

Get Into Reading  
picks ‘Winterdance’

By Roxy Smith  
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ORLANDO, Fla. — Funded completely by Student Development, Valencia Community College’s West Campus is the host of a program called “Get Into Reading.”

The focus of this program is exactly what it implies; to get students into reading.

“Not enough people read for pleasure,” said Regina Sequin, a librarian at the campus.

“Get Into Reading” has only been at Valencia for the last three semesters. “So far the program has been successful in its mission to get more students involved in reading for leisure,” said Sequin.

The West campus is the only campus that has this program and is also home to the Valencia book club, “The Round Table.”

“The Road,” by Cormac McCarthy, a Pulitzer Prize winning novel, was chosen last semester. “I think it’s awesome,” said Valencia sophomore Remena Ram referring to The Road. “It’s a really dark book but pretty enlightening at the end.”



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FEBRUARY 10, 2010  
VOLUME 8 • ISSUE 4  
VALENCIAVOICE.COM

# ValenciaVoice

Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

## ‘Who dat’ rejoicing? Saints fans

By Richard Fausset  
Los Angeles Times

NEW ORLEANS - The sound rose up and spread across the rooftops of the old city, a deep, guttural, Biblical sound \_ the sound of souls wailing by the thousands.

This time there would be no tragedy. These were the howls of victory, emanating from Bourbon Street.

New Orleans - for so long wearily burdened as a symbol of hard luck and misery - was erupting in pure joy. The Saints had won the Super Bowl, and the people had spilled into the streets to cheer away the bad times.

“I never thought it could happen - I got tingles!” said Talanda Chiqueta, 33, working her way through a seemingly endless throng of chanting souls. Chiqueta, of nearby Donaldsonville, La., said she had suffered along with the poor-performing Saints her entire life, and referred to her fandom almost as if it were an exotic chromosomal abnormality.

“Oh Lord,” she screamed over the din. “It’s been in the family forever.”

The South’s great party city and infamous den of iniquity has seen just about everything over the years - except for this celebration, which, in one of the en-



Tom Fox, Dallas Morning News / MCT Campus  
Drew Brees was named Super Bowl MVP.

during quirks of the city, has long been its great collective wish.

Bourbon Street, normally shunned by

locals, was packed wall to wall with them Sunday night. A tuba honked out the spine of timeworn Mardi Gras anthems. And the people burst, over and over again, into the grammatically loosey-goosey aural tattoo that the outside world, too, has learned in recent weeks: “Who dat say dey gonna beat dem Saints?”

Anticipation over the Super Bowl had built to bursting here. It seemed that everyone - from the saltiest line cook to the stuffiest Uptown lawyer - was decked out in black and gold, and people spoke of the Saints’ victory in strangely providential tones. One popular T-shirt called them “Destiny’s Team.”

The run-up to the Super Bowl gave an odd boosterish flavor to the weekend mayoral election, which ended with the winner, Lt. Gov. Mitch Landrieu, accepting victory to his supporters’ chants of “Who dat?” For days before the game, airwaves and Web sites were full of heartfelt laments for parents, aunts and uncles who had stuck with the team for so long but hadn’t lived to see this day.

“We’ll be watching the game tonight with Mom, and have Dad’s ashes in front

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## SGA gearing up for another election

By Shannon Scheidell  
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ORLANDO, Fla. — Positions for the Student Government Association will soon be up for grabs. By this time in November, votes will be rolling in for the future leaders of Valencia Community College.

“There are spots available for positions as the president, vice president, secretary, chief of staff, and treasurer,” said Edwin Harvey, the current student president of the Winter Park campus.

Several events and promotions are being scheduled in order to bring awareness of the SGA elections to the student body.

Student president of the West campus, Robert Stio, admits: “There are currently students who are getting nominations.” There are more students participating in the elections this year, than there were last term.

Every year, the SGA holds a holiday bash in the month of November, which usually takes place right before polls open up for new positions in the White House, as well as for the government of each individual state.

