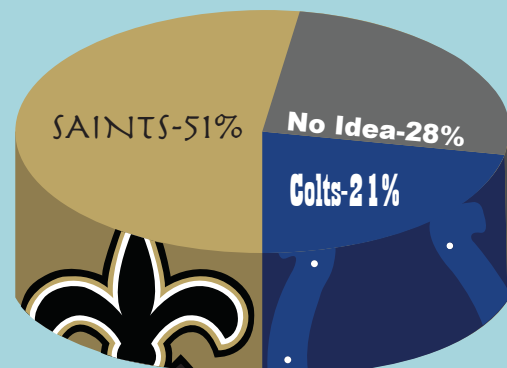


Who do you think will win Superbowl XLIV?



Jeffrey Bibbs / Valencia Voice

Poet Dunn recites works at VCC

By Shannon Scheidell
sscheidell@valenciamvoice.com

Stephen Dunn was the guest of honor for Thursday afternoon's Visions and Voices presentation. Room 226 on the Winter Park campus was packed with enough students that the maintenance crew took down the air wall that usually separates the room into sections while the second room filled up just as quickly as the first. Michele McArdle, Dean of the campus, introduced Dunn.

One tip Dunn gave was to cross out everything that doesn't advance the poem during revision, such as repetitive words and unnecessary metaphors. "You may need to startle yourself into saying that which you didn't know you were going to say," over the course of the poem, he said.

Continued on page 2

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Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

Obama aims to fix 'deficit of trust'

President focuses on jobs and economy in address

By Christi Parsons and Janet Hook
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Warning that the nation had developed a "deficit of trust" in government, President Barack Obama on Wednesday promised to put the public's top concerns - jobs and the economy - at the center of his second year in office while continuing to press for a health care overhaul and the rest of his stalled agenda.

In his first State of the Union address, Obama acknowledged that, for many Americans, the change he promised as a presidential candidate has seemed slow in coming.

"Some are frustrated, some are angry," Obama told a joint session of Congress. "They don't understand why it seems like bad behavior on Wall Street is rewarded but hard work on Main Street isn't, or why Washington has been unable or unwilling to solve any of our problems."

But he also offered a feisty defense of his ambitions during his first year in office and said he would continue to press for a health care bill, cap and trade legislation, tougher bank regulations and a new jobs bill. Those proposals have started their journey through Congress, but their prospects are far from clear.

While many of those goals were familiar from Obama's first speech to Congress nearly a year ago, the context was radically changed.

Continued on page 2



Robert Giroux, MCT Campus

President Obama greets congress after giving the State of the Union address Wednesday.

Free passes to online classes draws the masses

By Susan Snyder
The Philadelphia Inquirer
(MCT)

PHILADELPHIA — A stay-at-home mom in Maine. A physics teacher in an under-supplied school in Quito, Ecuador. A food-service-supply salesman in Lancaster, Pa., laid up for months with little to do after a hang-gliding accident. And two out-of-work West Philadelphia men looking to take an intellectual journey from their living room.

They are among millions around the world who have been attracted to Yale University's free courses on the Web, complete with audio and video lectures, syllabi and supplementary materials.

"It was such a great thing to me," said Steve Ziegler, 40, of Lancaster, who during his recovery watched Ivy League English-class lectures on Cormac McCarthy's novel "Blood Meridian," which quickly became one of his favorite books. "I was able to get more out of something that I love because Yale put these courses online."

More universities are beginning to upload full-length, free courses through iTunes, YouTube and the international consortium site OpenCourseWare.

The University of Pennsylvania put up an environmental course

Continued on page 3

West campus students pour in to hear poems

Continued from page 1



Shannon Scheidell, Valencia Voice

Poet Stephen Dunn

By Shannon Scheidell
sscheidell@valenciavoice.com

The topics of his Dunn's poems touch upon such ideas as the philosophy of the urban teenager, clowns taken out of context, and the science behind dead words.

The lines of his poetry ring with stories of day to day events and the different ways that average things can be seen.

Dunn is currently a professor of creative writing at the Richard Stockton College in New Jersey. He has also been a visiting professor at The University of Washington, The University of Columbia, New York University, and The University of Michigan. He has written 16 books, including Pulitzer Prize winner *Different Hours*.

Obama 'setting the record straight'

Continued from page 1

Last year he talked about moving forward with progressive policies on a scale akin to that of Franklin Roosevelt. On Wednesday, he spoke as a politician battered for a year by opponents and with his signature health care effort in jeopardy after the stunning loss of the Democratic Senate seat in Massachusetts.

Party leaders are scrambling to stop the stampede of Democratic House members considering a new line of work.

In a moment that spoke volumes about the president's state of mind after a bruising year, he declared at the close of his speech: "We don't quit. I don't quit."

While the ideas he outlined were big, some of the solutions were fine-pointed. He called, for example, on lawmakers to establish a single Web site for disclosing all special-funding requests before they come to a vote. That information is already posted on the Web, but Obama wants it all in one place.

He announced funding to begin a new nationwide high-speed rail system. He called for an end to tax breaks for companies that ship jobs overseas and said the money raised should reward those who do otherwise. His budget, to be unveiled on Monday, will include new investments in technology to diversify energy sources and reduce dependence on foreign oil.

Obama also touted his plan to help middle-class families by doubling the child-care tax credit. Vowing that the federal government would tighten its belt, he pledged to freeze discretionary spending on nonsecurity items amounting to about an eighth of the federal budget.

"I wouldn't say the economic challenges have changed much," said Dean Baker, an economist at the progressive Center for Economic and Policy Re-

search. "What has changed is the ambitions. The big ambitions are gone."

Mark Zandi, chief economist at Moody's Economy.com, said there was only so much Obama could do at this point to create jobs, in part because so much has already been done.

"The optics are correct on the middle class proposals, but I think when you add it all up, it doesn't mean a whole lot," said Zandi, who also advised John McCain's presidential campaign in 2008. One proposal by Obama that might make a difference, he said, was a plan to provide tax incentives for small employers to create jobs.

That "could be a substantial game-changer," he said.

A new edge to the Obama persona emerged when the president admonished Republican leaders to stop voting as a group against major pieces of business. "The responsibility to govern is now yours, as well," he said.

At several points, Obama seemed like a beleaguered, misunderstood president struggling to explain himself _ a surprising tone to strike for a young leader who stood on the podium a year ago with soaring popularity and deep reservoirs of good will.

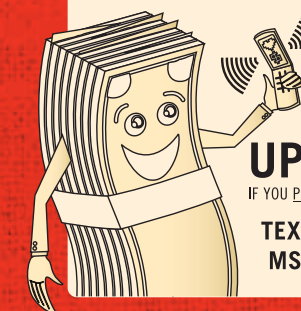
Obama spent a lot of time in the speech "setting the record straight" by saying he had cut taxes and that the budget deficit had been built up "before I even walked in the door."

—MCT Campus

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Yale among universities offering free courses

Continued from page 1

and a psychology course on its “open learning” site last year, with plans to expand.

Eastern University in St. Davids, Pa., launched a Christian spirituality course and an urban sociology course, also in the last year.

The University of Delaware started a page on iTunes last month with courses currently restricted to staff and students, but with some likely to become public.

While some worry such projects are tantamount to giving away perhaps a university’s most prized treasure - its teaching - others say the projects fulfill a mission to disseminate information widely.

Of the eight Ivy League schools, Yale has been a leader, with 25 free courses online and 11 more coming this fall.

