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VCC helps the hungry

By Anna Gerrol agerrol@valenciavoice.com

The Welcome Team at Valencia Community College's West Campus will host a canned food drive through September.

"September is actually Hunger Awareness Month," commented Thanya Martinez, a member of the Welcome Team and one of the main organizers of the food drive.

After brainstorming different ways to get involved, the Welcome Team figured that if every student donated one can of food, together they could easily donate thousands of cans to a good cause.

"Our supervisor, Pat Lee, brought it to our attention," Martinez. "We decided we wanted to help out in some way."

Considering that 15,000 students enrolled at Valencia's West campus alone, they would be able to help many families in need.

Any nonperishable goods, such as canned meats and veggies, are requested.

The items can be dropped off in Building 3 Room 147.

"We're planning on setting up boxes in every building, designated for can drop off," added Cassandra Vil, a student who is also working on the food drive.

All donations will be sent to Second Harvest Food Bank, located at 2008 Brengle Ave. in Orlando.

If you would like to volunteer your time, the food bank will need help sorting out all the cans donated. You can stop by their location for more details. September 29, 2010 VOLUME 10 • ISSUE 3 VALENCIAVOICE.COM

ValenciaVoice

- Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

Orlando Magic showcase players

By Alex Barrett abarrett@valenciavoice.com

The Orlando Magic are in an interesting predicament this season.

The Atlanta Hawks are rising fast in their division. The Boston Celtics knocked the Magic out of last season's playoffs, returning the favor Orlando had given them two years ago. Many teams in the Eastern Conference added depth and talent this season, and one of those teams, the Miami Heat, now have half of the starting lineup for the Dream Team under contract. The Heat will surely contend for the East, not to mention the Southeast Division title the Magic have



Photo by Russell Griner, Valencia Voice

Vince Carter, Jameer Nelson and Dwight Howard.

run away with for the past three seasons. This season will be harder. This season will take more of a commitment to return to the NBA Finals. But not a single Magic player was worried about all of it.

At the brand new Amway Center on Monday, the Orlando players and front office staff were available to take pictures and speak about the upcoming season, the free-agent shifts this offseason, and what to expect during their run at an NBA title this year.

"We fully expect to contend," said Magic head coach Stan Van Gundy. "It will be tough, but we have a smart, talented group of guys that are willing to play every day to win the game."

Coach Van Gundy is entering his fourth season with the Magic, and was immediately addressing the rise of a new power in the East, with the Heat bringing in LeBron James and Chris Bosh to join Dwayne Wade in efforts to take down the Lakers for Miami's first title since 2007. That season, Van Gundy was unceremoniously removed in the middle of the Heat campaign so Pat Riley could again coach a championship team built around Wade and Shaquille O'Neal.

The Magic scooped Van Gundy up while the Heat were still paying him royalties, thus fueling the fire between these two in-state rivals.

"No one is doubting Miami's talent, but they haven't proven anything until they take the court. We don't doubt Milwaukee, Boston, Philadelphia,



Photo by Russell Griner, valencia voice

General Manager Otis Smith believes they can win it.

any of those teams' talents," noted Van Gundy. When asked about his friend Erik Spolestra and his coaching duties with the Heat, he responded that he hopes Erik will "handle the situation fine, and hopes that he [Spolestra] enjoys the pressures of being expected to win."

Both general manager Otis Smith and COO Alex Martins believe they have the tools to succeed as well, and share Van Gundy's confidence.

"Our guys have never had a problem getting down to business," said Smith. "Once the ball goes up, our guys know how to play. We're a veteran basketball team, and we made a few roster tweaks this season

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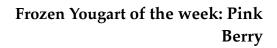




Celebrities:

It seems these days the only positive thing Lindsay Lohan has going for her are her drugs test results. After testing positive for cocaine, Lohan was sent back to jail only to post a \$300,000 bail. She stands by the belief that she needs rehab, not the slammer. Treatment has always worked wonders on her after all, hasn't it? We say lock her up and throw away the key!

Not something you see on campus everyday! A future student at Valencia Community College, Kyle Scott skateboarding through the hallways before the Paige's went to lunch!

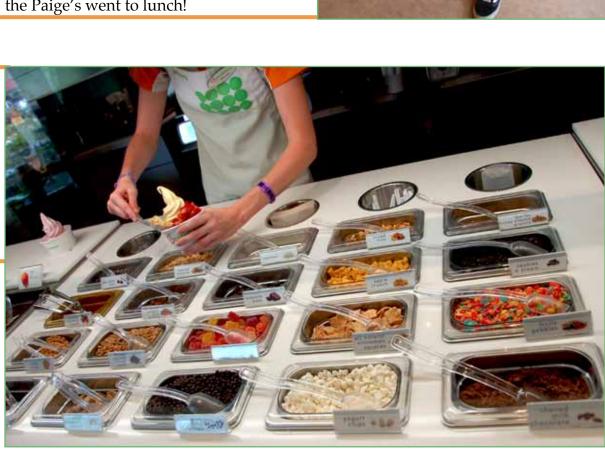


THINK TART!! "There are so many toppings to choose from and if you want your yogurt to-go, they provide a bag full of ice! I think that is a great idea!"

Paige Branson and Paige Preston.

From the moment upon stepping into the "Wizarding World of Harry Potter," I knew it was going to be something I had never experienced before.





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Facebook CEO donates \$100 million to Newark



Karen T. Borchers, San Jose Mercury News/MCT Mark Zuckerberg, Facebook CEO, donates to Newark.