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# Cuba through their eyes

By Karen Raffaelo  
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ORLANDO, Fla. —A group of faculty members recently traveled to Cuba and documented their trip. Yolanda Gonzales, Eric Walmar, Kevin Mulholland and Areej Zufari are just a few who participated. The presentation included pictures of where they traveled and the people they met.

"Cubans aren't starving in the streets, but it's not enough," said Zufari. She also said that the Cubans are given twelve eggs, a cup of sugar, and one can of beans for a month.

Everything is rationed; from the laundry soap to the shampoo. The communist leaders use political propaganda by putting up billboards, controlling art, and using the education system as a political platform.

But Zufari said she still found art and music: "Music is something we carry with us in our heads, so we can transport it much easier."

All of the participants explained how much they loved being in Cuba: "It's extremely safe," said Zufari, "Maybe even safer than Orlando."

The police state might have scared most of the crime away or imprisoned them.

There are some people that are allowed to enter and exit Cuba.

**"Music is something we carry with us in our heads, so we can transport it much easier."**

For example, Puerto Rican singers travel to Cuba all the time and some Cuban-Americans are allowed in and out of Cuba.

A famous Cuban blogger, Yoani Sanchez, isn't allowed to leave, even when she won an award from Times.

The group contacted Sanchez through her blog, Generation Y.



Karen Raffaelo / Valencia Voice  
Areej Zufari traveled with a group to Cuba and documented their trip.

Most Cubans don't have internet access, because of expense. Zufari also explained the racism between the people in Cuba and the very homophobic society they have. She did point out that they are a very open society and push for feminism.

"This follows under the communist belief of we are all one, but you wonder if they feel such a brotherhood because they are all poor and suffering," said Zufari.

# Reading program reaches west

Continued from page 1

"The faculty members involved in the program decide on books and cast votes for which book will be read," said Sequin.

This semester students will be reading "Winterdance" by Gary Paulsen.

Eight faculty members participated in the program last semester with a total of about 900 students involved in the program.

"It is yet to be determined the total number of students involved in the program this se-

mester," said student development faculty member Pat Lee.

Typically the students who take advantage of the program are those currently enrolled in either English or journalism and mass communications courses, however being enrolled in either class is not necessary to be a part of the program.

Students participating in the program can go to book discussions and talk to other students and faculty members who are reading the book. Generally,

free food and drinks are provided for students who attend the meetings.

"120 students showed up for the first discussion last semester," said Sequin. "We had to move to the auditorium to make room for everyone."

Get Into Reading is open to all students who wish to participate. Students interested in reading "Winterdance" may stop by the student development office to pick up a free copy.

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# SGA planning to lobby state government

Continued from page 1

There was free miniature golf last year on the Osceola campus, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Raffle tickets were given away at the door, giving the students a chance to win a free vacation at the Gaylord Palms Resort. This package included a room for two, for two nights, and tickets to an “Ice” show. The prize was worth over \$600 total.

There was also a holiday dinner from 3 p.m. to 6 p.m., which included ham, turkey, mashed potatoes and more, for all who attended.

SGA does more than host fancy celebrations, though. The members also meet four times a year to discuss issues that affect both the school and the students, in the realm of finances, funds, and supplies.

The presidents of SGA are also taking a trip to Tallahassee, in April, to lobby a few bills and really analyze the candidates for the government of the United States. Valencia Community College even has its own personal lobbyist, Bill Mullowney, who may be attending.

“We want to look into each candidate and see if they have the same goals and ideals as we do,” said the student president of Osceola campus, Frank Velez.

The student government hosts two job fairs per semester, to enlighten the students as to what careers are booming or dying. “We’re going to touch upon each separate degree program,” said Velez, referring to next year.

Applications for candidacy have already gone out to each respective campus, as well as to the education board of Valencia. Students can obtain them from SGA advisers, as well.

Some parting words from the Osceola student president, regarding the students who are looking to be nominated:

“We’re looking at the ones who would like to step up and take our place, next year.”