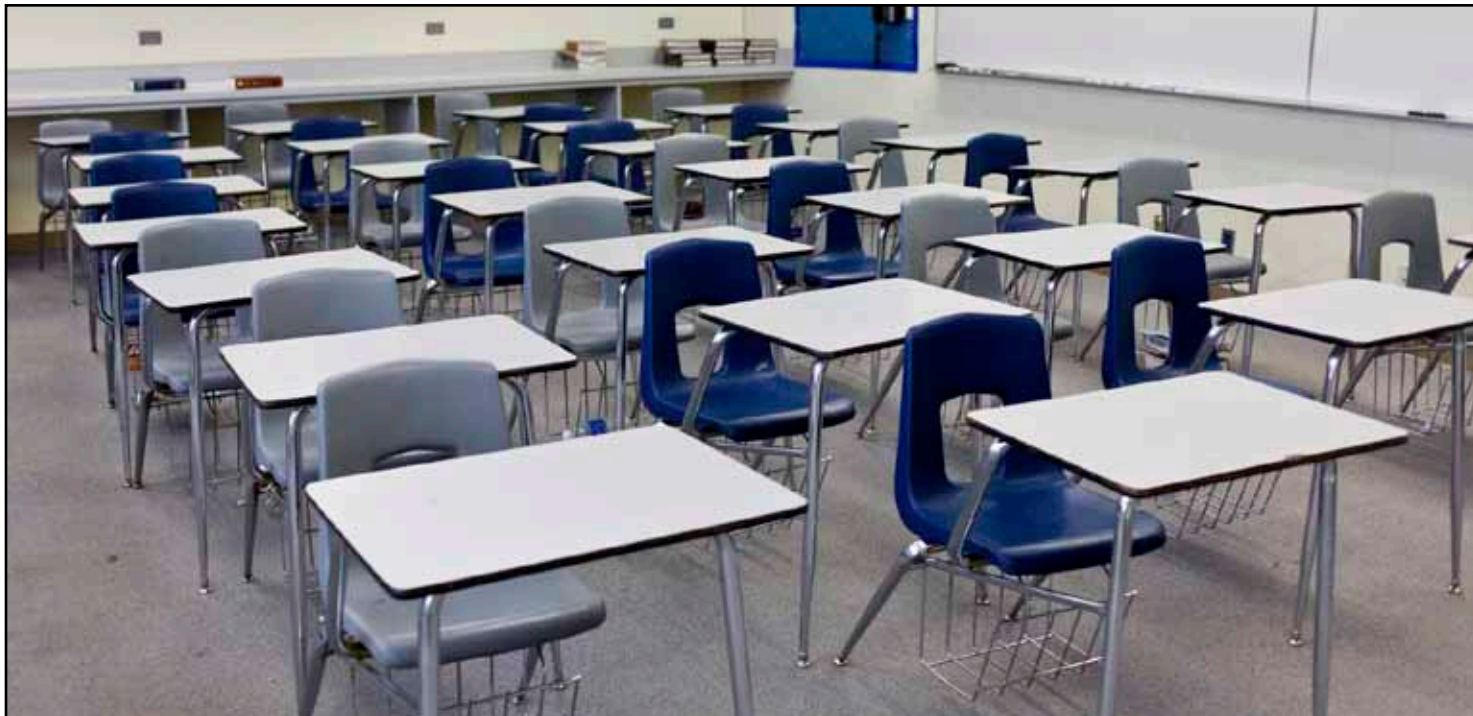
“We wanted to share our academic treasures

more widely with the world,” said Diana E.E. Kleiner, a history of arts professor who directs the project.

Since the Web site’s launch in December 2007, more than 2 million from 193 countries have viewed, though not necessarily completed, courses, she said. Many others have tapped into the courses on iTunes and YouTube, she said. Though these are the same courses taken for credit by Yale undergraduates on campus, they are noncredit on the Web.

The learning is self-directed. There are no grades, no feedback, no course credit and no class-time interaction with faculty. Participants send e-mails to professors, which some opt to answer.

The project is being funded by a \$3 million, four-year grant from the William and Flora Hewlett Foundation.



More people everyday find new ways to learn online rather than in a classroom.

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Congress must keep a close eye on FBI actions

Los Angeles Time

A recent report from the Justice Department's internal watchdog adds new and disturbing detail to its previous criticism of the FBI for cutting legal corners to obtain telephone records of U.S. citizens. As with past evidence of wrongdoing, the bureau insists that it has changed its ways, but senators rightly are pressing the Obama administration to close a possible loophole that could allow future abuses.

In the aftermath of 9/11, between 2002 and 2006, FBI agents obtained thousands of calling records without following legal procedures. Nor were all the violations examples of unintentionally failing to cross a bureaucratic "T" or dot a technical "I." Some agents clearly regarded legal constraints on their actions as nuisances to be ignored.

In its third report on the subject in three years, the Office of the Inspector General describes an "egregious breakdown" in oversight. It details how agents abused "exigent letters" — a device for obtaining records in an emergency — and informally elicited information from compliant employees of telephone companies, requesting records through e-mails or by scribbles on Post-it notes. Sometimes investigators engaged in "sneak peeks" of confidential records in which they looked over the employees' shoulders at their computer screens. The FBI also made inaccurate statements about its use of exigent letters in court filings.

According to Inspector General Glenn A. Fine, the relationship between the FBI and the telephone com-



Anne Chadwick Williams, Sacramento Bee / MCT Campus

A slew of recent reports have been released in the last few years detailing the lengths the FBI has been taking to improperly obtain telephone records.

panies was so intimate that company representatives were stationed in FBI communications centers. Thus firms with access to sensitive personal information were essentially partners with a powerful law enforcement agency in violation of Americans' privacy rights. The FBI insists that errors were unintentional and that improperly obtained information will be sealed or destroyed. But that doesn't alter the offensiveness of skirting procedure.

The inspector general's latest report concludes with specific recommendations — including additional training and greater scrutiny of contracts with telecommunications firms — to ensure that both the bureau and the

companies abide by privacy laws. It also recommends the FBI consider disciplinary action for those who ignored or violated the law. Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. should implement these recommendations.

Finally, the report suggests that the Justice Department may be reserving the right of the FBI to inspect telephone records "without legal process or a qualifying emergency." Several senators have rightly asked Holder to share a Jan. 8 memo that apparently outlines such an exception. Holder should comply. Congress needs to make sure for itself that the FBI is not being encouraged to return to its old ways.

— MCT Campus

ValenciaVoice
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Newsroom | 407-582-5040

Advisor | 407-582-1170

For comments or general inquiries

email us at:

opinion@valenciavoice.com

Editor in Chief | Rees Wallace

editor@valenciavoice.com

Managing Editor | Alex Barrett

abarrett@valenciavoice.com

Design | Robert Navaille

rnavaille@valenciavoice.com

News | Nikki Namadar

nnamdar@valenciavoice.com

Opinion | Collin Dever

cdever@valenciavoice.com

Features | Manny Colon

mcolon@valenciavoice.com

Sports | Tiffany Janiczek

tjaniczek@valenciavoice.com

Sales | Kenny Wagner

kwagner@valenciavoice.com

Photo Editor | Collin Dever

cdever@valenciavoice.com

For advertising information contact

Kenny Wagner at

ads@valenciavoice.com

POLL

The iPhone Redux

By Daniel Asparouhov
dasparouhov@valenciavoice.com

Apple's newest sensation, the iPad, will be available March this year. Steve Jobs, Apple's CEO, proudly announced that the new gadget "is our most advanced technology in a magical and revolutionary device at an unbelievable price."