By Dunstan McNichol and Terrence Dopp Bloomberg News

Newark Mayor Cory Booker was in Chicago Friday for "The Oprah Winfrey Show," where Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg donated \$100 million to the city's schools. Back home, the financial picture was not so bright.

Booker this week advanced plans to balance his municipal budget by firing 860 city workers on Nov. 12 and selling 21 buildings including police head-quarters and the 85-year-old Symphony Hall to two public agencies. Booker, 41, mayor of New Jersey's largest city since 2006, needs to bridge an \$83 million gap in the budget that runs through Dec. 31.

"You get one piece of good news, and you get three or four pieces of bad news," William Dressel, executive director of the New Jersey League of Municipalities, said Friday. "It's a tough time being a mayor."

Local governments may cut as many as 500,000 jobs over the next 18 months as they cope with fall-

Matthew Staver, Bloomberg News Newark mayor Cory Booker.

out from the most severe recession since the 1930s, the Washington-based National League of Cities said in a July report. Seven in 10 city officials indicated they are cutting staff to cope with the loss of property-tax revenue, the group said.

Under Booker's plan,

the Essex County Improvement Authority and the Newark Parking Authority would issue \$101 million in long-term bonds to pay the city \$55 million for the buildings, according to documents released today by the state.

"Newark's city budget, like others across the country, is going through a challenging period," Booker, a Democrat, said in a conference call after appearing on "Oprah" with Zuckerberg and Republican Gov. Chris Christie.

The mayor said the \$605 million municipal budget and that of the city's 39,000-student school district, about \$940 million, are separate and that one won't weigh down the other. He estimated that Newark can be placed on solid fiscal ground within two years.

Moody's Investors Service rates the general-obligation debt for the city of 280,000 at A2, five levels above investment grade. The rating has been on review for a possible downgrade since Aug. 13 because of the budget problems.

Separately, the state Division of Pensions and Benefits released figures Friday showing Newark's bill for police, fire and government worker pensions will rise by \$8.1 million, to \$58.9 million, in next year's budget.

City Council members in August rejected a plan by Booker to raise \$70 million for the 2010 budget by selling the city's water system and related property to a private operator.

Booker had warned that without the funds from that proposed sale, the city needs to fire workers and impose a property-tax increase of 35 cents per \$100 of assessed value. In 2009 the total property tax rate for city, school and county government in Newark was \$2.74 per \$100, according to the state Treasury Department.

The building sale plan will require a 6-cent-per-\$100 property tax increase to cover lease payments on the sold buildings of about \$6.5 million a year through 2030, documents submitted to the state's Local Finance Board show.

Besides the 2,750-seat Symphony Hall, which is valued at \$6.9 million, the city has proposed selling the Improvement Authority its \$28.7 million police headquarters and courthouse, its Fire Department headquarters, eight firehouses and five city office buildings, the plan filed with the state shows.

The city also proposes to sell a 586-space parking garage at the Newark Legal Center to the Parking Authority. The agency would raise \$10 million for the

purchase by selling 30-year bonds, documents submitted to the finance board show.

Interest on the two bond deals would total \$66 million, about \$11 million more than the money the deals will generate for this year's budget support, the documents show.

Details of the building sale, which Booker proposed in August, were released today by the finance board, which is scheduled to consider the proposal at its regular meeting Oct. 13. A letter approving the firing plan was released today by the state Civil Service Commission.

Booker, like other mayors, has no choice but to pursue such "dramatic" budget strategies, Dressel said.

"He's not thinking outside the box; he basically stepped on the box," he said. "To me it's doing what he has to do in these times."



ValenciaVoice

NEWS

APRIL 28, 2010

Build your career at Valencia

Program offered to students majoring in engineering

By James Austin jaustin@valenciavoice.com

The world needs engineers. To build roads and bridges, cars and airplanes; to fix the world's problems, like oil dependence or destruction by meteorite, engineers are necessary for the survival of the human race.

Thursday, a group of 15 future engineers gathered together for the first meeting of VESA, the Valencia Engineering Student Association.

"The whole goal of VESA is to make sure that

"VESA is to make sure that as many students get from where we are not to where we're trying to go."

-Tyree Rogers

as many [engineering] students get from where we are now to where we're trying to go," said VESA president and founder Tyree Rogers.

"We're all going through most of the same difficulties, so why not help each other out?" asked Rogers.

The difficulties he's talking about are the challenging courses that make up an engineering major. These are courses including calculus, statistics and thermodynamics, to name a few.

Rogers sees VESA as a place for collabora-

tion and assistance, as well as a network opportunity. "It's going to be a good service to Valencia students," Rogers said.

The organization was formed, this year, and most of the activities that are being planned are still just ideas. However, they have already announced their first project.

The Valencia Design Challenge, "Mars Rover" project will be, as Rogers put it, a class project "on steroids."

Based on the design project from the Intro to Engineering class at Valencia, competitors will design a vehicle that can navigate various terrains, be operated by remote control, have a load capacity of 100 pounds and have a robotic arm.

The winning design, selected by the leadership board of VESA, will win its creators a 400 dollar prize and will then be funded and built by the club, next semester.

VESA is also hoping to host guest speakers from local engineering companies, as well as, provide "shadowing" opportunities, allowing students to follow a professional engineer through a typical workday.