Red Huber, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus  
**Space Shuttle Endeavour brought a bittersweet moment to the Space Coast, as the launch is one of the last five before the shuttle program ends.**

# Endeavor leaves Earth

By Robert Block and Mark K. Matthews  
The Orlando Sentinel

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Space shuttle Endeavour brought an early dawn to Kennedy Space Center on Monday, punching its way through cloudy skies to close the curtain on night-time shuttle launches and kick off the final year of liftoffs for the aging orbiter fleet.

Low cloud cover almost scrubbed the attempt for the second straight morning. But in the end Endeavour's picture-perfect launch, on time at 4:14 a.m. EST was greeted with cheers from the crowds that lined the roads from Titusville to Cocoa Beach to witness the last time a shuttle climbed into dark skies.

Only four shuttle flights now remain — all scheduled daytime launches — before NASA retires the orbiters.

The 13-day mission is the first of the final five, a long-anticipated fate realized last week when President Barack Obama released his 2011 budget ruling out any further orbiter flights and canceling Constellation, the planned successor to the shuttle.

The dramatic shakeup of NASA's human spaceflight program cast a pall over the preparations for Endeavour's launch, but NASA managers and astronauts did their best to ignore the distractions and focus on sending Endeavour to the space station on a major construction mission.

"OK Zambo, looks like the weather came together tonight, vehicle is in great shape, so it's time to go fly," shuttle launch director Mike Leinbach told shuttle commander George D. Zamka.

Zamka was joined by his crew: rookie pilot Terry Virts Jr. of the Air Force; mission specialists Nicholas Patrick, a British-born engineer, Robert Behnken, a former weapons designer, Stephen Robinson, a veteran of three shuttle missions, and Kathryn Hire, the first U.S. woman assigned to a military combat aircrew.

In a post-launch press briefing, NASA officials said

they saw foam break away from the external fuel tank soon after takeoff, but that their initial assessment determined that no "gross damage" was done. Falling foam that damaged space shuttle Columbia in 2003 led to its destruction.

The main goal of Endeavour's mission is to add a final compartment to the station. Named Tranquility, the module will provide astronauts additional room to work and a windowed dome, or cupola, that will afford them an unparalleled view outside. Currently there are but small portal windows on some compartments at the station.

"The cupola is going to change the quality of life for astronauts who live on station because it's going to give them a window on the world," NASA Administrator Charlie Bolden, a former astronaut, told space center workers on Friday.

"Just having the opportunity to float into something like the cupola and reinvigorate yourself is going to make an incredible difference to their quality of life."

Tranquility and its seven-pane bay window were constructed in Italy by Thales Alenia Space for NASA and are the last major components for the station. It will take three spacewalks to install the new additions. Once attached to the left side of the station's central Unity module, the station will be 90 percent complete.

The module will house life support equipment, exercise gear and a toilet. NASA originally planned to put Tranquility on the right side of the station, but engineers decided to move it to provide better visibility and more clearance for Soyuz spacecraft docking nearby.

While spacewalkers are busy attaching the new room, the rest of the crew will be working on replacing part of the station's water recycling system. The urine processor shut down recently when a blockage disabled the unit that converts waste into clean water for the station's six full-time residents.

—MCT Campus



OUR VOICE

# Lounge chases students away

Over the last semester, building four, on the west campus, received a remodeling and was remade into a new student lounge.

For a time, it filled that role honestly. That is until the beginning of this semester when rules were posted at each entrance and the new title of the student “study” lounge was given.

“We were having issues [...] students and faculty were complaining about the noise, it was primarily the gaming guys,” said Victor Collazo head of Student Development. “They were moving the furniture. They were sitting on it, we had three chairs [with] broken arms.”

The “gamers” are a group of students who spend their down time playing various card games with traditional playing card decks, and trading card games. The unofficial spokesman for the “gamers” is Michael Felucian. When they first had problems he went to see the Dean of Students on behalf of the group.

The Dean gave the “gamers” an ultimatum, one more complaint and no more card playing in the lounge.

“I didn’t see the rules coming, honestly,” said Felucian. “We went through the whole semester without security having to come in.”

Yet on the first day of the semester the rules were up and Felucian had one question “why?”