Jobs touts the new brainchild of Apple: "iPad creates and defines an entirely new category of devices that will connect users with their apps and content in a much more intimate, intuitive and fun way than ever before."

The iPad allows users to browse the web, read and send email, view photos, watch videos, listen to music, play games, read e-books, run most iPhone apps, and much more.

It features 12 next-generation Multi-Touch applications, which follow as the user rotates the iPad in any direction.

You can import photos from a Mac, PC or digital camera, and organize them in whatever way you please. You can also read e-books or watch movies and videos in HD.

The iPad syncs with iTunes, which is nice due to the large availability of movies, songs, and films.

The screen is 9.7", diagonally. There are four buttons: power/sleep, mute, volume up/down, and home. The iPad is .5 inches thick and weighs 1.5 pounds.

The battery life is up to 10 hours and supposedly has 1000 charge cycles without a significant decrease in battery capacity.

All models have WiFi. If you want 3G for the iPad, you will have to pay an extra \$130 and wait until April to make your purchase.

Would you buy Apple's new iPad?



Ya.. I'd get it... only with my financial aid!

—Jermayne Bargan



I'd prefer to just buy a laptop.

—Maria Cardozo



I definitely would buy it.

—Katwon Turner



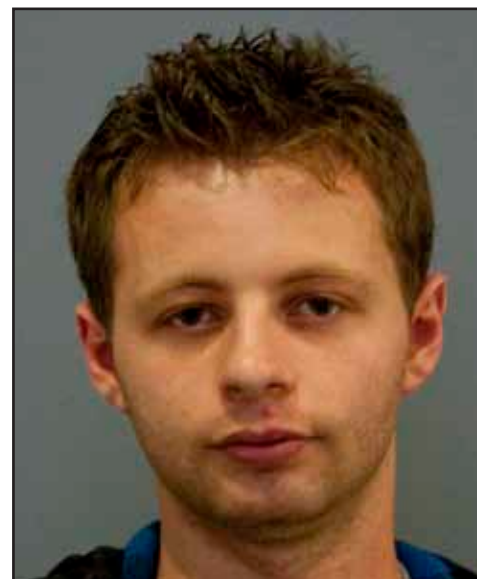
No. I wouldn't buy it. It's a waste of money and I'm not interested.

—Tara Nelson



No. I have an iPod.

—Shavonda Williams



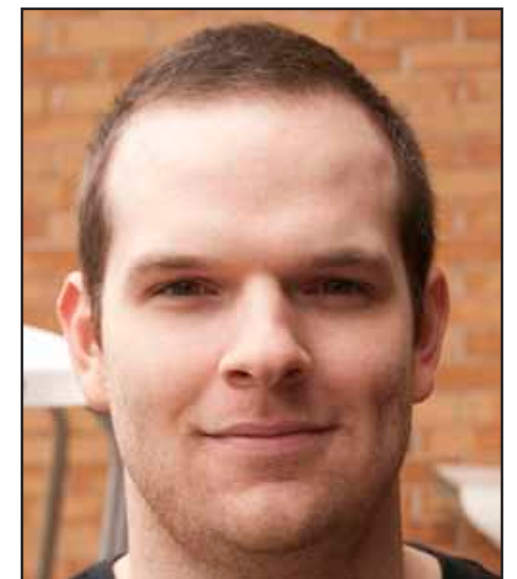
I think it's cool. I'd definately buy one.

—Bryant Posch



I'm not interested in reading a book off a screen.

—Claudia Stephens



I really don't care much about it.

—Steven Kindman

Continued on page 6

YOUR VOICE

Continued from page 5

A new version of iWork has also been designed specifically for iPad.

For the book fans, the iBook Store has been announced. It is a digital bookstore for the iPad, which already has five major book publishers: Macmillan, Simon & Schuster, Harper Collins, Penguin, and Hachette. There will be plenty of material for you to read.

If the iPad was as revolutionary as the iPhone, it would be a good step forward, but it is not. First and foremost who the hell thought of using that name? It sounds like a feminine product and while I have nothing against women, the name is just ridiculous. Turn to the SNL sketch and you will catch my drift. The negatives outweigh the positives.

The iPad, according to Jobs, should connect you to other and let you have fun, but there is no camera. Want to make or upload videos? Tough, you won't be able to. The iPad will not support Flash. While some may argue that Flash will get phased out, many websites still use it.

Shouldn't the iPad more closely resemble a netbook or laptop, than an iPhone? There is no wide-screen and no HDMI; which means you can't hook it up to your HD monitor.

There is also no Multitasking feature. Will a future update fix that? Possibly, but for now you will spend \$500 on something that should be closer to a



MCT Campus

notebook computer, but can't multitask as a notebook can.

You have no USB, so you will have to spend extra money on adapters. Apple is doing their best to milk you clean of money for something that should already be part of the package. That is like buying a pizza and then having to pay for the toppings, cheese, sauce, and box.

Also 16G of memory is nothing. If you want to store videos, photos, music, work related documents or presentations, or e-books, you will need a lot more than that. Even the 64G version will not be enough.

In the end, the iPad will sell, due to the roving crowd of iZombie fans that will consume this thing like a zesty serving of brains topped with whip cream. It all comes down to marketing and Apple has that handled.

The iPad is not worth the \$500. If it were a little cheaper, I wouldn't have a problem with it, but for all of its limitations, the pricetag is ridiculous. If sold for around \$200, I could overlook the many issues, but at \$500 you should buy a notebook that can do everything the iPad does-plus a thousand other things.

Apple is selling an over sized iPhone without the actual phone feature. If you want an iPad that bad, go ahead and buy one, but it is not worth your money. It is not practical and that is what people should look for in today's technological devices.

An investment in education

By Collin Dever
cdever@valenciavoices.com

"...In the United States of America no one should go broke because they decided to go to college," said President Obama during his State of the Union address.

The address is used for the president to lay out his goals for this year, and Obama has his eye on bolstering spending on education.

Pell grants, used by many Valencia students, would be changed into an entitlement program. That way anyone who qualifies for a grant would be guaranteed to receive it. More money would be given to fund the grants allowing for Pell grants to be awarded to a million more students nationwide.

The new plans for education would also remove the subsidies granted to the banks giving out student loans, and instead give households a \$10,000 tax break over the course of a four year degree.

And when we finally graduate, paying for loans could be easier. School loan holders would never be required to pay more than 10% of their yearly salary, and after 20 years all outstanding debt would be forgiven, 10 if you work in a public service field.

No one in this community would want to see this fail. These changes can make it possible for more students to go to school, because in today's



world, those with only a high school diploma are at a competitive disadvantage in the workforce.

A democracy investing in the education of its people brings innovation and provides the checks and balances necessary for the nation to accommodate every citizen.

Just like the well known fishing anecdote, if you give a person an education, the fruits of their labor can feed them for a lifetime. Obama may just be catering to a strong part of his constituency which helped him get elected, but I truly believe the sincerity of his claim that "the best anti-poverty program around is a world class education."

‘Mass Effect 2’ can’t find a place in RPG space

By Alex Barrett
abarrett@valenciavoice.com

Commander Shepard is becoming something of an icon, a figure that stands out in the galaxy, one person that elicits hate or love from every species in space.

And he just cheated death.