The meetings are currently being held every other week and the future for the club is looking bright. Even though this group is new, the students are excited to have the chance to create something of their own.

"VESA is whatever we want it to be," Rogers said. "We own this."

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Dreams come true for alien children Dream act proposal in works

By Collin Dever cdever@valenciavoice.com

In the hierarchy of the Student Government Association, there exists an organization linking all the community colleges in Florida on district and state levels.

The Florida Junior Community College Student Government Association, or FJCCSGA, is an organization that forms stances on legislation being argued in the Florida legislation and lobby on behalf of the Student Government Association.

District Two of FJCCSGA held their first meeting of the year at Valencia Community College West Campus on Friday Sept. 24. This is the first time District Two has met at the West Campus.

District Two includes Valencia Community College, Daytona State College, Seminole State College, Lake Sumter Community College, and Indian River Community College.

After taking some time to introduce one another, the District Two meeting focused on discussing the Dream Act.

The Dream Act is aimed at providing children, who are not citizens of the United States, an opportunity to serve in the military or go to college.

After being accepted into the military or an institution of higher learning, the child would be granted provisional residency. When the child completes their service or education, the provisional residency would transition into full citizenship.

Each college will form a position on the Dream



Photo by Collin Dever, Valencia Voice

West Campus' SGA president, Juliana Montoya, on right.

Act which, through debate, will ultimately become the FJCCSGA position on the Dream Act, and will be presented to Florida legislators.

The Dream Act falls short because those students who enter college are left in a position where they cannot receive loans from the federal government. Excluding scholarships, the students would have to find a way to pay for school out of pocket.

West Campus' SGA has already established their position in support of the Dream Act.

"It's a smart idea," said Max Murphy, SGA's senator of public relations. "It gives any individual the chance to be a college student."

The District Two meeting also focused on establishing a District Two event. The plans are still not set in stone but the idea is to have a big celebration for those less fortunate over either the Thanksgiving or holiday season.

"There would be a donation of food first and then maybe gifts," said Murphy.

Representatives from all of Valencia's Student Government Associations were present at the meeting.

The event was an opportunity for members of student government to share their ideas and help inspire new ways of improving the college experience.

SGA busy on campus

By Ariba Hashma ahashma@valenciavoice.com

Valencia's Student Government Association staff met for their general meeting on Tuesday, Sept. 22. The meeting was called to order at 1:05 p.m. ready to tackle a busy agenda.

With regards to any meetings formalities and routines, the meeting began with members of the executive board recapping their progress. President Juliana Montoya called the meeting to order and briefed the members about her meeting with the Board of Trustees which took place earlier this week.

One of the topics discussed was a plan regarding Valencia's transportation system. Trustees discussed the option of "implementing a shuttle system for the Valencia campus," Montoya said.

Vice president Patrick O'Connor enlightened his fellow SGA members of the meeting he had attended for Inter-Club-Council (I.C.C.), which spoke about the upcoming Club Fair. O'Connor was alongside David Duvet, senator of clubs and organizations, as he informed the team about the Club Fairs' theme - fall.

Other important reports included parliamentarian Jonathan Lamones, who spoke on the constitution, and said he intends on "getting with governmental affairs and chief of staff to review and work on the new constitution."

He informed the group that the old constitution was currently in force and the new constitution would need the review

of the committee.

Treasurer Tyree Rogers gave a briefing on the budget. "I am pleased to report thus far, we're alright budget wise," said Rogers, who mentioned that he was in search of a replacement before his upcoming graduation. Although still settling into the beginning of the fall semester, the budget was deemed fine.

Votes were casted for new members and then the floor was turned over to a guest; the president and founder of the United Relief Force Foundation - a non-profit organization providing disaster relief where required.

Guy Chevalier, a former Valencia student, came to SGA for help regarding his organization, stating he has a goal to help many countries in need but for this meeting his focus was on Haiti and Pakistan; two nations that have been traumatically affected by natural disaster.

Chevalier has gone to Haiti before but his motion with SGA was simply for volunteer help done in the community. "Basically, we are asking for help to send some stored supplies to Haiti," sad Chevalier. "The main concern is the supplies will rot or be of no use if stored too long."

Chevalier proposed SGA allow URFF be represented in the events hosted by SGA.

"We need money and volunteers to help with the stored supplies," he said and pleaded that SGA, having a large presence all over campus, would greatly benefit this organization.

For Valencia students looking to help with URFF, visit unitedrff.org.

Participate In Pink

Art show raises breast cancer awareness

By Sabrina Alvarez salvarez@valenciavoice.com

Breast cancer awareness month is just around the corner; stores are going to start selling merchandise with the pink ribbon, yogurt companies will have the lids with special codes allowing consumers to donate money per code they enter on the website.

The Student Development at Valencia CommunityCollege will be contributing to this cause by allowing students to participate in any way that expresses their unique creativity and artistic ability.

Justiss Wilder who is part of the Valencia Volunteers said, "Well, we actually got our idea from UCF, but Valencia's primary reason is to raise breast cancer awarness among the college students, and our secondary reason is to get students to participate and have a good time."

Express your art in any way that you would like, this includes, poetry, drawings, photography, and even bra canvases.

This event is open to both men and women, because as we all know men are also affected by this illness. So men do not be shy and be a man by contributing to the pink cause. Zia-ur-Rehman Ansari said, "Cancer is not a sexest disease so me being a male does not exclude me from taking part and fighting for the humanity

because we never know what can happen tomorrow. Breast cancer is also important to me because it can happen to anyone even me."

