

Alves speaks:

Accused ex-VCC contractor tells his side of the story

By Nikki Namdar
nnamdar@valenciavoice.com

“The truth is going to come out,” said Marcelo Augusto Alves, who claims the 20-year-old woman he is accused of assaulting made the arrangement with one incentive: getting paid for her sexual services. Alves claims she was a prostitute, and that they had an argument over fees.

The Valencia Voice had an exclusive interview with Alves, 39, Nov. 24, at Orange County Correction’s main facility, where Alves is being held.

“She asked three times more what we had agreed upon,” said Alves. “I know what happened, I know what we talked about and we agreed about online, on the Yahoo! Messenger. After that, it’s her story and mine. The sheriff’s office — they believe her, not me.

“The procedure, in my mind, you get her computer — because she told them that we met online, as well — you get her computer and mine, and you search the evidence then you say, ‘OK, this doesn’t make sense. You told me this, you told me that.’ That would be a fair investigation.”

In the interview, Alves said they met online somewhere prior to chatting on

Yahoo! Messenger, but declined to reveal where.

Alves said he feels confident that the online conversations will be beneficial to him in the case, but is not sure if the sheriff’s office searched for them, found them, or moreover, if they did, why they still don’t believe him.

“I don’t know if they looked,” said Alves. “Back in March, when they got my computer, I believe they had to go through my computer and told the officer that I met her online, and I believe they had to go through my computer to find the IMs, looking for pictures, because this is standard online activities; you go through to find pictures of minors. I’m sure they did that and found the IMs. So why didn’t they believe me? I don’t know. That’s why I’m going to trial . . . Based on the information they told my lawyer, he said ‘Let’s go to trial,’ because of everything that she said . . . it doesn’t match her statement. It means that she’s lying.”

Alves said he thinks he is being accused because of his race. “A month later,” said Alves, “you have that guy in Lake Eola who was homeless but he was



Nikki Namdar / Valencia Voice
Alves is still awaiting a pre-trial hearing for sexual assault with a deadly weapon.

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Tom Benítez, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus

Jeronimo Esteve III, left, and son Jeronimo Esteve IV visit the future Headquarter Honda location on State Road 50 in Clermont, Florida.

Florida dealers going green

By Steven Cole Smith
The Orlando Sentinel

CLERMONT, Fla. — Automakers have been climbing aboard the “green” bandwagon for years, with low-emission, high-mileage vehicles that appeal not only to customers looking to save fuel, but to buyers eager to participate in what’s perceived to be an environmental solution.

That bandwagon is expanding to include dealers themselves. Many are simply turning down the lights and turning up the air conditioning, but others are going far beyond that.

Headquarter Honda, a new dealership under construction in Clermont 50, is being built to achieve LEED Platinum certi-

fication, meaning that it should meet the extremely aggressive standards set by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design, in conjunction with the U.S. Green Building Council.

“It costs about 35 percent more to build to LEED Platinum standards,” said Jero Esteve IV, general manager of the dealership, which will open next March. “We hope to recoup that over a 10-year period,” but the main reason Esteve’s family-owned company is doing is “because it’s the right thing to do.”

According to the Miami-based Bella Automotive Group, which owns the dealership, the \$17 million Headquarter Honda will include construction with “environmentally friendly materials, a ‘living roof’ system

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Accused believes computer records will vindicate him

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blonde and blue eyes; I'm dark-skinned and I'm Spanish, so they didn't believe in me but they believe in the homeless. I have all the proof. I was telling them what happened but they didn't take it into consideration."

Alves said the last time he spoke to his lawyer, Timothy A. Berry, was a month prior to the Voice interview.

Alves said they don't speak often due to the charges associated with the collect calls; his last phone call was Aug 2.

Berry informed him that his trial is Jan. 11, and that he has been trying to get a "motion to get the information" to prove Alves' innocence in the case.

"I was telling the arresting officer to check the computer," Alves said. "They didn't do it, and now after this time, my lawyer has been requesting the sheriff's office to get the computer. The information that we need in these three months and finally he went to the court and he asked the judge."

Alves said online conversations with the woman were not long and that they only spoke for two days. "Not even an hour altogether," said Alves. "Saturday and Monday, not even an hour. We have all the IM history. There's something there that now they realized, they don't

want to release, but the judge made them release the information."

According to Alves, there should be a bond because he has no criminal history, but with a kidnapping charge, no bond is allowed.

The trial date was continuously changing, and Alves said he doesn't want to sign or pay for anything, because he doesn't know what will happen.

"They said my trial would be in August," said Alves. "Why spend money if they pushed it back and back and back? My lawyer said it's going to be in October . . . At first, they charged me for kidnapping, then they dropped.

"I could find the money, a way to get out, but I didn't want to spend that money and then we spoke about it in August [that] it's going to be in October. Now, it's going to be in January. Whatever date it is, that's going to be the date. We have had two times, August and October. I'm not making plans, anything could happen and change."

Alves said Berry was trying to "set up a deposition" and the woman, whose identity still has not been revealed, asked for December because she was in Los Angeles.

"She's not in Tampa," said Alves. "The last time I spoke to my lawyer, he said she's either

in Vegas or Nevada. She's not in Florida anymore. She moved two or three months ago over there."

Alves said he was angry with the woman, but no longer is. "I was at first, now no," said Alves. "Every single day, I pray for her, to God, for her salvation to get her out of that life."

When Alves was first arrested, he spent two or three months in another facility, but now he stays in a Christian dorm, where he says he has found faith and would like to share his relationship with God to other married men and influence them to make the changes he has.

"I believe I had a chance to come here," Alves said. "For some reason, I didn't ask, they took me to a . . . Christian dorm and I've been there five, almost six, months now.

"It goes both ways, a man and a woman on the Internet doing pornography. I'll try to change that situation, I don't know how, but some way I would like to have a group to talk to married guys about God because this is the only way. I tried things before, it didn't work out. I think the only way is when you know there is something bigger than you, that you're not living only for . . . to have lust."

Alves added: "God is fair. I believe. I am 100 percent sure everything is going to be OK."

Green car lots change the game

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

utilizing filter technology developed at the University of Central Florida, solar panels and water-efficient landscaping." It also will have water recycling tanks, a rain water reclaiming system, night light pollution reduction, energy saving 'intelligent' lighting, plus emission-capturing equipment for each car being serviced, bamboo flooring and a multiple recycling programs.

The average store is by nature a pretty energy-intensive environment, with lots of large, open spaces that must be heated and cooled, and brightly lit inside and out on the lot. Service departments

use lots of energy, and generate plenty of potentially toxic material.

The National Automobile Dealers Association formally endorsed the EPA's Energy Star Challenge by asking the NADA's 20,000 members to reduce energy use by 10 percent or more. The EPA estimates that if auto dealers cut their energy use by 10 percent, they would save nearly \$193 million and prevent more than 1 million tons of greenhouse gas emissions.