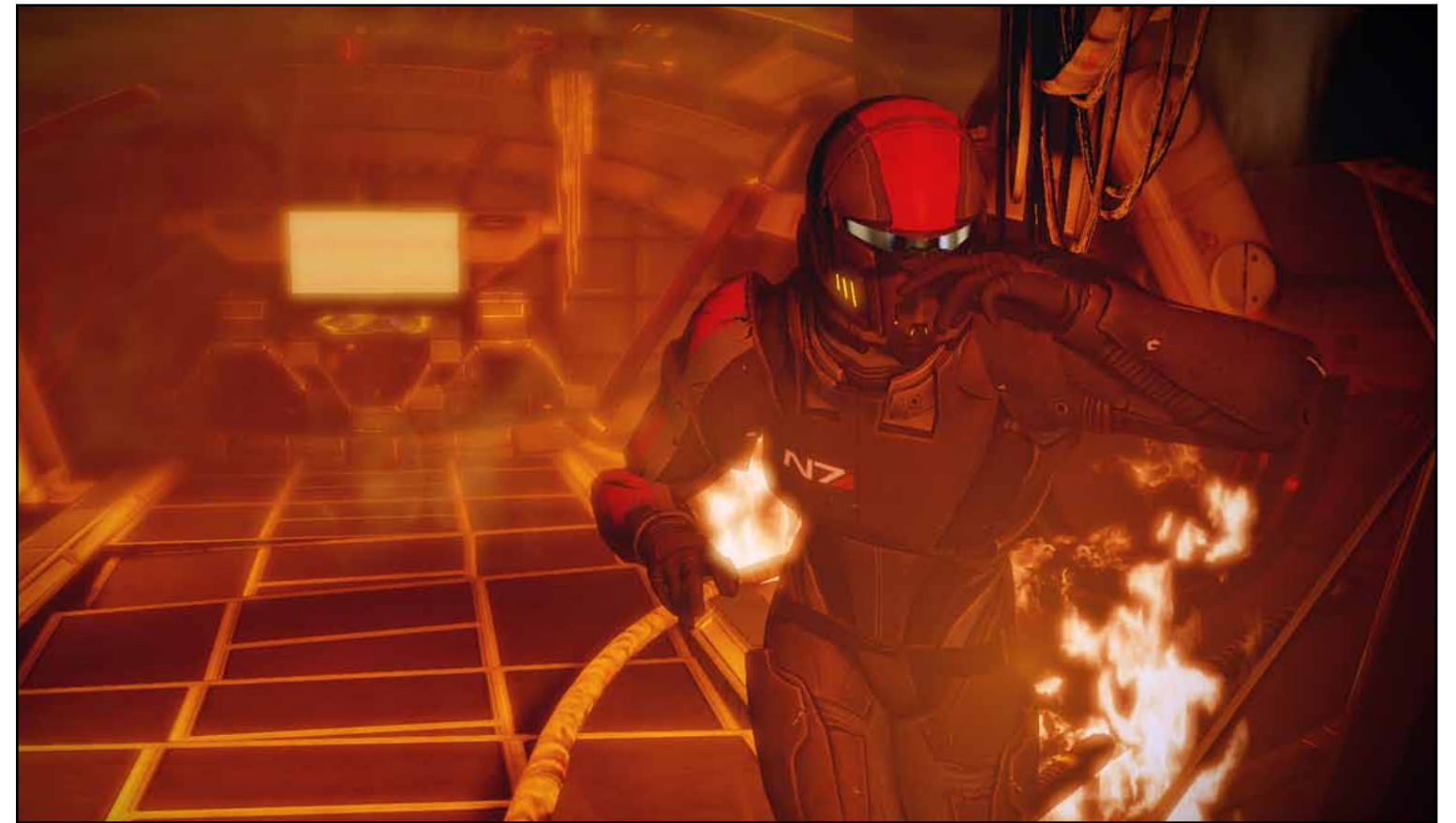
Mass Effect 2 was released last Tuesday, and I haven’t been able to put it down since it came in my home. The epic sequel to the first Mass Effect from BioWare delivered on many fronts, and failed on very few. Again you control the iconic Shepard, already a hero for the defeat he handed the Reapers in the first episode whilst also dispelling the geth and rogue Spectre Agent Saren. Perhaps the most interesting feature about ME2 is it’s ability (and highly recommended) feature allowing you to import your career from the original Mass Effect into the second installment, bringing your perks, a bonus for character level, and appearance with it. It also alters the way NPC’s interact with you and shapes the progression of the game greatly. In the first few hours of play I could already tell my decision to let the Council die so the Citadel could survive in the first game was not perceived well by some of the other alien races walking around.

If you played the first game, you’ve probably crossed paths with the human supremacy group Cerberus, in fact, if you followed the way of the Paragon you most likely mowed down many of their associates in a few different missions; so you

can imagine how you feel when Shepard wakes up on a Cerberus operating table after his body was uncovered following the wreck of the Normandy. You will have to learn to love Cerberus; they saved your life and now the association, along with their cryptic leader the Illusive Man (Voiced by Martin Sheen,) enlists your assistance to quell another brewing Reaper threat that the Council seems to be turning a blind eye to.

Already you’re hooked, I can tell. The game did get a bit more difficult as far as the play goes, the firefights are much more intense and ME2 relies heavily on squad combat, almost forcing you to place your team strategically before the fighting starts if you wish to survive. The graphics are better, your controlled character runs faster, and there is much more story to sift through and people to talk to; there better be, the game takes up two discs.

All in all, it is a great game. The user interfaces and upgrading procedures have been all but been killed off, and this is where my complaint list begins. Fans of the RPG aspect of the first game will be sorely disappointed, as the point allocation system for your character has been severely cut back. Also limited, the weapon customization and allocation itself; all your troops use the same gun and you have to find it in the world to upgrade to it. No more finding the right gun, armor or upgrade in the universe by looting, keeping your stash and selling back the trash. In fact, there is no more recovery of goods, period. You don’t have a backpack, and can’t switch weapons



Gamespress

Lead Commander Shepard and a vast team of professionals on a suicide mission in Reaper space.

unless there is a load-out crate nearby; it almost seems as though by trying to simplify the game, Bio Ware horribly limited the uniqueness of what made ME1 great to begin with. Customization has been revoked in a game where customization is key.

In the two years that Shepard was missing in action, the universe realized it would be a good time to take a step backwards in technology and go back to using clips of ammo in weapons, making you have to reload often. Frequently I found myself having to use a gun I shouldn’t be simply because you run out of ammo during every fight. There are also no more ambushes or nearly as much exploring. You’re either fighting an epic, repetitious battle or you’re talking to someone in a hallway.

This game could have been amazing. It could have broken boundaries. It could have been one

of the greatest games ever made, and that may even be an understatement. Taking the time to make so many improvements, yet at the same time destroying what made the game great is quite disappointing. Its incredibly hard to give this game a rating for that reason; if it was the first game in a series it would be a solid nine, no questions asked (and if you have read my other reviews, that is beyond amazing.) But failing to deliver on what made the franchise great in large quantities has crushed this game.

In memory of the original Mass Effect, I am all but forced to drop this game down quite a bit, I would say around a seven. Imagine Elder Scrolls, or Knights of the Old Republic (another Bio Ware creation) without treasure chests or enemy drops. Great advances were made with this title, but it came with too great a cost. I’m not mad at you, BioWare; just very disappointed.

Gibson's comeback movie leaves spectators disappointed

By Karen Raffaello
kraffaello@valenciavoice.com

Lighting doesn't strike twice for "Edge of Darkness." This crime drama mini-series was a hit as an hour-long mystery of secrecy, deception, and of course government conspiracy all somehow leading to the explanation of the main character motive. That motive would be to find his daughters murder and to avenge her brutal death.

Producer Ray Winstone and director Martin Campbell worked on the television series version of the movie. Martin Campbell also directed "Casino Royal", so the director is known for doing retellings and remakes.