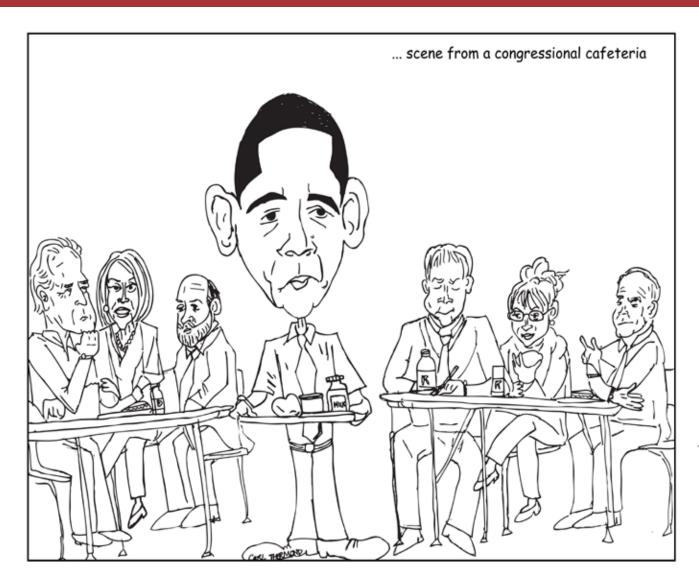
Valencia's faculty and students can come and enjoy a day of art and contribute to the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure, by participating in the biding auction that will be done on the art work created by students at Valencia.

The artwork will be displayed at Valencia's West campus on October 5th though the 6th from 10:00 a.m. till 2:00 p.m. in room 105 inside the Health and Science building, which is next to building 1. But if you are not able to go to the viewing, the art pieces can be viewed and auctioned on throughout all of October online at www.dshfiugfhiufghwi.com.

100 percent of the money collected from each students' artwork will go towards the Susan G. Komen Global Race for the Cure.

Each student can do a maximum of four pieces of art. Therefore, Valencia students that are interested and want to participate in this wonderful event have to drop of their works of art, with an entry form for each piece in building 3, room 147 no later then Friday October 1, 2010.

Students this is a perfect time to be creative and show others your talent while helping others in need.



Republicians make pledge to America

The Joplin Globe, Mo. (MCT)

Sept. 29--In their recently released Pledge to America, Republicans can no longer be called the party of "no."

They have told the voters exactly what they will do if their party assumes majority control of the House of Representatives after the November 2010 elections.

Here are just a few of the actions pledged by the House Republicans:

* Establish the 2008 federal budget

(pre-Obama administration) as the baseline to fund federal programs.

- * Permanently stop "job-killing taxes."
- * Require congressional approval of any new federal regulation that may add to the deficit or affect job creation.
- * Make further efforts to stop spending and reduce the size of government.
- * Repeal Obama's health care plan.

If indeed this pledge is more than pre-election rhetoric, we give the Republicans high marks for giving voters a scorecard on which they can be held accountable in the future.

The pledge is, first and foremost, a statement of principles from which much can be inferred. "America is the belief that any man or woman can ... advance themselves, their families and the common good."

The Pledge to America offers up a set of principles for a party that has struggled to define what it stands for. Voters will have the final say on whether the pledge becomes promise. PAIGE 2 NEWS 3 OPINION 7 FEATURES 9 SPORTS 12 September 29, 2010

OUR VOICE

The comedy of our generation

On August 29, only a few hours before Valencia started classes back up for its fall semester the next day, the 62nd Primetime Emmy Awards took place. This year the big winners included "Mad Men," "The Pacific," and of course "Modern Family."

Yes, perhaps the most prestigious awards, those for comedy, were dominated by ABC's run-away success, "Modern Family." It won awards for outstanding casting, outstanding picture editing, outstanding sound mixing, outstanding writing, and of course, outstanding comedy series.

Even one of the show's actors, Eric Stonestreet won an individual enemy for outstanding supporting actor in a comedy series, for his role of Cameron, a married gay male raising his adopted Vietnamese daughter Lily.

The Emmy's from the past few years have awarded shows like "30 Rock," "The Office," and "Two and a Half Men" with the same comedic pedigree. Even back in the early 2000s, shows in the same vain were popular, like, "Everybody Loves Raymond" and "Friends."

These shows all have many of the same writers, producers, and similar styles of comedy throughout them. In fact both "Modern Family" and "The Office" share a new style of filming which has quickly gained popularity. The pseudo-documentary style of interviewing the actors effectively increases the honesty and realism of their characters.

But what exactly is it that attracts so many people to come back week after week? What are the common threads these shows share?

Certainly the sense of realism has become essential to creating a successful comedy series. This has always been true; the more relatable, believable characters and storylines often get the best reception. Recently however, this seems to be more vital than ever.

As with the rise of organic foods, natural energies, and the most realistic computer-generated visuals movies have ever shown, so too has the demand for more realistic programming risen. A clear, though depressing, example of this is the similar rise of reality shows.

Still riding off the scars of September 11, still in the never-ending cycle of war in the middle-east, and presented with the continuous hardships of an unstable economic climate and recession, the need for society to get back to reality, and reconnect with nature has never been stronger.

Following this idea, it seems quite obvious that a show about a modern, well-to-do family just trying to survive life, would be popular. All of these shows follow stories of common, everyday people leading average, albeit hilarious, lives.