The student “study” lounge has now been designated an academic area; that means it falls under the same rules as

places like the library, which we already have one of those don’t we?

Teachers who have classes in the rooms adjoining the lounge appreciate the rules but admitted that they never had a problem with sound there.

Students in the lounge were concerned with the lengths that the school went to in displaying the rules. “The way that they put up the rules in front of the door was kinda immature,” said Felucian.

The rules have been printed on three signs approximately three feet high by two feet wide and were placed at the front, back, and side entrance to the lounge.

Scrolling through the rules, the fifth one pops out as the schools address to the “gamers” past misdoings.

Rule five reads: “Not engaging in card playing or other games. (This is not a clubhouse or game area and other locations can be arranged).”

## The New Student Lounge Rules

- 1 Moving cell phone conversations to the external patio areas
- 2 Using headphones to control audio reception and other distracting noises
- 3 Reducing personal and learning conversations to a low level
- 4 Limiting use of computers to 15 minutes
- 5 Not engaging in card playing or other games (this is not a clubhouse or game area and other locations can be arranged for these activity
- 6Not using speakers on computers or other devices that might generate noise
- 7Respecting the college’s disposal of waste and recycling protocols
- 8Replacing furnitutre to original location if moved
- 9Returning refernce materials to rack or appropriate location
- 10Generally respecting the need for a quiet, relaxing and learning-centered environment

The other area that can be arranged is the second floor of the cafeteria. A location already claimed by the displaced “gamers.”

If the “powers that be” at Valencia wanted a student lounge, it should have been made with the understanding that it would not be a calm quiet place to study. That is why we have a library.

It is undeniable that Valencia Community College is a commuter school and student life on campus is like bugs: hidden in the dark under rocks.

Yet that is not how we market ourselves as a school and that is not what a “switch to a four year institution” symbolizes for this school.

If you want life on your campus it can’t be at the volume of a whisper. It can’t only apply to some student and not others, and you can’t eliminate student life because of some bad seeds, because in every batch of fruit there is always a rotten apple.

The lounge should be returned to its initial purpose the “study” should be drop from it’s name.

Why? Because there are students who commute here, and school is their chance to be themselves. To unwind and shed whatever troubles they have outside of Valencia, and for those students the school should provide what they have nowhere else: a place to have fun.

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Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

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POLL

Toyoda responds to toyota recall

By Akio Toyoda, Special to The Washington Post

More than 70 years ago, Toyota entered the auto business based on a simple, but powerful, principle: that Toyota would build the highest-quality, safest and most reliable automobiles in the world. The company has always put the needs of our customers first and made the constant improvement of our vehicles a top priority. That is why 80 percent of all Toyotas sold in the United States over the past 20 years are still on the road today.

When consumers purchase a Toyota, they are not simply purchasing a car, truck or van. They are placing their trust in our company. The past few weeks, however, have made clear that Toyota has not lived up to the high standards we set for ourselves. More important, we have not lived up to the high standards you have come to expect from us. I am deeply disappointed by that and apologize. As the president of Toyota, I take personal responsibility. That is why I am personally leading the effort to restore trust in our word and in our products.

We are putting in place steps to do a better job within Toyota of sharing important quality and safety information across our global operations. This shortcoming contributed to the current situation. With respect to sticking accelerator pedals, we failed to connect the dots between problems in Europe and problems in the United States because the European situation related primarily to right-hand-drive vehicles.

You have my commitment that Toyota will revitalize the simple but powerful principle that has guided us for 50 years: Toyota will build the highest-quality, safest and most reliable automobiles in the world.

*Toyoda is president of Toyota Motor Co.*  
— MCT Campus

How is your confidence in Toyota?



I wouldn't buy one. I fear for my life too much.

—T.J. Mason



I'm completely confident in my Toyota. I still drive it. My whole family drives a Toyota.

—Jessie Brown



I'd still buy one. I still like them... even with the recall.

—Jerrica Hill



I'd buy a 91' Supra... I'll buy a nice old one but not a new one. BMW's are better.