Now take every good thing about the acclaimed TV show and shove it into a two-hour long movie, with an average cast, an okay director, and don't change a thing about the movie except the location. And now you have "Edge of Darkness."

It's not a horrible film, but if this was supposed to be Mel Gibson's big come back, then he will be very disappointed. The acting is not bad, but it's also backed up by some very action packed scenes. You are thrown into this world of lies, murder, and a huge secret surrounding some kind of politically backed nuclear plant that has the eco-nuts up in arms.

The main characters daughter is a mystery to us. At first her killing looks like a mistake, as if the main character was the intended target. But later you find she's a disgruntle employee of the nuclear plant. She's become poisoned with radiation and the company fears this will ignite the eco-nuts, resulting in the loss tons of money for the company, this all leading to her murder.

Mel Gibson who plays Thomas Craven witnesses the violent killing of his only child and you presume the only thing that is holding his sanity together. After her death he becomes this jaded revenged crazed vigil anti who is guided through the majority of the movie by



MCTCampus

Mel Gibson portraying his character (Thomas Craven) in "Edge of Darkness"

Ray Winstone.

Winstone's character is the typical 'government conspiracy' character. He comes off as a double agent, slowly letting Gibson into the loop and showing him the ropes. He seems to know every secret that the agency has and how everything works. His character is predictable and unrealistic, watching it you get trapped into the world of fantasy, but really this all-knowing secret holder doesn't exist. He is there merely to push the story along and help Gibson discover the truth.

Mystery after mystery is uncovered and Gibson plays the 'badass' with no fear, because he has

nothing to live for. It's one twist after another, and Gibson is flipped upside down many times by just about every character. The 'villains' of the movie are the usual, very flat, political figureheads, hungry for power, with no remorse and no care for humanity. You don't relate with them and you feel good when Gibson gets his unconventional and illegal revenge.

Overall the movie fits the mold of an average 'conspiracy' flick. The TV show might have been groundbreaking, but Campbell and Winstone should have left their 'master piece' on the small scene.

Other Views

"Mr. Gibson's performance is certainly intense, but the gleeful energy he once brought to such hits as Lethal Weapon -- or even to Conspiracy Theory, an excellent flop -- has turned toxic, and his somber scourge is no fun at all."

—Wall Street Journal

"Edge of Darkness is a meathead revenge picture, but it's very satisfying."

—New York Post

"Gibson looks every bit his age, but he can still bring the fierce determination as well as anyone in the business."

—Richard Roeper

"Is this a drama about a father's loss? No. Is this a political thriller? Maybe, but a good thriller should consistently surprise the viewer. The movie's revelations are met with a resounding 'duh.'"

—Minneapolis Star Tribune

"The only edge here is in the title. This is indeed your father's thriller."

—Detroit News

Touchstone's formula fails

By Marianella Zapata Noriega
mzapatanoriega@valenciavoice.com

After Sandra Bullock's hit, *The Proposal*, Disney's Touchstone Pictures has been trying to find their next romantic comedy box office wonder.

Seeing as "When in Rome" is advertised as the next big production of "the studio that brought you *The Proposal*", it is safe to say they thought they had it.

But did they? No.

On one hand, "When in Rome" managed to follow the recipe of every romantic comedy of the last decade.

It included the cute guy with the cool job, the career obsessed young woman in a big city, awesome and witty dialogue with just the perfect hint of sarcasm, crazy characters that make everyone you know seem normal, and the great obstacle in true love's way.

And of course, it took place in one of the most beautiful places on earth.

But following the pattern doesn't always work for audiences and definitely doesn't work for critics. In the end we are stuck in the same place that most romantic comedies end up, good enough for making a few bucks in the box office and providing entertainment for friends at a local theater, but don't expect for any inspiration or originality to strike you.

One thing you can look forward to, is an awesome soundtrack with artists like Katy Perry, 3OH!3, Paolo Nutini, The Academy Is, Matchbox Twenty, and Jason Mraz.

And if you can get over the fact that Kristen Bell ("Veronica Mars") is about a foot shorter than Joshua Duhamel ("Transformers") and it makes every shot they are in together look weird, you might be able to rest knowing that they do look adorable together.

In fact, you might find yourself completely distracted by side characters, like Kristen Schaal's ("Flight of the Conchords") character, a waitress in one of those total darkness experience restaurants, and her night-vision goggles.

Or one of the enchanted, a male model named Gale played by Dax Shepard ("Without a Paddle"). Even better Keir O'Donnell ("Paul Blart: Mall Cop") as Father Dino, a recently ordained priest with a little gambling problem.

It may not be the great box office hit Touchstone was hoping for, but it is decent enough for some good laughs and some great mindless entertainment.

Other Views

"Entertaining, full of laughs and, as far as chick flicks go, is a sweet, romantic trip worth taking for audiences so inclined."

— **Boxoffice Magazine**

"Sounds mildly fun, be forewarned: When in Rome doesn't even offer that."

— **Entertainment Weekly**

A picture that registers between Abysmally Awful and Mildly Mediocre. Such a one would be *When in Rome*, which is possible to sit through without wanting to stick darts in your eyes or frag the screen. Call it medi-awful.

— **Time Magazine**

Cameron strikes again

'Avatar' Scores big as it passes \$2 billion mark in Global Sales

By Marianella Zapata Noriega
mzapatanoriega@valenciavoice.com

After his success with *Titanic*, many critics and Hollywood insiders wondered if James Cameron could ever top his \$1.84 billion masterpiece, and initially ridiculed him when he first announced the concept for his next movie, an eco-friendly film about blue aliens who lived on a far away planet.

Last week, however, Cameron had the last laugh when *Avatar* beat *Titanic* and became the highest grossing film of all time, totalling at \$2.039 billion. This would not come as a surprise since the film broke the \$1.86 billion mark in six weeks, making it the fastest film to go over \$1 billion in global ticket sales.

Unfortunately, many critics are pointing out that, although *Avatar* is officially number one, the worldwide box office does not take inflation into account. If it did, *Gone with the Wind*'s \$400 million worldwide sales would equal over \$6 billion in today's market.

Those defending *Avatar* say that, although they understand the need to take inflation into account, other things, like the fact that *Gone With the Wind* was re-released three times, and that movies today have to compete with an average of 600 other films a year, must also be mentioned.

Technicalities aside, this week is bound to bring more good news for Cameron as this year's Oscar

nominees are announced and *Avatar*'s appearance at the awards is practically a guarantee.

With predictions in categories including Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Picture, and more, it is safe to say Cameron's reputation as one of Hollywood's best directors is here to stay.



Strach

Expansion is the right idea

Oscars decision to widen the race for best picture allows a more diverse range to be celebrated

By Robert W. Butler
McClatchy Newspapers

The rationale for doubling the slate of Oscar best picture nominees to 10 went something like this:

In recent years the Academy Awards race has become too elitist, a competition of high-falutin' but little-seen titles that most moviegoers have barely heard of.

Expanding the roster to 10 nominees would allow a broader range of films to be considered, including some popular with general audiences. That in turn will entice more of us to tune in for the big Oscar broadcast on March 7.

Did it work?

Actually, I think it did.

The list of best picture nominees announced Tuesday by the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences features three box-office juggernauts:

The record-smashing "Avatar," James Cameron's sci-fi epic that between dazzling effects dabbles in environmentalism, colonialism and ruthless capitalism. It's now the all-time box office champ, having surpassed Cameron's "Titanic." Of course, it was a given that even with only five nominees, "Avatar" would be in the running. It couldn't be ignored.