One progressive change from previous comedy landmarks is the diminishing importance placed on unique, individual characters. Shows like "Frasier," "Will & Grace," and even "Seinfeld" emphasized memorable characters that, even though relatable, made their shows what they were.



Lawrence K. Ho/Los Angeles Times/MCT Eric Stonestreet holds his trophy for outstanding supporting actor in a Comedy Series.

These days, what makes shows what they are, what makes them memorable, are the connections and interactions between the characters and the real-life scenarios in which they find themselves. This formula is exactly what "Modern Family" uses, so its success is to be expected. It is able to perfectly capture the ridiculous predicaments today's families find themselves in and makes a statement and dialogue with the viewers all at the same time.

Comedy may not be a ubiquitous thing, able to change across cultures and generations. If that's true then certainly our generation and culture seeks to connect with regular, funny people living in modern times and who are part of a secure, yet ohso-dysfunctional family.

"Modern Family" is the penultimate example of a fitting comedy. It is appropriate and contemporary and downright hilarious. It's success, however, is undoubtedly defined by the times. Who knows what winning comedies next year will bring?



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Lawrence K. Ho/Los Angeles Times/MCT

The cast of "Modern Family" won for outstanding comedy series at the 62nd Annual Primetime Emmy Awards Show on Sunday, August 29, 2010 at the Nokia Theatre in Los Angeles, California.

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POLL

What are your favorite comedy shows and why?

Laughter breeds happiness

By James Austin jaustin@valenciavoice.com

Most of the top-rated shows on television right now are comedy shows. "The Big Bang Theory," "How I Met Your Mother," and "The Office," which all had their season premiers last week, are just a few that made a number of top 10 lists last year. ABC's stellar Wednesday lineup also kicked off with "The Middle," "Modern Family," and "Cougar Town."

So what draws us to these shows? Why do we choose to spend our valuable time after work or school sitting in front of a television laughing at the antics of Steve Carell?

The answer is pretty simple really, comedies help us understand the crazy world we live in by making us laugh at the ridiculousness around us. It takes a complicated and messed up world and simplifies it down into something we can easily comprehend. Abed, a character on the show "Community" said it well in this season's premier, "TV makes sense. It has logic, structure, rules, and likable leading men. In life we have this."

Comedies are also used to relax. As opposed to dramas or Sci-Fi shows comedies don't require a whole lot of thinking to follow the stories or the characters. In fact they are almost always differing variations on the same recurring characters. This means you don't have to waste a lot of time and energy learning the traits or charms of new characters because you already know them all.



The Game, Chapelle's Show, and comedy. As long as it's consistent.

— Joslyn Aleem



I don't really watch TV, but I like reality TV. I like dry and sarcastic Family Guy and the Whitest Kids U' watching The Office, too. I like dif- Carlin, Abbott and Costello, and the Know. Offensive stuff is the best.

— Brianna Large



I still love 30 Rock. I just started more serious, scripted stuff.

— Paul Carino



I used to watch Red Skelton, George ferent styles of humor. Usually Three Stooges. High brow comedy based on the human condition is great.

— Stephen McCollom



I watch reality TV. Jersey Shore, The Bad Girls Club. I love watching dumb people doing dumb stuff.

— Tacy Fenton



Modern Family is hilarious. Cultural refrences and interactions between kids and parents makes for another person's behalf. good comedy.

— Joslyn Aleem



It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia

— Stephen Wolf



Katt Williams is great. The Boonand Modern Family. Misfortune on docks, too. Somebody who knows what they're talking about, who's real.

— Ronnie Starbird

Photos by Russell Griner; Reporting by Jonathan Terbeche

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Winter Park SGA gathers

By Collin Dever cdever@valenciavoice.com

It is astounding what some curiosity and free time can lead students at Valencia Community College to do. After inquiring, less than a month ago, about the Student Government Association on the Winter Park campus, Scott Schaare is now the president.

Schaare's position of power was not granted by election, because before Schaare, no one expressed interest in being in SGA at Winter Park.

"In my case, we had an interview process and I sat for the interviews and I answered all their questions,"



Photo by Collin Dever/Valencia Voice Scott Schaare listens at an SGA meeting.

said Schaare.

Now as SGA president, Schaare's first task will be to assemble his team of senators and representatives that will help him to achieve his vision.

Sitting next to him was Gidet LeBlanc, the Winter Park senator of marketing and the only other current member of SGA.

Strange, that the senator for marketing position would be filled before say vice president or treasurer, but not if you understand what Schaare is trying to accomplish.

"Right now, I think [our job] is to get the ball rolling again," said Schaare. "[The SGA] has been dissolved for the past couple years. [We] need to set SGA back up and let it be known."

Schaare talked a lot of the work going into re-establishing a connection with the students, explaining why filling the marketing position was his primary goal.

With no SGA operating on the Winter Park campus, students have forgetten their presence. It is now time to re-establish that presence and again begin to provide meaningful services to those students. Through events and a more public identity on the campus, Schaare hopes he can capture their attention.

After the SGA has re-established

a connection with their students, Schaare hopes to move into providing the same events as the other campuses.

"We have a list of all the events that have happened in the past, and what I want to do is expand that list and make it a lot larger," said Schaare.

Their budget for the year is 11,325 dollars. With lots of work and some strong organization, the Winter Park SGA can flourish into a full fledged student organization.

Who knows, in time we may find the students of Winter Park served better than any other Valencia campus. If a strong dialogue is established, certainly, with the small number of students, the SGA can work to personally address more student issues.