In 2004, Hurricanes Frances and Jeanne did \$1 million damage to Sunrise Ford in Fort Pierce, said Mike Wetzel, general manager of the 70-year-old dealership. The new-car showroom was still standing, but the building that served as the used-car headquarters "was devastated," Wetzel said. So when they rebuilt, Wetzel and dealership own-

er Mary Jo Tierney decided to go green.

Exterior panels on the building are made of 75 percent recycled material, "and they never require paint," he said. They installed 160 solar panels on the roof, upgraded to energy-efficient windows in the showroom and better fluorescent lighting on the sales floor.

The result: Saving an average of 432 light bulbs year, and the use of 52 pounds less of carbon dioxide.

Wetzel does TV advertising for the dealership, and has highlighted the "green" innovations, which have been recognized by Ford. And he said he frequently hears from customers who say they appreciate it. With plenty of Ford dealers in the area to choose from, "it can be a tiebreaker for a customer," Wetzel said.

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2012 fever is Y2K 2.0

By Kiran Sood
Medill News Service

WASHINGTON — As moviegoers across the nation watched the end of the world with the opening of “2012” last week, news of Earth’s demise spread quickly across the Web. Scientists, fed up with the misleading prophecies, quickly set the record straight with their own series of articles and a YouTube video.

In the film, the world ends on Dec. 21, 2012 — a date that marks the end of a Long Count period, or 25,000-year cycle, on the Mayan calendar. The film is directed by Roland Emmerich, who’s also behind the doomsday features “The Day After Tomorrow” and “Independence Day.”

In the past, the scientific community hasn’t responded to apocalyptic visions and just waited for the

end-of-the-world storm to pass, said Don Yeomans, a senior research scientist at NASA.

For instance, the Y2K scare leading up to the year 2000 paralyzed many with fears that computers and electronic equipment couldn’t make the transition to the new century. People stockpiled bottled water and canned food to prepare for what became a nonevent.

With “2012,” however, it quickly became evident on the Internet that there were a number of misinformed people and that the disaster scenarios were multiplying, he said.

This time, members of the scientific community decided they needed to step in and let the science do the talking. So NASA posted a series of responses on its site to the many rumors in the film, addressing the misconceptions one by one, and also

posted a YouTube video.

Bob Waxman, the author of “2012: The Ultimate Meaning,” said his book also attempts to dispel the myths.

“The book tells the truth about 2012,” he said. “There is so much propaganda out there. The Earth’s crust is going to crack and cause volcanoes and earthquakes, and supposed solar flares that are going to heat up the inner core; a planet that no one has ever seen (is going to crash into us); every possible way to destroy the Earth is in the movie.”

NASA’s Yeomans said movie producers played into the hysteria, creating an Institute for Human Continuity Web site and even allowing users to vote for the leader of the new world.

“Normally, folks would think this is nonsense, but its Internet life was building,” he said.

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Say it ain't so, O

Queen of Talk stepping down after 25 years of dominance

By Lisa de Moraes
The Washington Post

Who can kick off a one-hour TV broadcast with a devastating story about a 5-year-old girl who was found dead after having been allegedly sold by her mother into prostitution and then raped and asphyxiated — and by the end of the show all anyone is talking about is the show host?

Oprah — that's who!

About half an hour after Oprah Winfrey opened her Nov. 20 show with an update on the heartbreaking story of little Shaniya Davis of North Carolina, and a gut-wrenching interview with the child's father and aunt, the daytime talk-show diva stood alone onstage and delivered the statement she'd promised her studio audience at the top of the program:

"After much prayer and months of careful thought, I've decided the next season, Season 25, will be the last season of 'The Oprah Winfrey Show,' " she intoned dramatically, confirming what her production company had announced to TV stations the previous evening.

Winfrey's last broadcast of her daytime syndicated program will be Sept. 9, 2011. "Why walk away and make the next season the last?" she asked rhetorically on the show, which aired

Friday morning in Chicago, where her Harpo Productions is based.

"Here is the real reason: I love this show. This show has been my life. And I love it enough to know when it's time to say goodbye. Twenty-five years feels right in my bones, and it feels right in my spirit. It's the perfect number, the exact right time. So I hope you will take this 18-month ride with me right through to the finale show."

Some would argue it's also necessary, if she's ever going to get launched



Terrence Antonio James/Chicago Tribune/MCT
Oprah Winfrey announced Nov. 20 that she will end her show in 2011, its 25th season.

her much-delayed Oprah Winfrey Network, a joint venture with Discovery Communications.

When OWN was announced last year, the game plan was to get it up and running in the second half of 2009 — now-ish. But it stalled for various reasons and reports surfaced earlier this month that Discovery Communications CEO David Zaslav was urging Winfrey to focus all her attention on the new venture, which is expected to be available in 80 million homes at launch. (Her current show is available in virtually all of the country's 110 million TV homes, but having a self-named network could prove more rewarding depending on the details of the deal.)

Some TV industry suits believe she's actually going to move the whole shebang (including, eventually, a talk show) to OWN, which is now scheduled to launch in January 2011 — about eight months before her syndicated talker is going to be shuttered.

But Winfrey did not discuss OWN during Friday's broadcast — never even came up. Instead, she talked about the "yellow brick road of blessings that have led me to this moment with you."

"These years with you — our viewers, have enriched my life beyond all measure," Winfrey said, choking up, while her studio audience whispered a respectful "Aww!"

Half an hour earlier, Winfrey had looked utterly collected, though wearing her Sad Face, as she told little Shaniya's father, Brad: "You know my heart and the country's heart bleeds for you. I cannot imagine what it feels like to hear your child has been murdered and your child was raped. How are you doing, Brad?"



C. Aluka Berry, The State/MCT Campus

Oprah's daytime talk show has catapulted her to astronomic levels of fame. Many people credit "The Oprah Effect," Oprah's early support of Barack Obama, with a large part of his victory.

He and his sister clearly were not doing well. On the bright side, it's the November sweep ratings derby, and this episode of "Oprah" was going to do very, very well in the ratings — maybe one of her biggest audiences ever — because, the night before, Oprah's Harpo Productions had e-mailed stations nationwide to give them a heads-up that Oprah was going to announce Friday she was calling it quits, and to urge the stations to get out the word.

"Twenty-four years ago, on September 8, 1986, I went live from Chicago to launch the first national 'Oprah Winfrey Show.' I was beyond excited, and, as you might expect, a little nervous," Oprah said Friday, looking emotionally into the camera.

"I knew then what a miraculous opportunity I had been given."

Friday is Winfrey's last taping day of her show for the rest of the calendar year. On Friday's broadcast, Winfrey said that during the break, she and her team will brainstorm about how to wrap up the show's quarter-century run:

"Season 25, we are going to knock your socks off. So the countdown to the end of 'The Oprah Winfrey Show' starts now."

"And, until that day in 2011 when it ends, I intend to soak up every meaningful, joyful moment with you."

