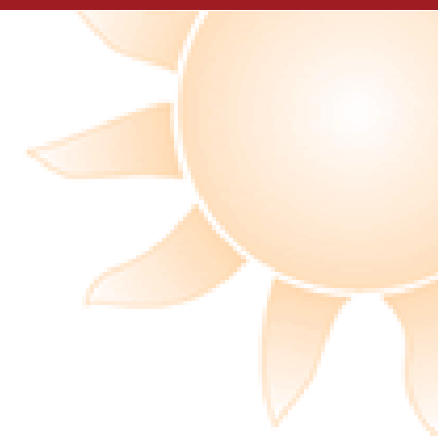


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Official Student Media of Valencia Community College



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Helen Thomas, under siege about Israel comments, retires

By Steven Thomma
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON - Helen Thomas, the longest serving White House correspondent, retired Monday after comments she made about Israel drew condemnation from both the White House and the White House Correspondents Association.

Hearst News Service announced Thomas's retirement in a news story transmitted Monday morning. The story said her retirement was immediate.

"I deeply regret my comments I made last week regarding the Israelis and the Palestinians," the story quoted Thomas as saying. "They do not reflect my heart-felt belief that peace will come to the Middle East only when all parties recognize the need for mutual respect and tolerance. May that day come soon."

Thomas will mark her 90th birthday on Aug. 4.

White House press secretary Robert Gibbs said Monday that Thomas's comments, in which she said Jews should leave Israel and return to Europe, were reprehensible. The White House Correspondents Association called them indefensible.

The association's board also said it was reconsidering Thomas's special seat in the front row of the White House briefing room.

"I think those remarks were offensive and reprehensible," Gibbs said when asked about her comments at Monday's press briefing.

"I think she should and has apologized. Because,

obviously, those remarks ...do not reflect, certainly, the opinion of, I assume, most of the people in here and certainly not of the administration."

Thomas did not attend Monday morning's briefing, which featured Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, the administration's point man on the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Thomas was asked about Israel on May 27. The video was recorded by the website RabbiLive.com on the day the White House held a Jewish Heritage event. The video was released Friday.

"Any comments on Israel," an offscreen voice asks Thomas.

"Tell them to get the hell out of Palestine," Thomas says.

"Where should they go?" the offscreen voice asks.

She responds that they should go home to Germany, Poland or the United States.

After a special meeting Monday, the correspondents' association board issued a statement condemning Thomas's comments.

"Helen Thomas' comments were indefensible and the White House Correspondents Association board firmly dissociates itself from them," the group said.

"Many in our profession who have known Helen for years were saddened by the comments, which were especially unfortunate in light of her role as a trail blazer on the White House beat.

"While Helen has not been a member of the WHCA for many years, her special status in the briefing room



Karen Raffaelo, Valencia Voice

Helen Thomas, famed journalist, resigns after controversy.

has helped solidify her as the dean of the White House press corps so we feel the need to speak out strongly on this matter.

"We want to emphasize that the role of the WHCA is to represent the White House press corps in its dealings with the White House on coverage-related issues. We do not police the speech of our members or colleagues. We are not involved at all in issuing White House credentials, that is the purview of the White House itself.

"But the incident does revive the issue of whether it is appropriate for an opinion columnist to have a front row seat in the WH briefing room. That is an issue under the jurisdiction of this board."

-MCT Campus

OUR VOICE

Amidst controversy, Helen Thomas resigns

It only took one minute to end Thomas' 57 year career

Four days ago a 63 second video clip was uploaded to YouTube. A quarter-million views later Helen Thomas 89, is out of a job.

The daughter of Lebanese immigrants, Thomas made an anti-Israeli remark at a Jewish heritage celebration at the White House. The videographer was a Rabbi and a blogger. It took almost two weeks to post the video and it was viral in a matter of days.

The issue here is how does a one minute video clip ruin 57 years of hard work? Well, it doesn't.

Thomas has covered every single president since John F. Kennedy was in office. In that time she has become a pillar in the White House press corp, reporting for UPI. She is the only reporter to have a chair designated specifically for her, as opposed to the news agency they represented.

After UPI went under she began writing a column for the Hearst publication giant. She became the only opinion columnist to have access to White House press conferences. This left Thomas open to ask any question she wanted. Known for pushing the boundaries and asking the uncomfortable questions, this led her to dangerous waters.

Thomas was rouge, she pushed the envelope and with the filters falling away in her old age it was only a matter a time before that habit got her in trouble. It is a good example that you are free to say

whatever you want as long as the general consensus agrees with the remarks.