Perhaps, the small number of students will prove a hindrance and might not provide enough students to attend the events. The SGA's words could fall on deaf ears.

Maybe that's why the SGA was dissovled in the first place.

Time will prove the ultimate answer to these questions, but Scott Schaare and his team certainly have work ahead of them.

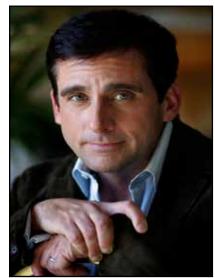
We can only wait, hope that all will turn out for the best and wish good luck.



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No more laughs for 'The Office'

By Veronica Figueroa vfigueroa@valenciavoice.com



c/o MCT Camp

This is Steve Carell's last season as Michael Scott on 'The Office.'

NBC's Thursday line-up is here. Thank heaven! Most importantly, season seven of "The Office" has arrived. Now you can spend your Thursday nights sitting on the couch like you're sup-

The first episode of season seven, "Nepotism," started off with a hilarious lip dub to "Nobody But Me" by The Human Bienz, in-

posed to.

cluding Erin on roller skates, Kelly and Ryan arguing (as usual!) and Michael Scott attempting magic tricks.

"The Office is probably one of my favorite shows," said Ferdous Rahman, a Valencia student. "It makes a boring place [like an office] into an exciting and funny one and I am all about that."

Unfortunately, after the opening scence, the humor ended. This new episode was all over the place many plots going on at the same time but none of them had anything to do with each other.

The show didn't address anything that happened in the past season, like finding out whether Jo Bennett (Kathy Bates) was really going to let Holly Flax (Amy Ryan) transfer back to Dunder Mifflin's Scranton Branch.

After teasing the audience with an Erin/Andy pos-

sible romance during season six, Erin (Ellie Kemper) has started dating nerdy Gabe (Zach Woods).

Andy (Ed Helms) tries to keep his cool about the situation and that is the last time that the Erin/Gabe romance is mentioned.

After a prank gone wrong Dwight and Pam get stuck in the elevator. It wasn't that funny of a prank, however, Dwight freaks out and establishes a "pee corner" which was strange, yet hilarious.

The main conflict of the episode was the new intern that was hired, Luke Cooper (Evan Peters), who gets on everyone's nerves and messes up the simplest of tasks.

When tensions start boiling, Michael admits that Luke is his half-sister's son and he hired the kid because he was his only link to that side of the family. Michael can't bring himself to fire his nephew so instead he loses his cool, spanks Luke, and Luke runs out of the office crying.

It was a weird first episode but at least it kept it minds off of the fact that this is Carell's last season on the show. He has confirmed that he will leave after the 2010-2011 season ends. What will happen to the show once "The World's Best Boss" leaves?

"I think that when Carell leaves the show will go on for a couple of seasons and then it will get cancelled," said Danika Cachero, a Valencia student. "It'll be like when Sarah Michelle Gellar quit 'Buffy The Vampire Slayer.' What is the show without the central character?"

"When Steve Carell leaves the show, I will probably continue to watch it," Michelle Vivaldi said, a Valencia student.

The episode ends with Gabe, Toby (Paul Lieberstein) and Michael in the conference room. In order to keep his job and avoid a lawsuit Michael has to have six counseling sessions with Toby for physically assaulting Luke. It's common knowledge that Michael dislikes Toby, so these counseling sessions are something to look forward to as the season progresses.

To watch this season, tune in to NBC Thursday night at 9 p.m.

Madness before matrimony

Boutique bargains benefit brides before big day

Heidy Martinez hmartinez@valenciavoice.com

It's true, a wedding is a ceremony where two people unite in matrimony, because they are in love. But in reality, planning a wedding can become overwhelming for couples and their wallets.

On September 19, "Perfect Wedding Guide" had their Bridal Show at the Buena Vista Palace Hotel and Spa, where over 50 vendors set up booths display their services.

There are so many choices to be made, before a wedding, such as the dress, which flowers to order, party favors, invitations, music, lights,



Photo by Heidy Martinez

A gown displayed at the bridal event.

etc. Are you flustered yet?

Karla Marcado and her groom, Nathan Bastos, are locals from Kissimmee, who believe that catering is an essential part of the whole wedding.

"Planning and getting everything together, to make it a perfect day, is the most stressful," Marcado said.

Surprisingly, there were over 20 grooms at the event, supporting the brides by involving themselves in the wedding planning. They were even willing to go up on stage to win grand prizes for their wedding.

Carol Shaw, who is to be married in January, came to the Bridal Show with some of her girlfriends.

"I want something that sparks my eye and makes me say, 'Oh, that's different,'" said Shaw.

During the show, guests were able to have complimentary hors d'oeuvres and cake samples. Even competitors from "Party Flavors Custom Cakes" on TLC's "Ultimate Cake Off" were there, giving taste samples of their cakes and showcasing their work.

The whole event, not only made the planning fun, but also gave these couples some cool ideas and exposed them to some of the best business Orlando has to offer in the wedding industry. On-site discounts were given for coming to the event, as well.

For more information about this, a list of upcoming Bridal events, or if you need help for your big day, please visit

www.perfectweddingguide.com.

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Wizarding World amazes

Universal Studios brings the stories to life

By Paige Branson pbranson@valenciavoice.com

From the moment upon stepping into the "Wizarding World of Harry Potter," fans know it is going to be something they have never experienced before. It was truly magical walking through the streets of Hogsmeade.