On Twitter, the reaction was less one-sided than on the AP video. In addition to the wailing and gnashing of teeth, there were some skeptics:

"I have no opinion about Oprah quitting her talk show, but I find the fact that there is an Oprah Winfrey Network a bit frightening," tweeted nwjerseyliz.

"Weird how the TV media is treating the Oprah news as if it is the Kennedy Assassination," added ThatGirlCA.

Although the billionaire's advance publicity had inundated the airwaves and the blogosphere Friday, guaranteeing the iconic culture moment would attract a gimongous audience, actual ratings for Friday's show were not immediately available.

Watch for them next week.

— LATWP News Service

Moderate Dems demand changes

By Julian E. Barnes
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Only a day after Senate Democrats voted to move into a historic debate on overhauling the nation’s health care system, key centrists made it clear Sunday that the party is still a long way from delivering on its promise to provide near-universal insurance coverage and contain medical costs.

Faced with the prospect of Republican filibusters at every stage, Democratic leaders can only keep the process moving if they deliver the same kind of total unity they managed to achieve in Saturday’s vote to begin debate: Every Democratic senator, plus two independents who caucus with them, supported the key procedural motion.

But several of those Senators spoke out Sunday to say that they will not prepared to support the health care bill itself unless major changes were made.

Centrist Sen. Ben Nelson, D-Neb., said on ABC’s “This Week” that he voted to cut off a GOP filibuster and move into debate after the Thanksgiving recess only because that opened the way to changing the bill put forward by Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev.

“If I thought the bill couldn’t be amended and couldn’t be improved, I wouldn’t vote to move it forward and move the debate,” Nelson said. “When I saw the debate (on the motion to proceed), I said it can be amended; it can be improved. Debate can begin. We ought not to stop the opportunity to improve the bill.”

If the Reid bill had been before the Senate



Olivier Douliery, Abaca Press/MCT Campus
Sen. Blanche Lincoln (D-AR) was one of two key votes that hepled move the health care debate forward.

on Saturday, Nelson said, he would have voted to block it. “I would have voted ‘no’ to end debate. ... I would not have let it get off the floor. ... That is the next round,” he said.

Meantime, Sen. Joe Lieberman, I-Conn., said on NBC’s “Meet the Press” that he voted to end debate only because he wants a chance to amend it. Specifically, he said, he wants to remove the so-called public option provision, under which some consumers would be offered an optional government insurance plan that would compete with private insurers.

“I don’t think anyone thinks this bill will pass as it is,” Lieberman said, vowing to filibuster the final version of the bill if the public option remained.

“If we create a government insurance company, it will run a deficit, and it is only

the taxpayers who are going to pay for it.” Liberal Democrats, meantime, portrayed Saturday’s bill as a major victory.

Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y., said during an appearance on CBS’ “Face the Nation” that “the wind is at our back.”

On “Meet the Press,” Sen. Dick Durbin, D-Ill, said the vote Saturday was a victory for President Barack Obama and for Reid. “We have a lot of different opinions on our side of the caucus, and we came together last night.”

The more liberal senators also defended the current bill. Schumer said he believed a bill with a centrist public option will pass the Senate in the end with enough support to beat back any filibusters.

Schumer said that if the bill is not passed, many Americans will find their health care canceled in the coming years because of rising costs to employers. The bill, Schumer said, would preserve private insurance and Medicare while requiring the public option to meet the same requirements as private insurers.

“There is no intent for it to compete unfairly with private insurance,” Schumer said. “This is a modest public option. ... The bottom line is it is a level playing field.”

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, D-Calif., said the bill’s phased implementation is an asset. If problems develop, she said, Congress can fix the bill — noting that the “public option” for government-backed health care would not kick in until 2014.

Supporters of the public option would not say whether they were willing to compromise on a government insurance program.

— MCT Campus

Army suicides rise for 5th year

By Nancy A. Youssef
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Suicides in the Army are expected to reach a new high this year, with 140 suspected cases among active-duty soldiers so far, Army officials said Tuesday.

This will be the fifth year in a row that grim statistic rose despite an aggressive military campaign to tackle the mental health stigma in the Army. This year’s number already matches that for all of 2008. There were 115 suicides in 2007 and 102 in 2006.

These new statistics come as the military is investigating what may have driven Army psychiatrist Maj. Nidal Malik Hasan, 39, who allegedly shot 55 people Nov. 5 at Fort Hood, Texas. The military has charged Hasan, who was set to deploy to Afghanistan, with 13 counts of premeditated murder.

Gen. Peter W. Chiarelli, the Army’s vice chief of staff, said that the military wasn’t seeing any trends that explained the rise. Forty suicides occurred in the first two months of the year. About a third were by soldiers who had never deployed to war zones, and 40 percent of those who committed suicide had seen mental health specialists.

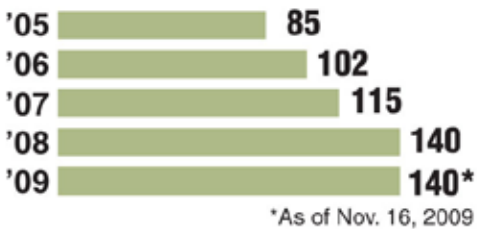
“We are almost certainly going to end the year higher than last year,” Chiarelli said. “This is horrible, and I do not want to downplay the significance of these numbers in any way.”

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan often have demanded that soldiers serve multiple tours. Coupled with the shootings at Fort Hood, concerns are rising about stress on the force, particularly as the Obama administration considers sending more troops to Afghanistan.

Indeed, an Army study released last week found that a growing number of soldiers serving in Afghanistan are suffering

Army suicides rising

U.S. Army suicides are expected to reach a new high in 2009:



Source: McClatchy Washington Bureau, U.S. Army Graphic: Judy Treible © 2009 MCT

from some kind of mental stress, and that the war zone doesn’t have enough mental health counselors to meet the needs there.

Domestically, Chiarelli said, the biggest increased numbers of suicides happened at Fort Stewart, Ga., with 10, Fort Campbell, Ky., with 18, and Schofield Barracks in Hawaii, with seven. The biggest declines have occurred at Fort Hood, with 11; Fort Bragg, N.C., with six; and Fort Drum, N.Y., with two so far this year, even though they’re some of the largest military installations deploying troops to Iraq and Afghanistan.

At Fort Campbell, the majority of suicides were by soldiers who’d never deployed.

“I’ve scrubbed the numbers every way I possibly can,” Chiarelli said. “I cannot find a causal link.”

He said the military’s study had found that substance and prescription-drug abuse was increasingly a contributing factor, adding that he thought that the Army needed another 300 substance-abuse counselors.

The Army is looking at ways to give more mental health options to the forces, including online counseling, which younger soldiers prefer.

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OUR VOICE

Florida must sustain itself without further growth

Florida, a state of a misrepresented self worth. It is a state where just a few years ago was the leader of development and growth in the nation, a state where the unemployment rate was well below that of the rest of America and a state where taxpayers were spared from having the heavy burden of supporting the state on their shoulders.