—Aaron Durbeej



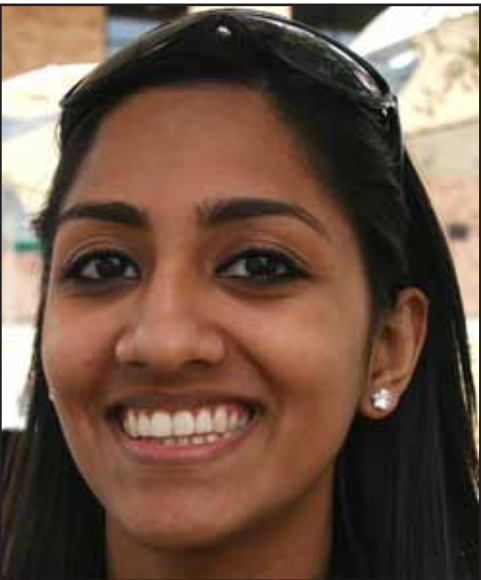
I'd still buy one. I have an 09' Toyota Camry named Sparkle! I've upgraded every year since 07'. I wouldn't give her up for the world!

—Mya Khan



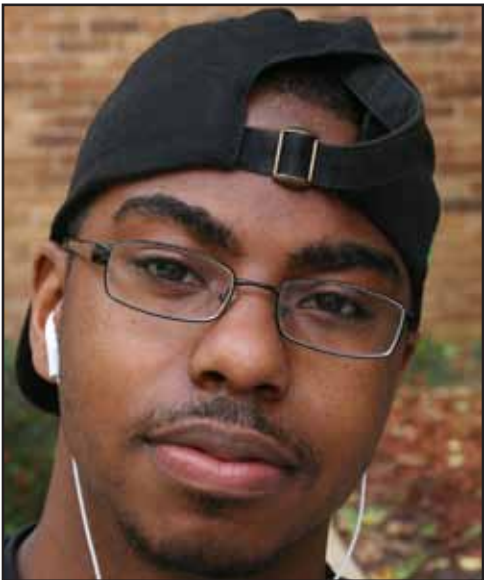
I have a 98' Toyota with 170k miles. I'm driving it and I'm gonna keep driving it.

—Travis Booth



I wouldn't buy one (Toyota) before and I wouldn't buy one now. I drive a Honda.