There are plenty of reasons that led to her retirement and it may have well been past due, but is this really how we want to end the story on one of the greatest American journalist of all time.

The American sentiment is to support Israel and we have finically, political, and in many jewish communities, culturally. Barring her language there was nothing wrong with voicing the pro-Palestine viewpoint, the only problem was it was delivered caustically, and to a Rabbi blogger.

The White House press room will certainly be more mannered now, but that is never what the newspaper business was about. People get hounded by journalists, it is what we do - persist. And in all things when one person starts it is easier to follow. So without Thomas it is bound to be more mild mannered room, without as many pressing questions.

It is most likely the last time we will see an opinion columnist as a member of the press corp. Thomas has done a lot to change the field of journalism and she will be missed.

So Is this how it ends? Most likely.

But there is only one proper final phrase to finish this story.

Thank you, Ms. Thomas.



Collin Dever, Valencia Voice

Helen Thomas, along with Craig Crawford signing their book, 'Listen Up, Mr. President,' for students and faculty at VCC.

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POLL

Will your summer plans be ruined because of the oil spill?



"Yes, because I was planning on traveling to Mexico this summer."

- Franklin Velez



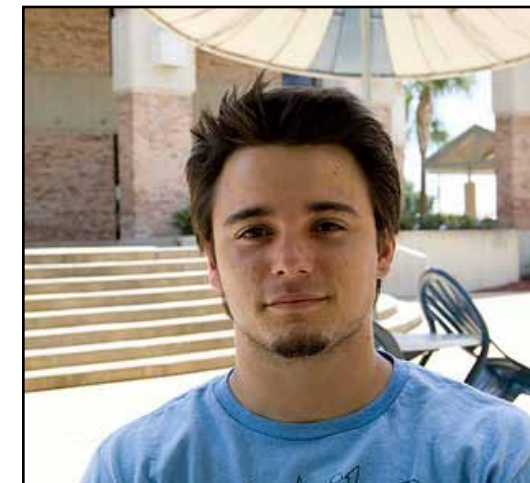
"No, not really. Not yet anyways."

- Jose Gonzalez



"In Florida, we live so close to the beach, many people would go to the beach for vacation regardless."

- Sandy Nature



"I probably won't go to the beach this summer. Plus I think that Florida's tourist economy will do badly."

- Chris Thomas



"I'm not driving right now, so I don't think any rises in gas prices would affect me."

- Antwoine Mircey



"I don't live under water so I don't think I will be affected."

- Jordan Major



"Not really. I know it's affecting other people but not me personally."

- Anthony Armstrong



"No. I won't have time to do much this summer because of school. Although I do think it's a bad situation."

- Cherisse Sandoval

Another great mellow album from Johnson

By Jolene Krause
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With familiar island beats and new harmonica sounds Jack Johnson continues to captivate his beach dwelling listeners. "To The Sea" is Johnson's fifth album release and goes with the flow of previous albums, "In Between Dreams" and "Sleep Through the Static". Upbeat songs like "Red Wine, Mistakes, Mythology" and "At or With Me" make for great windows down, wind blowing and riding

to the beach sing a long songs with catchy lyrics like, "Are they laughing at or with me, why can't we just say what we feel" and " You can feel it and dream it, I know you want to believe it". Although Johnson has mended in a few upbeat songs the majority of the thirteen track album is made of slower and more relaxing tunes which amplify his personal guitar ability and song writing talents. These calming songs allow listeners to remember why we love Jack Johnson, his music simply puts followers in a good mind set and at ease.



John Green / San Mateo County Times, MCT

This is Johnson's fifth CD, and he has already begun his 'To the Sea' tour in the states this year.



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‘Get Him to the Greek’ gets people in the seats

‘Forgetting Sarah Marshall’ spin-off is just as funny as the original

By John Terbeche

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Summer marks the time to go see great movies, and this year they have them in the truckloads. Yes, the films are out, the genres are represented, the glasses are in 3-D, and whether you’re going for an involved plot and deep story, a computer generated sequel that’s good for family fun, a romantic comedy perfect for date night, or just want a good hangout spot, going to see a movie this summer should definitely be somewhere on your list.

With all of the big action-blockbusters coming out in droves



C / O Warner Brothers / MCT Campus

Jonah Hill is tasked with bringing in drunken rocker Aldous Snow for a show.

already, everyone’s been waiting for the year’s first great adult comedy. Some have been good, but none have been it. ‘Get Him to the Greek’ is that comedy.

The premise is easy, a young newcomer working in the music industry gets his big, unexpected break in the form of escorting a famous rock star from London to Los Angeles, with a stop-over in New York. Let the hilarity ensue. The story’s not deep, but does provide a message of sorts by the end. The story follows a standard formula. Whatever that formula may be, it works here, thanks to likable characters that are perfectly cast, and hilarious entertaining.