Times were good for politicians too back in 2006, the state budget was balanced, Governor Charlie Crist proposed a tax cut on Floridian's property taxes, and the state was getting back at insurance companies for manipulating rates to homeowners in the state of Florida.

The state was in perfect harmony, the people were making money, the government had enough clout to start pushing big companies around, and the best part was we were growing; nothing could stop it.

Well what the hell happened? Everything turned to gridlock. The State's unemployment rate, the envy of the nation is well above the country's standard, hovering around 11.2%. The government has lost tons of money from the hemor-

rhaging housing market, (seems that that property tax hike wasn't such a good idea), and the state House and Senate have turned to groveling for federal bailout money. The growth has stopped all together.

"Florida ultimately will begin to grow again." Said state Sen. Don Gaetz, R-Niceville, and for those of you who believe that, your head must be in the clouds, because here on earth that is just not possible. But Sen. Gaetz goes on: "The question is, how do we grow and who controls growth?"

That a good question, and chances are it won't be Sen. Gaetz. But, assuming we never see a return on the growth that we once had, which is a more likely scenario, we have to look for someone who will manage the lack of growth, a more important concern for Floridians, and it's been a concern even before the economic stand-still. The problem is no one wants to address it.

It is more fun to make believe that Florida will be able to sustain itself based on tourism and development alone.

To be fair, however, that is how Florida has gotten along since the

fifties, and our only other option is to revert to the agrarian, citrus and sugar cane economy of the 19th century, Florida's oldest and most reliable industry. If those weren't two of the two most laborous crops to grow or if they made more money and employed more people then it might be a way to go. But, seeing how much society has changed, chances are most Floridians won't be lining up to take those jobs any time soon.

Or, we can ditch the talk of making our state the flashy, everyone's got to be here metropolis of tomorrow and start thinking of ways to attract real, sustainable businesses

that want to take root in our neck of the woods.

It seems like the same people who came up with the idea that the U.S. economy was better off as one based on the financial sector are the ones who invented the idea that Florida was better off growing beyond capacity and pandering to tourists. Obviously, selling Floridians on the idea that they're here to do attract more was not the best approach to take.

It's time our leadership takes the time to address issues affecting Floridians, not addressing issues trying to make more people relocate to the state.

— opinion@valenciavoice.com



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POLL

Cops preach dangers of texting and driving

By Meghan Cooke
McClatchy Newspapers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Orange cones were the victims in the texting-and-driving program at Mount Pleasant, N.C., High School.

Brianna Jordan got behind the wheel Oct. 21, glancing back and forth between the road and her cell phone as she texted a friend.

Then she wrecked.

Fortunately, the golf cart she was driving while sitting beside a North Carolina state trooper simply wrecked into orange cones. But she learned a lesson on the danger of texting while driving.

The “dnt txt & drv” program — that’s “don’t text and drive” in text lingo — led by a group of state highway patrol troopers, recently went to several area high schools to warn students about texting and driving.

Students took turns driving a golf cart through a winding obstacle course lined with traffic cones. Each student drove through once without texting, and then troopers rode alongside them as they drove the course again while attempting to read a text message with a question sent by a classmate and reply without knocking over the cones.

“I don’t think I could ever trust myself to text and drive,” Jenna Siffringer, a junior at Cox Mill High School, said after she finished the course on a recent Thursday. Mount Pleasant High School Principal Edie Sayewich said many teenagers don’t take their responsibility as drivers as seriously as they should. “I have buried too many students,” she told students.

“No text is so important they can’t wait five or 10 minutes to read it.”

What are your plans for the holiday season?

Photos by Shaneece Dixon



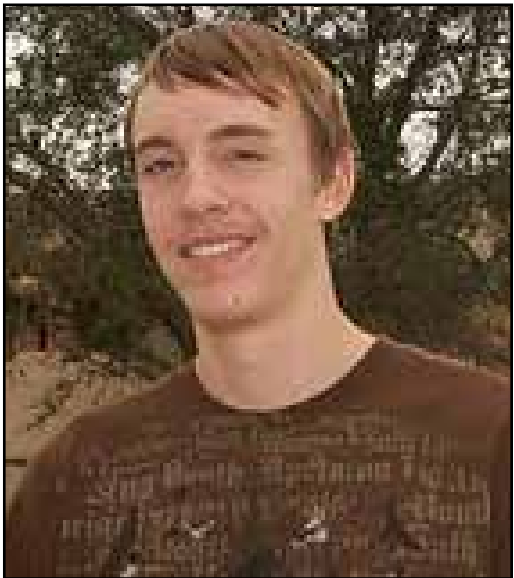
>> Just working and spending time with my boyfriend.
— Jazmine Padin



>> Spending time with family and my sister’s new baby that’s due December.
— Rosie Lopez



>> I usually go to see my family in Rhode Island or Virginia.
— David Garlitzke



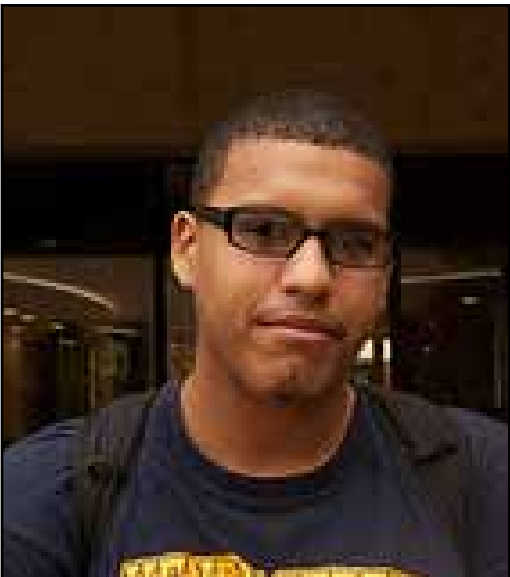
>> Just work and make money.
— Deon Harper



>> I think I’m going to New York. Definitely Times Square for New Year’s.
— Erica Cornett



>> Going to Jacksonville to visit my parents.
— Miguel Mor



>> Maybe spend some time with family I haven’t seen in a while.
— Tiffany Ortiz



>> I plan to head to Detroit and visit family.
— Deon Harper

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Werewolves take over 'Moon'

Pattinson relinquishes the lead role to Lautner in sequel

By Ashley McBride
amcbride@valenciavoice.com

Whether it's Bill Compton from HBO's "True Blood," Stefan Salvatore from The CW's "The Vampire Diaries" or "Twilight's" own Edward Cullen, self-loathing vampires are popping up everywhere.

The angst-ridden Cullen appears in the "Twilight" sequel, though as Jimmy Fallon told Taylor Lautner on the Nov. 19 episode of his late night talk show, "This is your movie." "The Twilight Saga: New Moon" focuses on Bella Swan's (Kristen Stewart, "The Messengers") budding friendship with Jacob Black (played by Lautner), when Edward, (played by Robert Pattinson, "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire") leaves Bella in a misguided attempt to protect her.