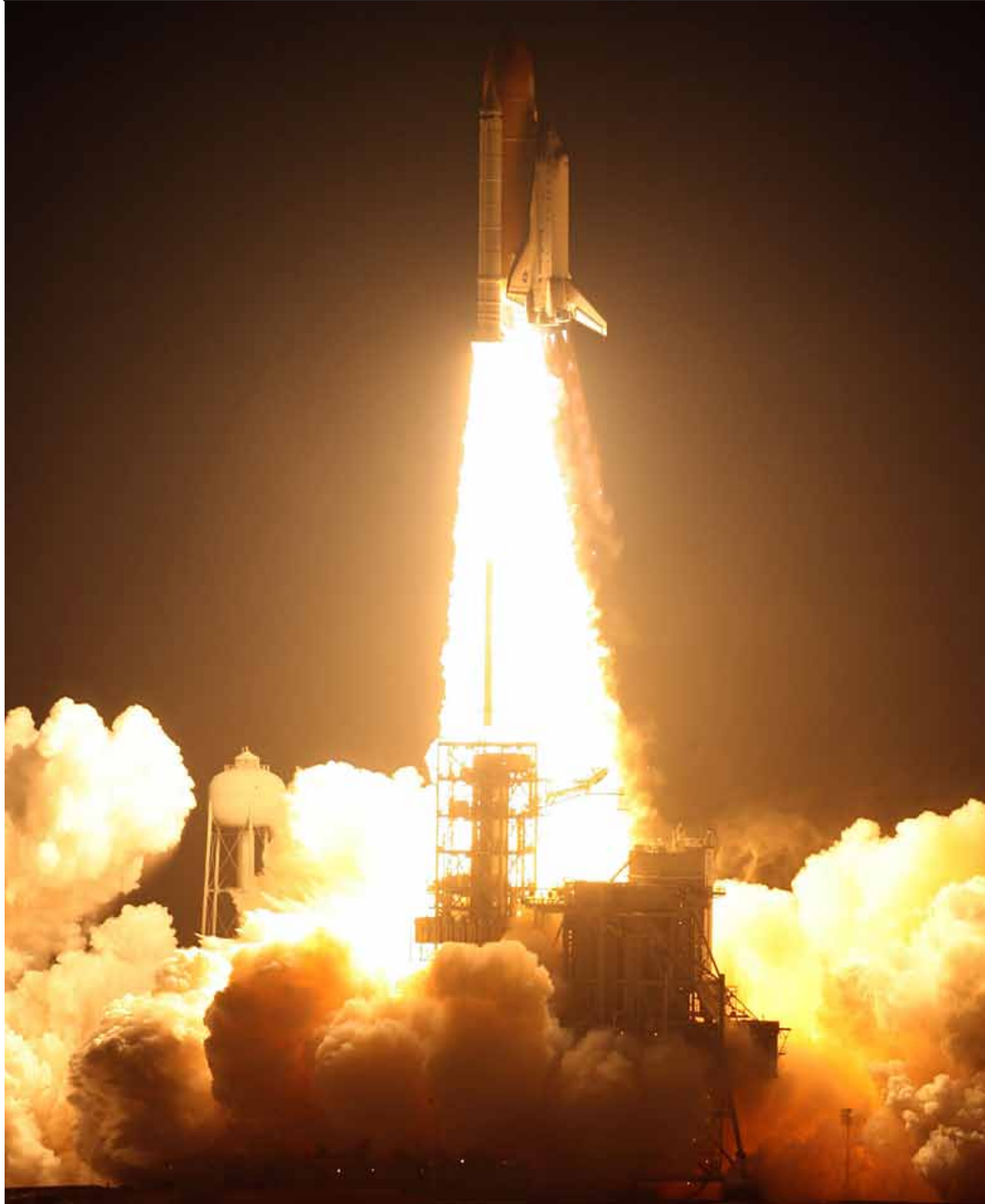
—Neela Ramnarine



Oh yeah. Of course, I'd still buy one.

—Tyler Blount





Red Huber: Orlando Sentinel / MCT

# Houston we have a problem

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

For decades now, America has been lost in space. Ever since the Apollo mission landed men on the moon in the 1960s, the nation has asked: OK, what's next?

The answers have failed to stir the imagination: A space shuttle that is little more than a glorified barge into low Earth orbit. An international space station that's been a white elephant for years. Another moon mission? Been there, done that. Mars? Not in this lifetime.

Last week, President Barack Obama, who has been compared to Mr. Spock, the flawlessly logical Vulcan of "Star Trek" fame, charted a different course. He scrapped the planned 2020 moon shot and told NASA to turn over rocket building to private companies that are more innovative and nimble than the sclerotic space agency.

The mission: Develop rockets to deliver space travelers to Mars and other planets and asteroids in the solar system in weeks rather than years.

Sounds ... well, logical.

Last October, a special independent panel advising Obama on space issues said that NASA picked the wrong destination with the wrong rocket for the 2020 moon shot. That's after four years and about \$9 billion spent on developing the Ares 1 rocket and an Orion capsule to carry astronauts.

In a fact sheet released with the 2011 White House budget proposal, the federal Office of Management and Budget said the rocket's development was "over budget, behind schedule, lacking in innovation due to a failure to invest in critical new technologies."

No wonder Obama wants to hand the rocket building off to private firms, operating with

NASA oversight.

He'll get a fight from members of Congress from states or districts with lots of space industry jobs. Alabama Republican Sen. Richard Shelby called the Obama budget a "death march for the future of U.S. human spaceflight."

Not exactly, senator. For one thing, even though NASA's mission is slated for downsizing, its budget isn't. Obama INCREASED NASA's \$18 billion-plus budget by \$6 billion over five years. Go figure.