‘Get Him to the Greek’ is a celebration of fun people, crazy adventures, and unexpected older influences.

Jonah Hill plays wide-eyed intern Aaron Greenberg, who’s known for getting things done. Big-wig music producer played by Sean “Diddy” Combs tasks him with a monumental job. He has two days to get rock legend Aldous Snow, played by Russell Brand, to LA’s Greek Theatre. Both actors provide convincing performances, making it seem as if the roles were written specifically for them (they may have been in fact).

Brand’s raunchy behavior, high-energy antics, and comedic timing suit his rock star character perfectly. Jonah Hill, as he’s been known for in past roles, provides an honest, relatable, innocence to the film making the viewer feel like they’re on the roller coaster ride with him. Both the characters and their fun, made-for-movie relationship are entertaining and help carry the story to



Francois Duhamel, Paramount Pictures / MCT

Russell Brand is reprising his role as Aldous Snow in “Get him to the Greek.”

the end. Without their strong performances, the movie would not have been nearly as enjoyable and would have been quite the disappointment. Thankfully, these guys know what they’re doing.

Coming from the Judd Apatow school of comedy (Judd Apatow was the producer on the film), it makes sense that all of the dialogue and jokes are top-notch. This trend seen in ‘Knocked Up,’ ‘Funny People,’ and ‘Forgetting Sarah Marshall,’ certainly holds true here. In fact, some of the crazier dialogue is even more suited given the crazier nature of the story. Humor about sex, drugs, and rock ‘n’ roll are ever-present and hilarious as always. Also, as has been the tradition of Apatow movies, there is a sincere, deep message that speaks to viewers about modern American society. While some may find it out of place, it’s incorporated well and doesn’t drag down the humor at all, but ends the movie on a good, more serious note. You may not always want your morals with your comedies, but every once in a while, it’s refreshing to see.

‘Get Him to the Greek’ is a celebration of fun people, crazy adventures, and unexpected older influences. If you like Judd Apatow-type movies, quirky characters, or dirty comedies, this movie was made for you. For those waiting for a great hangout comedy, wait no further, ‘Get Him to the Greek’ is it.

Korea bound to get kicked around

North Korea battles Brazil in the World Cups

By Jolene Krause
jkrause@valenciavoices.com

In the World Cups group G, DPR Korea has taken on the role of the ultimate underdogs or to put it bluntly they haven't a bloody chance in hell. DPR Korea has been matched up with Brazil, not only the team with the most World Cup appearances; 18, but also the former World Cup champions.

The World Cup contains eight different groups made up of four countries each, which the 32 countries are randomly divided into. From each of the eight groups

the top two countries proceed.

The Korean underdogs have only made one World Cup appearance in 1966. They play the Brazilian power house on June 15 in Johannesburg.

Brazil who has the utmost advantage is lead by coach Carlos Caetano Bledorn Verri also known as Dunga, who has taken on his role back in 2007. Dunga says his team is on the "right track," adding, "Now we must polish the work we have done in recent weeks to be ready for our World Cup opener."

Although the Brazilian coach says they need to "polish up" they have nothing to really worry about for their first match against DPR Korea who hasn't played in a World Cup in 44 years.

Brazil's performance is defined by players like Ramires Santos do Nascimento, usually referred to as Ramires.

Ramires takes on both attacking and defending responsibilities at a young age of 23 as well as keeping up the pace and modifiable positions.

DPR Korea coach, Kim Jong Hun, attempts to use key tactics, strategy, and new formation to hold his team together with a glimpse of hope against Brazil.

RI Jun Il, DPR Korea's defender started every single Chollima's 16 qualifiers and was able to be a versatile player for his coach and was played more as the sweeper when it came down to a five-man defensive line.

Hun has more in store for him this coming June 15 than all his other coaching experiences combined since 2007. DPR Korea and Brazil share group G with two other countries; Portugal and Côte d'Ivoire. Portugal and Côte d'Ivoire go head to head on June 15 in Nelson Mandela Bay.



**FIFA WORLD CUP
SOUTH AFRICA 2010**

Group G			
Brazil <i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>	North Korea <i>Home</i>	<i>Away</i>
			
Coach Dunga		Coach Kim Jong-Hun	
FIFA ranking 1		FIFA ranking 106	
Previous WC appearances 18		Previous WC appearances 1	
Best finish Winner, 1958, 1962, 1970, 1994, 2002		Best finish Quarterfinals, 1966	

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