When Bella discovers performing reckless acts cause her beloved Edward to appear, she deems herself a female Evel Knievel and begins riding motorcycles with Jacob and careening herself off of a cliff for sport.

Lautner plays the pining Jacob flawlessly. You can feel how des-

perately he cares for her. Though I believed Edward was the right one for Bella when reading the books, the films make me change my mind. Lautner takes command of this movie and he does a great job as an actor. I found myself impressed with his talents,



Bella Swan (Kristen Stewart), and Jacob Black (Taylor Lautner)

after the sub-par performances in the original movie. Die-hard "Twilight" fans may disagree, but honestly, there's no Oscar winning performances here.

My one pet peeve with Lautner is where many will disagree with me. Throughout most of the

movie, Lautner is shirtless which is partly for the tweens lining up for the movie, but I feel like it was a little over the top. Sure he can change into a werewolf at any moment, but still, the boy can find some shirts to wear.

I expected to find so many

lisle Cullen's skin tone made a world of difference in the sequel. In "Twilight," there was a distinct line where the white makeup ended and his normal complexion began. In this film, he still looks like a vampire, but the makeup is more masterfully executed.

Another problem with the film is there are so many characters, even with a running time of 130 minutes, some of the characters barely got lines. Among those were Rosalie, Emmett, Esme, and Jasper Cullen.

This film holds more action-packed sequences and fighting scenes. The CGI werewolves were a welcome addition to the movie, as well.

Overall, "New Moon" was an improvement upon the previous installment, and I found Jacob and Bella's romance slightly more believable and more realistic. At least Jacob has a beating heart, Edward can't say the same. Anyone who has read "Eclipse" and "Breaking Dawn" though, (the third and fourth books, respectively), know that Jacob just doesn't stand a chance against Bella's first love, Edward Cullen.

'Twilight' sequel more fun, action-packed with Volturi

By Cristina Bonura
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Imagine the person that you love leaving you forever. If you have seen "Twilight," you know that Bella Swan and Edward Cullen were made for each other. Yet Edward was afraid that Bella would get more hurt, so he decides that if he left, she would be safer.

Bella goes into a serious depression. Deciding to go out with her friend one night, she realizes that if she is in danger, she would see and hear Edward.

Her old friend Jacob Black loves fixing things so she brought him two motorcycles to repair knowing it was dangerous meaning, she would see Edward. She became very close with Jacob, spending everyday with him. She learns later that Jacob is a werewolf.

Still wanting to see Edward, she jumps off a cliff into the ocean. Jacob saved her though, and brought her home where Alice, Edward's sister, was waiting for her.

Edward thought Bella was dead so he wanted to kill himself because he couldn't live without her, so he was headed to Italy, where the Volturi was located. Bella and Alice had to make it to Italy or else Edward would be killed. This part of the movie was the most intense and really kept you at the edge of your seat.

After reading the book, I was worried about how the movie was going to turn out. I was impressed though—it was a lot better than I had expected it to be. The book dragged on during Bella's depression to the point where it was a little bit boring, but in the movie, it didn't drag on, yet you were able to feel her pain. I was glad that they didn't cut any of the major scenes from the book, it was actually almost exactly like the book. I enjoyed this movie so much and would recommend it to everyone, especially to the people who have seen "Twilight." I actually think that "New Moon" was better than "Twilight," more action-packed and fun to watch.

'Precious' generates Oscar buzz

Abused teenage mother struggles for self-discovery in film

By **Shaneece Dixon**
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The newly released movie, "Precious," brings a genuine innocence to audiences as it tackles the grittiness of issues such as poverty, domestic and sexual violence, and homosexuality within the African-American community.

Taking place in Harlem, New York, in 1987, "Precious" is sure to leave its mark. Based on the 1996 novel, "Push," by Sapphire, "Precious" is a story about an illiterate teen, named Precious, who is pregnant with her second child by her father, who is HIV-positive. She is physically, verbally, and sexually abused by her mother, Mary Jones, who is played by comedian-actress Monique Imes.

Her first child, Mongo, lives with her passive-aggressive grandmother, who refuses to confront her daughter on her ill-treatment of Precious. Mongo suffers from Down syndrome, and only sees Precious when the social worker comes to visit the "family," while her mother steals the social security checks. On top of the abusive environment at home, Precious struggles with her own self-esteem, as she dreams to be a famous celebrity with a "light-skinned boyfriend."

Still in junior high school, Precious barely gets by in school as she sits in the back of her classes, daydreaming about her math teacher. Things don't seem to improve for Precious until the school principal, Mrs. Lichenstein

(Nealla Gordon) discharges her from school and tells her about an alternative school, Each One, Teach One, which gives young, troubled women an alternative in their education, and helping them obtain their GED.

There, she meets Ms. Blue Rain (Paula Patton), who teaches her how to read and encourages her to write her story. With the help of Ms.



Phil Velasquez, Chicago Tribune / MCT Campus
Newcomer Gabourey Sidibe, who stars as Precious in the movie of the same name.

Rain and her newfound friends from her class, she not only improves on her literacy, but learns to love herself and gains the strength to face her mother, who constantly insists that her education is irrelevant and is too dumb to

succeed in anything.

Starring in her first big movie role, Gabourey 'Gabby' Sidibe, plays the unforgettable Precious Jones. Sidibe plays the role to perfection. Audiences are sure to feel heart-felt emotion towards her character as they witness the pain and abuse that she must endure on a day to day basis. Sure to gain some Oscar buzz is Monique herself, who didn't find it too difficult to play her character, being molested by her older brother when she was younger, in real life. She completely transforms herself for the role, to the point that she is almost unrecognizable.

Compared to the "Push" novel, "Precious" isn't much different. In the book, however, it blatantly says that Precious' father was a drug addict, which is how he obtained HIV/AIDS, but the movie only hints at it. Also, in the book, it states that she has been raped by her father since she was seven, but in the movie, they say it's been happening since she was only three years old. For anyone with extra time on their hands, I recommend reading the book first before seeing the film, at least to mentally prepare for the vulgarity and explicit content from the film itself.

For those who enjoy Tyler Perry's movies, "Precious" is sure to turn heads. Even if you haven't seen his movies, the fact that it is produced by Tyler Perry and Oprah shouldn't deter you from seeing the film. It is a beautiful film that is a rare exception among the numerous films that are adapted from novels.

OTHER VIEWS

"It's a potent and moving experience, because by the end you feel you've witnessed nothing less than the birth of a soul."

— **Owen Gleiberman, Entertainment Weekly**

"That journey winds up being excruciating, exhausting and, against all odds, deeply rewarding."

— **Ann Hornaday, Washington Post**

"It's not an easy film to watch. But neither, for many reasons, is "Precious" easy to forget."