And then there are all those jobs that will be created by private companies jockeying for a chunk of the rocket-building business.

In a blog on the Huffington Post, Peter Diamandis, chairman and CEO of the X Prize Foundation, called the shift from NASA bureaucracy to space entrepreneurs "brilliant." The foundation, you may recall, put up a \$10 million prize for the first private rocketeers to launch a small piloted craft to the threshold of space.

At the moment, Diamandis' foundation is dangling a \$25 million prize for entrepreneurs to land a rover on the moon that can travel at least 500 meters and send high-resolution video and other data to Earth.

"The U.S. government doesn't build your computers, nor do you fly aboard a U.S. government owned and operated airline," Diamandis wrote. "Private industry routinely takes technologies pioneered by the government and turns them into cheap, reliable and robust industries."

The stars are already in space entrepreneurs' eyes. They see money to be made in space tourism and industry. We hope they're right. It's time to let them take more of the risk — and reward — in finding out.

—MCT Campus



# 'Dear John' almost delivers

By Andrea Fuguet  
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Ladies get your tissues ready for the latest romance hit, "Dear John", based on the book by Nicholas Sparks. It's a very touching movie about two lovers and the issue of duty and patriotism.

What is more important, the duty to your country or the girl you love?

John Tyree played by Channing Tatum ("GI Joe: The Rise of Cobra") is an American soldier who, while on leave, meets Savannah Curtis (Amanda Seyfried: "Mean Girls"), a small town girl on spring break with a dream of helping children with autism.

The characters fall in love and trouble soon begins. They promise each other to write letters and keep in touch.

Throughout the entire movie one is involved in the life of two people who truly love each other and one can't help but wonder if such a thing actually exists.

"Dear John" raises the standard for male and female companionship for everybody, with characters so perfect and so in love that even I, by the end of the movie, was in love with John.



Amanda Seyfried and Channing Tatum star in "Dear John."

(MCT Campus)

Nicholas Sparks has been writing romance novels for as long as I have been around and he's the most romantic writer I have had the pleasure to read.

Once again in this beautiful movie he got was able to make me shed a few tears and think about my own love life (he does that a lot).

"Dear John" though can't compare to all time tear jerkers like "The Notebook" and "Message in a Bottle", since those movies are beyond romance and beauty.

The latest Nicholas Sparks book to make it into a movie

is a combination of romance, love, passion and the beauty of life. I definitely recommend it to all the couples out there and all the girls who want a little fantasy to feed on.

Don't forget your tissue box, a group of your best girlfriends, and big bowl of popcorn; you will be talking about how awesome John is after the movie is over, especially since John happens to be very easy on the eyes (that's a big plus).

Ladies enjoy your latest chick flick, it is a beautiful movie that was well done and will bring tears to your eyes right from the start.

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# Ali's foes remember on TV

By Luaine Lee  
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

PASADENA, Calif. — Though he was heavyweight champion of the world three times, Muhammad Ali's opponents were no wimps.

At last 10 bruisers who fought Ali tell their side of the story in the documentary "Facing Ali," airing Feb. 15 on Spike TV.

Charismatic, talkative and witty, Ali wasn't always viewed as the "butterfly" he claimed to be. "We didn't think it was funny at the time," says Larry Holmes, who beat Ali by a TKO in 1980. "But he said a lot of things to me, said a lot of things to Joe (Frazier) about Joe. And, you know, we didn't appreciate it. And we were there to fight and to win and we was trying not to get hurt while we was doing what we had to do. "Ali played a very important part in our lives," says Holmes, who's sporting a close-cropped haircut and a beige suit with a dark dress shirt.

"Without him, boxing probably wouldn't have been alive because he had the mouth. He can talk, and he makes people like him."

Ali had refused to serve in the military during the Vietnam War, citing religious reasons, and was forbidden to fight for four years.

That marked a turning point in

the boxer's life, says Derik Murray, executive producer of the documentary, at a press gathering here. "One of the things that our boxers have shared, is there was a real difference between when Ali took those four years off, when he was banned from boxing," says Murray.