The inspiring drama "The Blind Side," about race, charity and football. Middle America has embraced this real-life story about a wealthy white family that adopted a troubled young black man and inspired him to greatness.

The computer-animated "Up," the Pixar hit that mixes cartoon fun with issues of parenthood and loneliness and which — in an astonishing five-minute segment — gave us one of the cinema's most memorable portraits of a marriage.

The only other animated film nominated for the top prize: "Beauty and the Beast," almost 20 years ago.

A fourth nominated film, the South African science-fiction effort "District 9," which used the mistreatment of stranded space aliens as a metaphor for apartheid, was a popular hit as well, though not in the league of the above three.

The new 10-nominee system also opened up the competition for more rarified titles. We always figured that the fiercely topical romantic dramedy "Up in the Air" and Quentin Tarantino's World War II revenge fantasy "Inglourious Basterds" were likely nominees.

But it's highly satisfying to see "A Serious Man," "Precious," "An Education" and "The Hurt Locker" in the running. All are accomplished efforts on serious — nay, even depressing — subjects that struggled to find audiences. Promoting this kind of work is what the Oscars should be doing.

I've got my own grudges — where is "A Single Man" or, a personal favorite, the apocalyptic "The Road"?

But by and large, it's time for rejoicing. The system worked.

— MCT Campus



Adrian Sanchez-Gonzalez, Landov/MCT Campus

Anne Hathaway and Tom Sherak, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Science, announced the nominees for the 82nd Academy Awards in Beverly Hills, California, Feb. 2.

Best of the best

10 pictures nominated for Best Picture:

"Avatar"
"The Blind Side"
"District 9"
"An Education"
"The Hurt Locker"
"Inglourious Basterds"
"Precious: Based on the Novel 'Push' by Sapphire"
"A Serious Man"
"Up"
"Up in the Air"

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Source: Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences



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Capcom's latest installment takes Wii by storm

By Jonathan Terbeche
jterbeche@valenciavoice.com

Many have called 2009 the year of fighting games. With Grade 'A' titles like Tekken 6 and Street Fighter IV, it's hard to argue against it. One case you could make though, is that it is only January of this year and already a defining game for the genre and contender for Best Fighting Game has appeared. That game is "Tatsunoko vs. Capcom: Ultimate All-Stars" for the Wii and it's a [Hadoken] blast!

Right out of the gate, you'll notice the incredible ease with which the game is handled. Buttons have been mapped to the Wii Remote's two-button configuration for incredible ease-of-use, don't worry though, virtually every different controller is available to use on the Wii, including a new wireless fight stick made specifically for the game. Along with different controller options, button-mapping is left entirely up to the player, should you need to change anything. The game also looks and sounds fantastic. With bright, vibrant colors and crisp animations, it showcases some of the best Wii graphics to date. Each character and location's unique sounds set the mood and are wonderfully done, if only too Japanese.

After playing for only an hour, you're going to feel as though you've mastered the controls and the game itself. This is not the case, though and the remainder of actual game-play becomes an intense contest between you and your friends to become the best and to unlock everything in the game. These two tasks alone present a monumental task and provide plenty of replay value. Seeing as how it's a fighting game the prime mode of play is meant to be between two players, however, merely unlocking every character in the game and completing the story modes will take you around ten hours. With a meaty Shop, Gallery, Versus, Time Attack, and Survival Modes, as well as a secret 4-player shooter game, this is probably one of the best investments you could make on the Wii.

The other mode in the game is the online play, which is surprisingly enjoyable. Given other Wii titles' less-than-par online experience, Tatsunoko vs. Capcom does an incredible job at delivering the game's unique experience and frenetic energy with few flaws. There are noticeable lags and occasional glitches, but they aren't



Games Press

Dynamic tag-team fighting action and stunning graphics makes Tatsunoko vs. Capcom a well balance game.

terribly significant and occur so infrequently that they aren't a deal breaker. The online features are also a welcome inclusion, with rankings and emblems representing player's fighting styles. Wii owners rejoice as they now have a viable online fighting experience.

Now to the meat and potatoes: the game-play. Many games, especially on the Wii have aspired to obtain game-play that can appeal to casual and hardcore gamers alike. Tatsunoko vs. Capcom may not be the first one to achieve this successfully, but it does so in a genre that is traditionally quite difficult to do so. The controls are easy to pick up but difficult to master. Even when you have a complete understanding of each set of moves, being able to chain attacks and set up combos is the next step. All the while, you're almost oblivious to the fact that it's your input commands that are creating what's happening on screen. The flow of combat is seam-

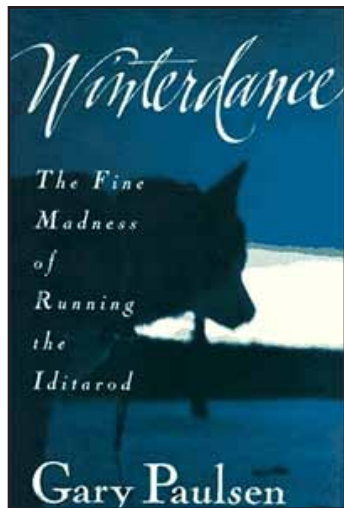
less. The two-character teams are a good balance. Fans of the 'vs.' series will be pleased (though some upset) that the endless combos and overpowered specials of Marvel vs. Capcom 2 are nonexistent. Not only is the combat fun, but without a great roster of characters, no one would play. Thankfully, this game has that in handfuls. Understand, though, you won't know who half of the characters are, but with what's going on on screen, you won't care!

All in all Tatsunoko vs. Capcom: Ultimate All-Stars has all the right elements for success: a large diverse cast of characters, great game-play, crisp graphics and sounds, and an adequate online component. All that's left to be seen is if the Wii audience will respond in kind to this gift straight out of Japan. If you like Capcom, fighting games, or crazy over-the-top action, then pick up Tatsunoko vs. Capcom and see if you're an Ultimate All-Star!

Surviving the Iditarod

Paulsen's 'Winterdance' describes the perils of this epic race

By Roxy Smith
rsmith@valenciavoices.com



Gary Paulsen, a widely acclaimed American writer, now in his seventies, has written books for the greater half of his life.

Although Paulsen has not published anything recently he deserves to be mentioned because Valencia has selected his book "Winterdance"

to be read for Valencia's, "Get Into Reading" program.

"Winterdance," published in 1994 serves as Paulsen's memoir as he recollects memories of racing in the invigorating 1,180-mile sled-dog race, "The Iditarod."

The Iditarod is an extreme dog-sled race that travels through harsh terrain of Alaska's wilderness.

The mushers are forced to travel through severe weather conditions such as: below zero temperatures and occasionally suffer from frostbite.

Although Paulsen's main audience has been young adults, Paulsen has published over 175 books and 200 articles and short stories that reach out to children and adults.

Many of his books come in sagas, the most famous being, "Brian's Saga," based on his novel, "The Hatchet," which won the Newberry Honor Award. Paulsen has won several awards for his

writing including, Publishers Weekly best books of the year and Parents Magazine best book of the year.

The overall theme of Paulsen's books is nature. The books are geared to make the reader care about the environment and the world by touching on the human spirit.

"Winterdance" displays the delicate balance between nature and animals and how even wild animals can be calm if only for a minute.

Paulsen has spent much of his life outdoors, therefore these types of themes comes natural.

The end result is that many of his books make in on the best books list by the American Library Association.

"Winterdance" isn't just for dog lovers; it is a compelling story, full of seriousness and humor as an amateur sled-dog racer tries to tackle, "the fine madness of running the Iditarod" as Paulsen describes it.