— **Michael Phillips, Chicago Tribune**

CAMEOS IN 'PRECIOUS'

— **Monique Imes** ("Roscoe Jenkins," "Soul Plane") plays Mary Jones, Precious' viciously abusive mother.

— **Paula Patton** ("Idlewild," "Deja Vu") plays Blue Rain, Precious' teacher at Each One, Teach One.

— **Mariah Carey** ("Glitter," "The Bachelor") plays Ms. Weiss, the tough social worker that Precious goes to see to obtain her welfare checks and helps her confront her mother about the abuse.

— **Lenny Kravitz**, plays John, the male nurse that assists Precious during her second pregnancy (a son she names Abdul), and soon comes to befriend her.

— **Sherri Shepherd** ("Madagascar: Escape 2 Africa," "Beauty Shop") plays Cornrows, who is the receptionist at Each One, Teach One.

Apocalyptic paradise in 'Left 4 Dead 2'

By Manny Colon
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When Left 4 Dead 2 was first announced at this year's E3 convention, many gamers criticized it by saying it should be an expansion rather than a game, and created a boycott group.

When Valve (the game developers) decided to fly in two of the boycott leaders to test their game, they were satisfied with the product, and ended the boycott consisting of more than 40,000 people.

The game is definitely a step up from its predecessor. The campaign was very well done, featuring five stages starting in Savannah, Ga. and blasting infected all the way through the French Quarter of New Orleans.

The AI Director has also been worked on, providing an even more varied gameplay, so no game feels the same when replayed.

For those who truly want to immerse themselves into the apocalyptic experience, there's the new Realism Mode, which forces the players to stick together at all costs since there is nothing to identify



Games Press

Teamwork is still an essential part of succeeding in the game.



Games Press

One of the main characters, Ellis, smashing an infected's face with a cricket bat.

the characters, or items (unlike normal campaign which wraps the characters with the color-coded halos) making it a tougher, more real adventure.

Melee weapons create an entirely new experience within the game, giving a certain edge to players when they're crowded by common infected, and in versus mode since these weapons aren't affected by the shove cool-down.

The survivors are not entirely invincible in versus mode though, for there are three new special infected classes that will make the survivor players screech and pull out their hair.

The new Scavenge Mode creates a faster paced multi-player game, which requires the survivors to grab gas cans and pour them in the generator before time runs out. The opposition's mission: to stop the survivors at all costs.

The graphics of this game have improved significantly since the first installment and the environment is a lot more richer and varied, proving that the Source engine has survived the test of time once again.

The friendly AI however, can be very frustrating by not helping you out when you're dying, or how they stand in a fire, awaiting their death and nothing more. Overall, it's still a great piece of work, and is easily one of the best games made this year.

OTHER VIEWS

"The point is, yeah, there's more than enough to call this a complete sequel. If there was any concern going into this thing, it was that maybe it'd represent a collection of tweaks and touches that'd be better suited to expanding the first game, and there are sure to be a few who hold on to that opinion. Personally, I think this sucker earned the 2 at the end of its name."

— Scott Sharkey, 1UP

"Though the core action remains largely unchanged, the widespread enhancements make Left 4 Dead 2 even better than its impressive predecessor. This is one zombie apocalypse you do not want to miss."

— Chris Watters, GameSpot

"Leading up to the launch of Left 4 Dead 2, angry Internet boycotters condemned the game for being a quick cash-grab on a successful new IP but after getting my hands on the actual product, it's clear that was just unnecessary hysteria."

— Mitchell Dyer, GamePro

Stephen King's latest uses scares sparingly

'Under the Dome' tells of a town trapped beneath force field

By Jimmy Tater
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In Stephen King's "Under the Dome," the small townspeople of the fictionalized Chester's Hill, Maine and the reader are trapped under an invisible dome and become stir-crazy.

Dale Barbara, a retired military leader who is now a cook in the town's beloved Sweetbriar Rose, is enlisted by the president to be a military official again and handle the crisis under the dome. But Big Jim Rennie, a man with a thirst for power will not allow this and takes preventative action with his corrupt police force of brutal teenage cops.

Why is the book so long? There are so many characters in the town who are restricted to life under the dome and there are many experiences and perspectives included from the long list of characters.

They have to ration their propane supplies for generators for their houses because power was out in the town after the dome appeared and they can not export or import supplies nevertheless leave- it is similar to life for those in a developed country like the United States after a destructive hurricane.

Stephen King is a commercial writer with an excellent reputation and he dismisses any suspicions that that may be not true with this book. I have never read a Stephen King title before this but, this is the right one to see him at his best and check out one of the better work of fiction released this year.

At times, it seems like King creates his own rules for writing a novel and makes it a more practical

reading experience and easier to digest for the reader.

At his command, he darts unapologetically from one viewpoint to another, like from third-person omniscient to a first-person view to zoom in on a particular character and their psyche. Also, he tries to mimic they way people talk amongst themselves to another degree by putting some words into written form that may not be available for reference in the AP style guide.

Sometimes this means emphasizing body language and putting it into more a more practical writ-



Lionel Hahn, Abaca Press / MCT Campus

Stephen King's latest novel, "Under the Dome" tells the story of a town under a force field.

ten form. For example, he'd write something like: "the critic stuck his fist in the air with the thumb pointing upwards, meaning to say that the book was not bad."

Big Jim Rennie is easily one of the better antagonists in contemporary commercial fiction. With Dale Barbara, the main protagonist, in jail and Rusty Everett, the next logical would-be hero joins him shortly after and is removed from a great deal of the story, a lot of the spotlight is put on Big Jim.

The amount of attention Jim gets in the book actually compliments his ego which is explored in depth in a great section called: "Feeling It."

Here he identifies himself with a star player on the championship girls' high school basketball team from a few seasons before. She was dominate on the court and brought a certain hate and aggression for opposing team that was so uncontested he fell in love with her.

In the same way the girl played great high school ball and didn't play in college because she was too small at the college level and would become a role player instead of a star, Jim stayed in the small town where he could satisfy his need for power rather than money, of which, he claims he could make much more elsewhere.

He exercises the power and manipulation he has over town officials outside of his jurisdiction as the town's second Selectman, like police chief Randolph, and it leads to destruction and preventable deaths of townspeople.

The sway he has on the town's operation is shown

as both remarkable and devastating because time after time the plans he implements through others is met with disastrous results and still lives to scheme thereafter.

"Under the Dome" is primarily a work of realistic fiction covering a supernatural appearance of a dome and the people's reaction to it and the new environment that is created because they are separated from the external world.

The horror that King is known for is placed strategically and is used sparingly in favor of exploring the characters as they become restless under the dome.

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Polasek's sci-fi vision

New exhibit showcases 50 original pieces of adventure, fantasy art from 22 artists

WINTER PARK, Fla. — Alien worlds, brawny heroes, horrifying beasts and buxom beauties will be featured in “Maidens and Monsters — The Art of Science Fiction, Adventure and Fantasy” at the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens in Winter Park.