Universal wanted to do something different, like never before, and they achieved this goal at the "Wizarding World of Harry Potter." Throughout the park, the magic is evident, Harry Potter and friends are brought to life.

"This is my second time here. It exceeds all my expectations and that is why I came back," said Marquise Sitkowski, a fan of Harry Potter.

Another fan, Brittani Franczek said, "My favorite part was the ride! We had to wait an hour and it was definitely worth the wait!"

The first week the amusement park opened, the lines were six hours long. To omit this obstacle, express passes are available and can be purchased for early park admission, one hour before the park opens. Avoid waiting in long lines and start soaring through Hogwarts on the "Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey" ride.

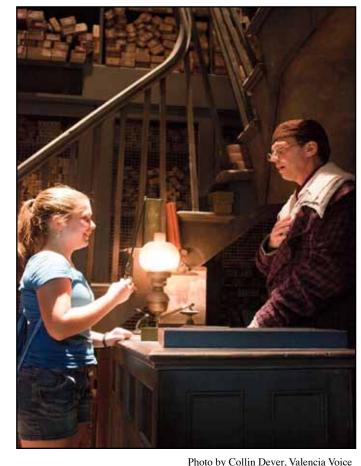


Photo by Collin Dever, valencia voice

A young pupil of magic finds the wand destined for her.

"Harry Potter and the Forbidden Journey" is like nothing that has ever been experienced before, the graphics were astonishing!

Fans can also purchase souvenirs, candy and much more during their stay in the magical world of Potter. In fact, one of the stores, "Three Broomsticks," was completely magical!

This store had magical wands, mugs, brooms and clothing for all of your Potter expectations, from moving staircases to magical wands; this was ideal.

Fans favor the part of the journey where they have to make the difficult decision of which beverage to consume; Pumpkin juice or Butter Beer.

Potter fans and theme park enthusiasts will find the experience to be incredibly powerful. It's a life that you never imagined before.

Student executes role

Sarah Andrew flawlessly stars in 'The Crucible'

By Paige Preston ppreston@valenciavoice.com

Most students have a difficult enough time trying to balance school, work, and a social life; much less throwing the pursuit of an acting career into the mix. Sarah Andrew, a 17 year old, first-year Valencia student, makes it look effortless.

Andrew currently stars in local Orlando playhouse, Theatre Downtown's rendition of "The Crucible." The play, often considered to be playwright Arthur Miller's masterpiece, takes place during the Salem witch trials of 1692.

Andrew's character, Mary Warren, gets sucked into a web of lies strewn by antagonist Abigail Williams - which leads to the imprisonment and death of numerous villagers on counts of witchcraft.

While watching Andrew perform, her talents are evident in her convincing portrayal of the meek, easily-influenced Warren, serving forward a heavy, emotional performance.

"My character is very insecure, she does what she can to be accepted," Andrew said.

It was Warren's transformation that drew Andrew to the role. "She starts as a mouse of a character... and throughout the play turns into this pompous girl," Andrew said. By the end of the play she is a "mouse, no more."

Andrew goes through a trans-



Photo by Paige Preston, Valencia Voice Andrew's backstage after performing.

formation, herself, in order to accurately portray Warren, having to extinguish her own infectiously joyful nature. Her ability to do so is an homage to her acting abilities.

To truly grasp the essence of her character, Andrew prepared by watching a movie version of "The

Crucible," reading the play, and putting herself in her character's shoes. "I put myself in the situation in Salem... as this scared girl... the one who's influenced easily to lie and lie again," Andrew said.

It's cause to wonder how Andrew, who demonstrates such dedication to her craft, can also lead a successful academic life, but she somehow balances it all.

"I hope to attend NYU, for acting, after Valencia," Andrew said.

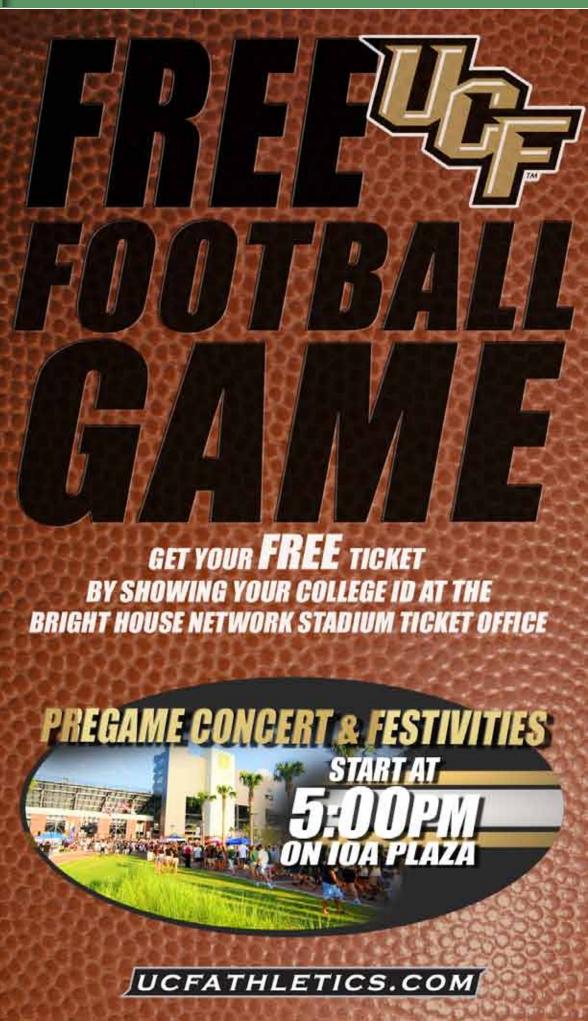
In the long run, her goal is to work in off-Broadway productions.