Paulsen is a fool as he goes into one of the most dangerous and risky races completely blind.

Only having the foggiest idea of what to expect from the race, Paulsen is determined to finish the race no matter how extreme the weather conditions may be or how short on supplies he may get.

In some aspects Paulsen considers himself half-dog because he eats, sleeps and spends all of his time with them. Paulsen give up all aspects of the real world, including his family to live his life among dogs.

"Winterdance" shows how one man's love for running dogs and spending time with his 20 best friends can prove to be a true passion and not just a hobby.

The novel is if nothing else a guide for rookies on what not to do while racing in the Iditarod.

Never Shout Never hits the big time

By Christine Saraceno
csaraceno@valenciavoices.com

On his first major label debut (Warner Bros.), Never Shout Never (a.k.a. Christofer Drew In-



gle) abandons the mellow, innocent feel of his previous EP's for a more mature and riskier sound. What Is Love? was produced by Butch Walker who's also worked with Fall Out Boy, All Time Low, and The Cab, acts that Never Shout Never is used to sharing the stage with. NSN's signature ukulele is not heard from on any of the songs on this album like it was on old favorites like "Happy", "Your Biggest Fan", and "Trouble". Instead he chooses to use acoustic and electric guitars as his main musical weapons of choice along with ex-

ceptional drum work and a haunting orchestral string section as heard on the song "The Past".

"The Past" was most definitely one of my favorite (and most repeated) songs while listening to this CD. The lyrics really display an unusual and more intimate side of NSN that was previously concealed behind his sugar coated love songs.

It gives you a candid look into his painful history and strained relationships with his mother and brother. This is by no means a morose album though and one need not search too hard to find the innocent, sappy, sing-a-long lyrics about teenage love and intense adoration that have become a staple of Never Shout Never's music like in the songs "I Love You 5" and "Can't Stand It".

With vocals sharper than his razor cut hair and a new and improved sound that's faintly reminiscent of new school Hellogoodbye, NSN's What Is Love? is sure to please his devoted scene kid fans everywhere and gain him some new first time listeners.

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No enchilada with Los Campesinos!

By Christine Saraceno
csaraceno@valenciavoices.com



and Crafts records, Romance Is Boring.

Welsh indie punkseptet Los Campesinos! don't exactly break new ground with their third effort for Arts

The band's dedicated fans will be relieved to hear that the sporadic vocalizing, absurd, bizarre lyrics that prove to be impossible to follow, and jazzy uplifting beats that are all too familiar trademarks of their style, are as prevalent as ever.

A new listener, however, like myself would not be so thrilled. After listening to Romance Is Boring I decided to observe the evolution that their sound had gone through so I turned to 2009's We Are Beautiful and 2008's Hold On Now. It was like listening to the same

CD three times. Now that's not to say that all three weren't good. They were all enjoyable to hear, but I'd like to see a more dynamic composition and growth especially when it's the band's third album. There was some positive progression to be found on one of their songs, "There Are Listed Buildings," which had a stronger Brit pop punk feel and also in relation to the vocals on the title track which sounded vaguely like a lost Bloc Party tune which made that song my personal favorite.

Overall, if you're a fan of Los Campesinos! and like their consistency then you'll definitely enjoy this new CD. On the other hand, if you're expecting a mind blowing new sound from them I definitely would not rush to pick this one up.

'A Walk in the Park' with Beach House

By Marianella Zapata Noriega
mzapatanoriega@valenciavoices.com



work to date.

It's not perfect, but with songs like "Walk in the Park", "Used to Be", "Better

The Baltimore band is back with their third album, Teen Dream, and probably their best

Times", "Real Love", and "Take Care" it is definitely worth listening too.

Formed in 2004, the band stayed underground until 2006 when Pitchfork Media named their self-titled debut album, Beach House, the 16th best album of 2006. Since then band members, Victoria Legrand and Alex Scally, have kept Beach House as the band to beat in the Indie rock and Dream pop circle with their slow, smoky rhythms, and poignant and evocative lyrics.

With this new album they truly prove their understanding of each others' sound,

and musical abilities.

In charge of vocals is French-born Victoria Legrand, niece of film composer Michel Legrand and singer Christiane Legrand, who brings a unique sound to their music. Her voice has an airy and husky quality, yet is controlled and can be easily identifiable in its style.

Then on the guitar and keyboard is Baltimore native Alex Scally, whose idiosyncratic beats complement Victoria's vocals and prevents the feeling of competition between voice and instruments.

They are definitely a band to look out for.

Disastrous debut Evacuate Chicago fails to impress

By Christine Saraceno
csaraceno@valenciavoices.com



The debut album Veracity from Arizona newcomers, Evacuate Chicago is unimpressive and unoriginal radio rock at best.

On the band's Myspace it lists their genres as "Hardcore/Metal/Experimental." Well I really wish that they had either experimented a lot more or not all because what they ended up with was a feeble, lame impersonation of many well known

bands, good and bad.

With its Disturbed sounding intro, Hatebreed-like aggression filled chorus, and Sevendust-esque breakdown, their song "The Hole" sounds like a sickening, unbearable cacophony of all things terrible about modern rock.

Even the best song on the album, "Occasional Letter Number One," falls short of anything remarkable. To me it sounds like a failed attempt at a Slipknot and Staind collaboration with truly pathetic alternating Corey Taylor and Aaron Lewis-like vocals.

The lyrics on the album are also laughable. I especially got a kick out of a line from "The Damage Has Been Done". "True family will tell you what you need to hear".

Apparently that is not always the case because no one from Alex Preiss' family told him that his band is blatantly awful.

There were also "great" lyrics from the aforementioned song "The Hole". For instance there was "Wake up tired, just like yesterday / Face the music, I don't want to play" (I don't want you to play either...ever.) and "Now I'm tired of this, I'm tired of this / There's only so much that a person can take" (That's pretty ironic because I was thinking the same exact thing while listening to that song).

The guitar work is mediocre and has been done time and time again by other mainstream letdowns. The mixing is also disappointing and at times you can't even understand the lyrics because it's drowned out by the inadequate drumming.

I really hope the guys of Evacuate Chicago re-think their decision to make music or at least try a make a better effort on their sophomore album.

Tebow is a rockstar in cleats

By Danny O'Neil
The Seattle Times

MOBILE, Ala. — Tim Tebow began his NFL audition shirtless with half a dozen television stations filming his weigh-in for the South team at the Senior Bowl on Monday morning.

When the North team weighed in 30 minutes later, not a single TV camera remained.

The first and only Te-Bowl was under way.

Never has so much attention been heaped upon a prospect that so few of the league's talent evaluators are convinced will be a successful NFL quarterback.

But this isn't just any old spread-offense quarterback with questionable accuracy and a long release. This is Tim Tebow, cultural icon. A phenomenon even.

To call Florida's quarterback a rock star doesn't quite capture it. He is a Beatle in cleats. The Senior Bowl usually includes a few middling prospects from nearby schools to sell some tickets. This year, the event sold out on the very day Tebow was announced as part of the roster.

More than 100 of the country's top seniors will play in the game, but he is the focus. The debate over Tebow's prospects

in April's draft has become a referendum on everything this football-mad corner of the country holds most dear.

Those who laud him think it would be an indictment of the NFL if the league's 32 teams overlook his transcendent leadership qualities. Others will point to the long list of successful college quarterbacks who were ill-suited to winning on Sundays.

At this point, it is impossible to be agnostic about Tebow, a statement that has nothing to do with the devoutness of his faith or his willingness to profess it.