On view from Nov. 24 to April 18, 2010, the exhibition spans over 80 years of sci-fi and fantasy “pulp” magazine covers and book jacket illustrations from 1914 to 1995. The exhibition includes 50 original works by 22 masters of sci-fi and fantasy illustration including N.C. Wyeth, Frank Frazetta, Michael Whelan,



Courtesy of The Albin Polasek Museum
Illustration by J. Allen St. John (left), and an illustration by Hannes Bok (right).

Frank R. Paul, Virgil Finlay, Kelly Freas and J. Allen St. John.

This will be the first time the world-renowned, fantasy art collection of Orlando attorney and author Steven D. Korshak will be on view to the public.

These works appeared on the covers and pages of popular adventure stories and novels such as the Allan Quatermain series by H. Rider Haggard and the John Carter of Mars and Tarzan series by Edgar Rice Burroughs. Classic sci-fi and fantasy pulp magazines are represented

from the 1910s through 1960s, such as cover illustrations for Amazing Stories, Weird Tales, and Wonder Stories.

Original cover illustrations for books by renowned sci-fi and fantasy authors such as Andre Norton (once a Winter Park resident), Robert Heinlein, Robert E. Howard, L. Ron Hubbard and Harry Harrison are also represented.

Korshak, an Orlando-based attorney, is the author of several books relating to the exhibit including Grand Master of Fantasy: The Paintings of J. Allen St. John, A Hannes Bok Treasury, and his latest publication,



Courtesy of The Albin Polasek Museum
Illustration by Frank R. Paul.



Courtesy of The Albin Polasek Museum
Illustration by Margaret Brundage.



Courtesy of The Albin Polasek Museum
Illustrations by Stanley Meltzoff (left), and Kelly Freas (right).

“From the Pen of Paul: The Fantastic Images of Frank R. Paul.” His father, Erle Melvin Korshak is the legendary founder of Shasta Publishers, which specialized in high quality, hardcover science fiction novels in the late 1940s and 1950s. Erle is the current publisher of the Shasta/Phoenix line of books. Please contact Debbie Komanski for more info.

Debbie Komanski, Executive Director, 407-647-6294, DKomanski@polasek.org or dkomanski@aol.com.

ABOUT THE MUSEUM

Founded in 1961, the Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens holds an art collection focusing primarily on American representational sculpture, with over 200 works by Czech-born American sculptor Albin Polasek. The museum also offers guided tours of the historic Polasek residence and chapel, an outdoor sculpture garden and a gift shop. The museum is the retirement home of 2004 Florida Artists Hall of Fame recipient Albin Polasek, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is one of only 30 members of the National Trust's Historic Artists' Homes and Studios.



Courtesy of The Albin Polasek Museum
Illustrations by Virgil Finlay.

IF YOU GO ...

The Albin Polasek Museum and Sculpture Gardens, located at 633 Osceola Avenue, Winter Park, FL 32789, is open Tuesday through Saturday 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. and Sunday 1:00 – 4:00 p.m. Admission fees are charged as follows: adults (18-59) \$5, seniors (60+) \$4, students (age 12 through college) \$3, with members and children age 12 and under entering for free. For more information, call 407-647-6294 or visit the website at www.polasek.org.



Courtesy of The Albin Polasek Museum
Illustration by Ed Emsh.

Knights crush Tulane

By Neil Tredray
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ORLANDO, Fla. -- The University of Central Florida Knights closed out their home season with a 49-0 thrashing of the Tulane Green Wave in front of an announced crowd of 31,390 at Bright House Networks Stadium on Nov. 21.

The Knights' offense, defense, and special teams all did their part to send the departing seniors out with a win.

The offense racked up seven total touchdowns, including four in the third quarter. UCF had not scored 28 points in a quarter since Sept. 22, 2007 against Memphis.

The defense could have given the vaunted Florida Gators' offense fits, holding Tulane to -30 yards rushing and 50 total offensive yards on 51 plays in the game.

The kicking game was a perfect 7 of 7 on extra points by Nick Cattoi and Jamie Boyle, and the punt coverage team forced a fumble which gave UCF possession on the Tulane 22 and set up a score for the offense.

"Each week we are getting better as a team. I feel we did a lot of good things on offense and defense and in the kicking game.

I was very pleased with the execution of the team, and being able to put that many points on the board," said UCF head coach George O'Leary.

Knights quarterback Brett Hodges went 19 of 28 for 234 yards, two touchdowns and an interception. Rob Calabrese, who relieved Hodges at the start of the fourth quarter, only threw one pass for a 6-yard touchdown reception by Brendan Kelly.

"Brett Hodges did an excellent job at making his reads," O'Leary said.

UCF's running backs did their part too, with Brynn Harvey scoring three touchdowns while gaining 129 yards on 16 carries, including a 50-yard score on UCF's opening drive. Johnathan Davis also had 16 carries for 76 yards and a touchdown with 47 seconds left in the third quarter.

"Brynn Harvey and Jonathan Davis both had great games running the ball," O'Leary said. "Harvey made a few reads in the first half where he was cutting too early, but as the game progressed, he made some excellent cuts and got through the hole."

The Knights were not perfect on offense, however, as a 13-play, 65-yard drive ended with a Hodges pass being picked off by Tulane cornerback Phillip Davis

in the end zone.

UCF's offense was back on the field six plays later though, as Reggie Weams intercepted Ryan Griffin in the end zone.

The Knights got their second quarter touchdown after Tulane punter Ross Thevenot bobbled the ball while trying to punt. Running back Ronnie Weaver fell on the ball at the Tulane 3. Harvey ran it in two plays later from 2 yards out, giving the Knights a 14-0 lead with 1:31 left in the first half.

Tulane got the ball to start the second half, but Griffin was sacked by Justin Boddie and lost the ball. Senior defensive tackle Travis Timmons scooped the loose ball up and ran for 10 yards to the Tulane 13.

Harvey got the third quarter scoring bonanza started by crossing the goal line on another 2-yard run.

Griffin had another pass intercepted on Tulane's next possession, this time by freshman corner Josh Robinson who brought it to the Tulane 29 before being forced out of bounds.

Hodges connected with receiver Kamar Aiken for a 29-yard score on the next play, giving UCF a 28-0 lead with 10:37 left in



Jonathan Davis rushes for a 9-yard touchdown at the end of the 3rd quarter.

Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 14

UCF wins last home game with stout defense, explosive offense

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

the third.

"Brett is going to keep looking for me," Aiken said. "Brett told me in the first half to keep running my routes and he would find me. He did that and kept coming to me."

Kemal Ishmael forced a Jordan Sullen fumble on the ensuing kickoff and Weaver had another fumble recovery. Hodges and Aiken connected again two plays later on a 16-yard throw. Boyle came in to kick the ex-

tra point. UCF had scored 21 points in less than three minutes.

UCF's final third quarter score came after a 14-play, 97-yard drive that took nearly seven minutes off the clock. Davis, who had an earlier touchdown called back on a holding penalty, capped the drive off with a 9-yard run for six. Boyle's extra point made it 42-0 with less than a minute left in the third.