"The Crucible['s]" 3 hour runtime flies by almost too quickly as Andrew's, and the rest of the cast's, incredibly engaging performances draw you into the nail-biting storyline.

Offering just as much drama and suspense as any prime-time TV series, the play will not just interest theater-enthusiasts, but also a broader audience.

The Crucible runs at Theatre Downtown through Oct. 9, with performances on Thursday, Friday and Saturday starting at 8 p.m. There is a special Sunday matinee on Oct. 3 at 2:30 p.m.





Confidence abound on media day

Continued from page 1

to give ourselves the ability to win basketball games, simple as that."

"We can win, and will win," added Martins. "We have a winning combination that includes this new arena that not only allows our fans and players to be proud of where they play but that, from a financial standpoint, will bring in millions of dollars to the Central Florida area."

Martins, as well as many of the players, added that this was "... by far, without question the best arena in the league," and noted that there have been "many teams that have won a championship in the first year in their new facility."

The Magic brass can gloat about the new arena as much as they want, but in the end it will be the players that dictate how the season turns out.

"This facility is very beautiful, the best in the league," said All-Star center Dwight Howard. "We're going to make sure that we bring it when we play in it."

Dwight also wasn't phased by the Heat hype that is spreading through the league.



Photo by Russell Griner, Valencia Voice

New Magic men, Quentin Richardson and Chris Duhon.

"I was tired of the talk... right after LeBron said that he was going to Miami. We added some good people to a strong core of players, and we're going to beat a lot of teams, we're going to beat the Heat, too. We're not going to concern ourselves with the Miami Heat."



Photo by Russell Griner, Valencia Voice

Ryan Anderson playing some tunes for fans.

Starting point guard Jameer Nelson reverberated Howard's thoughts on the team as well.

"We added some new pieces, but we have the chemistry, and that is what's most important. Everyone has talent, and the Heat have a lot of talent, but we have talent too and we're just going to get overlooked again and prove people wrong."

Nelson says he feels healthy and is looking forward to holding himself, and his teammates accountable for their actions more this year than past years.

In fact, coach Van Gundy held a two-hour meeting before media day with the players, having them go over their roles and what they would like to accomplish, which seemed to bring the team closer together during the day's events.

Players were parading around together, playing musical instruments, and newcomer Quentin Richardson was even leading a camera around interviewing other players and media.

Richardson joins point guard Chris Duhon as a free-agent acquisition for the Magic this season, and he was quick to let everyone know he was not only happy but also proud to leave the team that seemingly every player wanted to go to this season, the Miami Heat.

"Now I get to take my aggression out on them, being rivals and all," said Richardson, laughing.

Duhon chimed in, noting that he is already happy with what he has seen of this Orlando team.

"I have never been a part of a team that was so together, or so hardworking. It was great to see everyone back from the offseason so early, ready to work out and get ready for the season."

Duhon added that it will be great to have the ability to play with his college teammate J.J. Redick, whom should see a much more involved role this season after finally breaking out last year, proving the Magic were correct in being patient and letting him find his niche.

"Everyone seems to be motivated to beat Miami this season," remarked Redick. "The teams worried about that are losing sight of the real goal, a championship. If you need outside motivation at this level, you're going to fail as a team. We're ready to go, ready to win a championship."

Redick also commented on the nature of the rivalry that is forming between the Magic and the Heat, remembering his playing days with Duke, and their huge in-state rival, North Carolina. "It is good for the league, good for the fans and teams. It is also good for us. We're going to beat them, but it will be a good challenge for us."

The Orlando Magic open their preseason on October 5, and the first game in the new arena will be in the preseason against the New Orleans Hornets

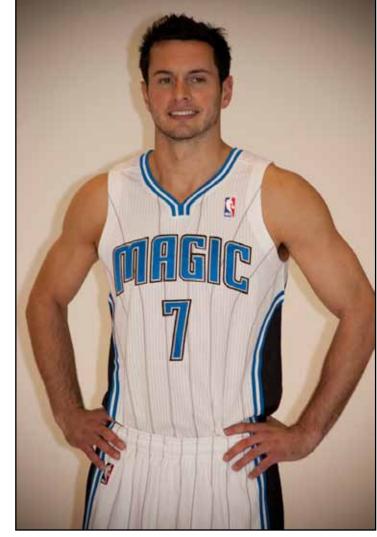


Photo by Russell Griner, Valencia Voice

J.J. Redick stands ready to get more play this season.

on October 10. The first game of the season for the Magic will be played in the new Amway Center on October 28 against division rival Washington Wizards at 8 p.m.

The Orlando Magic unveil their new arena, the Amway Center, this Friday. The new venue has a very modern feel, using a unique mixture of glass and metal materials to create a stadium that is three times the size of the current Amway Arena. The outside wall facing Interstate-4 has a giant graphic wall that can be changed, and a 180-foot tall spire that sticks out among the downtown skyline. Inside the environmentally responsible green-inspired arena will be 1,100 digital monitor displays, and the largest high-definition oncourt video board in the NBA.

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