The NFL is beholden to ability above everything else. You could be a Wiccan or wearing Jeff George's mustache so long as your spiral is tight and your aim is right.

That's not Tebow. He's got the foot speed and strength, but the accuracy of his left arm is a question and it takes him a long time to get rid of the ball — an elongated release in the NFL's scouting vernacular. That constitutes a problem in this league.

That's not a knock on Tebow, the two national championships he won at Florida or his Heisman Trophy. Plenty of great college quarterbacks simply were not fit to play the position in the NFL. Charlie Ward won the Heisman

and a national title at Florida State, but opted to play in the NBA. Eric Crouch was a Heisman winner who first changed positions to enter the NFL and then changed his mind entirely, leaving the Rams.

In college, Tebow was an icon. In the NFL, he will be a project. At least that's what it looked like this past week. He struggled to handle a snap from under center during warm-ups, a big concern for quarterbacks coming from a spread offense. His agent said he's battling strep throat, and on Wednesday he was lackluster in 11-on-11 team drills.

But this isn't just any college football prospect trying to make his way into the league. This is one of the very best of the past 30 years.

Whether he will ever be even a passable NFL quarterback is a question. One that will be answered the next few months.

There's one thing that is certain, though: his box-office potential.

There's a certain NFL franchise in Jacksonville that could fix its attendance problems simply by picking Tebow.

Judging by the turnout at the Te-Bowl, plenty of people would show up just to watch him wear a headset for the Jaguars.

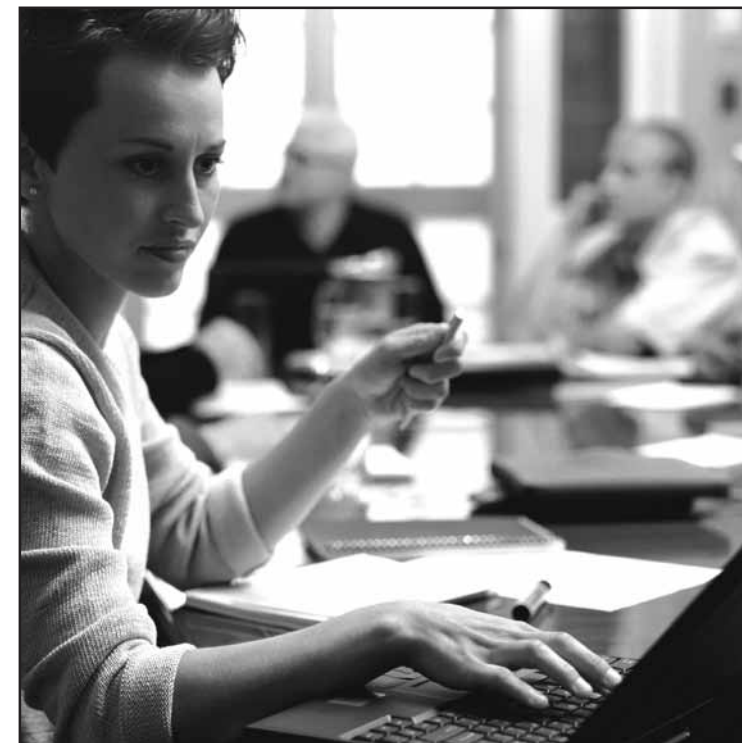
— MCT Campus



Gary W. Green, Orlando Sentinel/MCT Campus

Former Florida quarterback Tim Tebow throws during practice for the Senior Bowl's South team at Ladd-Peebles Stadium in Mobile, Alabama, on Jan. 28.

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Titans giving Orlando fans new sport to cheer for

By Wilnifred Santiago
wsantiago@valenciavoice.com

The National Lacrosse League has officially arrived in the Sunshine State.

The Orlando Titans dominated the game against the Rochester Knighthawks Friday night at the Amway Arena.

Jordan Hall scored four goals to lead the Titans and had one assist. He was followed by Casey Powell with three goals and an assist, but the player of the night was definitely Ryan Boyle with two goals and five assists.

The game was controlled by the Titans. The first goal was scored by Casey Powell with an assist by Ryan Boyle and the goalie Matt Vinc only 1:27 into the game. After that it was a flow of goals for the Titans; nearly the whole starting lineup scored a goal or had an assist in the first half of the game.

But the Knighthawks weren't going down without a fight. John Grant scored two goals and Shawn Williams scored one goal to put the Knighthawks back within striking distance.

In the end it wouldn't be enough



for the Knighthawks. In the fourth quarter the Titans scored four more goals to seal the game, three of those goals coming consecutively at the end of the fourth quarter unanswered.

The game ended with an Orlando Titans 13-8 victory over the Rochester Knighthawks.

"We live here in Orlando, so going to the games gives us something fun to do," said Anna Arfaras, a new fan of the Orlando Titans, who came with her friend Diana Stefanyszyn, who is also a new fan.

"Lacrosse is my new favorite

sport," said Stefanyszyn.

The fans seem to like the combination of the National Lacrosse League and the sunshine state, and so do the players.

Jarrett Park of the Orlando Titans stated that he loves it, that he loves the energy that there is for the sport of Lacrosse in Florida and that in New York there wasn't much of that.

The Orlando Titans are Florida's First Professional Lacrosse team. They were formerly the New York Titans. Their record now stands at 2-1 after the victory.

SPRING TRAINING

Spring training coming back to Florida

By Alex Barrett
abarrett@valenciavoice.com

It is that time of year again, the MLB is about to get underway in the Sunshine State.

Florida and Arizona are the two hot-spots for action as all the pro baseball teams are split between the states to find warmer weather to begin play at. Spring training is not new to Florida, Orlando in particular as the Atlanta Braves hold their spring training in Mickey Mouse's backyard, with the Houston Astros and Detroit Tigers not far away in the surrounding area. The defending champion New York Yankees also play in Tampa, a short drive for any fans looking to take in a game, or for the hardcore fans who are already plotting their lineups and scouting their teams' farm-league talent.

If you wish to attend any of these games, it is a great, cheap way to go out for an afternoon either with friends or family, and spring training probably boasts the best opportunity to meet and greet with normally untouchable stars in a relaxed environment.

A circular logo with 'SPRING TRAINING' at the top, '2009' in the center, and 'ARIZONA-FLORIDA' at the bottom. It has a red and white striped border.A yellow map of Florida with 16 numbered locations for spring training. The locations are: 1. Lake Buena Vista, 2. Fort Lauderdale, 3. Fort Myers, 4. Sarasota, 5. Lakeland, 6. Jupiter, 7. Kissimmee, 8. Lee County, 9. Port St. Lucie, 10. Tampa, 11. Clearwater, 12. Bradenton, 13. Jupiter, 14. St. Petersburg, 15. Dunedin, 16. Viera. A circular logo for the 'GRAPEFRUIT LEAGUE' is also present.

Feb. 25 - April 4

League began in 1914

Atlanta Braves	1	Lake Buena Vista
Baltimore Orioles	2	Fort Lauderdale
Boston Red Sox	3	Fort Myers
Cincinnati Reds	4	Sarasota
Detroit Tigers	5	Lakeland
Florida Marlins	6	Jupiter
Houston Astros	7	Kissimmee
Minnesota Twins	8	Lee County
New York Mets	9	Port St. Lucie
New York Yankees	10	Tampa
Philadelphia Phillies	11	Clearwater
Pittsburgh Pirates	12	Bradenton
St. Louis Cardinals	13	Jupiter
Tampa Bay Devil Rays	14	St. Petersburg
Toronto Blue Jays	15	Dunedin
Washington Nationals	16	Viera