

76-51
6-6



Manny Colon

74-53
8-4

Titans can't spell victory without VY

By Alex Barrett
abarrett@valenciavoice.com

Vince Young has had his place in the spotlight once, and was knocked out in favor of a much older, much more patient Kerry Collins. Now, he's back. After a horrible 0-6 start to a year with such promise for the Tennessee Titans, they have failed to deliver until Young was placed back in the spotlight. Since again acquiring the starting role behind center for the Titans, the team seems to have new life playing with their third overall draft pick from 2006.

Young is showing signs of maturation, not turning the ball over at all in his first two games, something he has had major problems with since he began his career in Tennessee. This Titans team had the league's best record last season limiting turnovers and riding the back of their stingy defense and the legs of Chris Johnson, which they have done in their two-game winning streak, it is by far their formula to success. With Young due about \$14 million next season, the Titans needed to see if he was worth the money, or if he was to be cut, and the former NFL Rookie of the Year seems to have a head start on keeping his job safe .



David Eulitt/Kansas City Star / MCT

Vince Young gets another chance to shine for the dissappointing Titans.