Tulane benched Griffin in favor of Joe Kemp at quarterback, though Kemp was not able to start anything for Tulane's offense.

Kevin Moore was inserted at quarterback for Tulane's final possession.

"I was very happy for our seniors," O'Leary said. "It was an awesome game for them to come out and all get in there and pitch the shutout."

UCF's final game of the season is Nov. 28 at UAB. UCF's likely bowl destinations are the St. Petersburg Bowl, the EagleBank Bowl, and the New Orleans Bowl, with a possibility of the Hawaii Bowl or the Armed Forces Bowl.



Brynn Harvey rushes for one of UCF's 7 touchdowns, and his 2nd of the day.

Collin Dever / Valencia Voice



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

(From left,) Justin Boddie, Reggie Weams, and Kemal Ishmael celebrate a sack of a UCF defense that held Tulane to 51 yards all day.

Florida Classic 'steps' up the competition

By Karen Raffaello
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ORLANDO, Fla. – The Florida Classic is the largest football game between two rivalry black colleges in the United States, both teams have gained celebrity status and have a reputation to defend.

On Saturday, Nov. 23 the Florida A&M University Rattlers defeated Bethune-Cookman University Wildcats 42-6 in the 30th anniversary of the game that brings hundreds to Orlando every year.

In the first quarter, a FAMU 5-yard run

started the Rattlers off on the right foot, striking first to make the score 7-0.

FAMU ruled the second quarter; fullback Mykel Benson 3 yard run, quarterback Martin Ukpai 11 yard run, and wide receiver Kevin Elliott 1 yard pass to Ukpai all for touchdowns earned the rattlers a 28-0 halftime lead.

By the third quarter the Rattlers' tailback, Philip Sylvester ran 42 yards and ended with the score 35-0.

The only touchdown BCU could muster was from running back Androse Bell in the fourth quarter, giving the Wildcats their only six points of the game.



Harry E. Walker / MCT

The band for Bethune Cookman warms up the crowd at the Citrus Bowl.

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Smokin' Ricky

By Alex Barrett
abarrett@valenciavoice.com

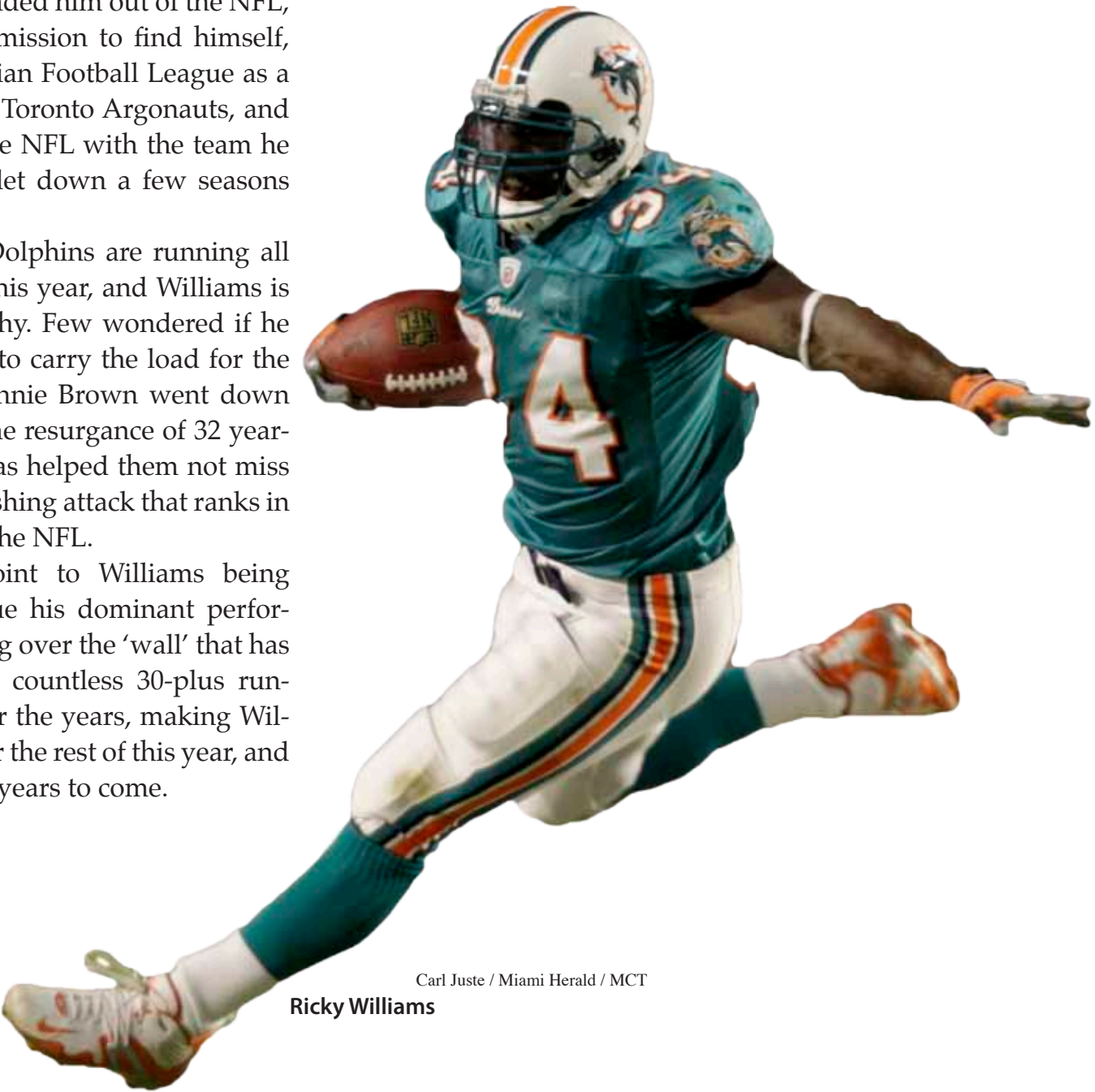
Ricky Williams has had an interesting life.

The former first round draft pick fell into virtual obscurity when his marijuana habits landed him out of the NFL, on a spiritual mission to find himself, into the Canadian Football League as a member of the Toronto Argonauts, and then back to the NFL with the team he had previosly let down a few seasons earlier.

The Miami Dolphins are running all over the NFL this year, and Williams is a big reason why. Few wondered if he would be able to carry the load for the 'Fins when Ronnie Brown went down to injury, but the resurgence of 32 year-old Williams has helped them not miss a beat in the rushing attack that ranks in the top five in the NFL.

All signs point to Williams being able to continue his dominant performance, skipping over the 'wall' that has dragged down countless 30-plus running backs over the years, making Williams a force for the rest of this year, and possibly many years to come.

Drug-marred Williams composing his own redemption song



Carl Juste / Miami Herald / MCT
Ricky Williams