"Prior to that, nobody touched him. From that moment on, when he came back after four years off, he started to take the beatings. He started to take the hits. And I think to Larry's points, he had to create a strategy so that he actually could change his way of fighting so that taking the hits was part of the process going forward for him in his battles. But it's a huge difference from that point forward."

Joe Frazier, who fought Ali three times, beating him in 1971, recalls, "We had three of the greatest fights in history. He won two, let's say on the record-wise, and I won one. But look at the whole situation now. Who is the real winner?"

Holmes seized the chance when he became sparring partner for both Ali and Frazier. "I took being a sparring partner and I turned it into something that's good for me. I wasn't just a sparring partner. I was a student and did learn. I was going to school, and they were teaching me what I could do to become champion, and I would act as if I were heavy-



Charles Bertram, Lexington Herald-Leader/MCT Campus  
**Muhammad Ali called himself the greatest, some of his opponents agree.**

weight champion of the world.

Holmes says Ali needed foes like him, Frazier and Ken Norton. "Because he talked up a good game, and we was all about fighting, but the talk he'd done was to get ... people of the world believing in what he was doing."

The ring is not for the faint-hearted, says Holmes. "Boxing is no game. You don't get into boxing to play a game. You get into boxing to fight, and you're fighting for your life, because everybody out there say they love you. They do after the fight's over and they're the winner. But boxing is hard, and Ali knew it. We all knew it, and we all took the chances that we take. So Ali, in my opinion, is still one of the great fighters of all time."

— MCT Campus

# Zombie lacks brains

By Jenny Stripling  
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Industrial-metal god Rob Zombie has broken in the new decade with "Hellbilly Deluxe 2" the follow up album to 1998's "Hellbilly Deluxe".

This new-age album attempts to keep up with current trends in music with its electronic sound and catchy choruses, all while sticking to the Zombie format.

Unfortunately "Hellbilly Deluxe 2" does not compare with

past album singles "Living dead girl" and "Dragula".

Those singles will go down in history, while "What?" and "Sick Bubblegum" (two singles off of "Hellbilly Deluxe 2") will only be remembered as 'What the heck was Zombie thinking?'

The guitar riffs given to fans by the infamous John 5 do save the album in a sense. First time listeners may find themselves rushing to research the lyrics to ensure they are not going mad, but that

they did indeed hear correctly.

During "What?" Zombie sounds like a grunting boar repeating "On and on" half a dozen times.

The single lacks any new flare, and after a while becomes stagnant in one's mind. "Sick Bubblegum" was a futile attempt to reproduce "Never gonna stop me."

Not that the fans will lose faith in Rob Zombie, but with such an unremarkable album, he better come out with some really bombastic material next time around.

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## Our Voice

# No 'Love' lost for Travolta's latest

By Marianella Zapata-Noriega  
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A disappointment from beginning to end; "From Paris With Love" fails to meet the expectations of Travolta fans everywhere. Directed by Pierre Morel (director of "Taken"), and written by Luc Besson, "From Paris With Love" became the movie that could have, but didn't.

From the title, to the script, to the car chase, like an avalanche, it just continued to get worse. What makes "From Paris With Love" unique from other bad action movies, is that it had a good plot. The problem was the execution; it was buried under layers of bad jokes, pointless cursing, and random scenes.

The movie starts with James Reece (Jonathan Rhys Meyer), the personal aide to the United States Ambassador in France, whose real dream is to be a secret agent.

When he is assigned to his first big job he thinks he is finally going to get what he wants. That is until he meets his partner. Charlie Wax (John Travolta).

An increasingly "trigger happy" character that does funny one-liner's, who calls his gun his wife, and loves a good royale with cheese.

In the beginning it seems as if their mission is to bring down a drug dealing organization in France, but they quickly discover that there is much more to the mission than they thought.

Again, a pretty decent plot that would have provided the stage for some great fight scenes and car chases and everything else that makes a good action film, while still giving the audience a solid story with a twist at the end.

Unfortunately the end product resulted in a movie that for the first half was a combination of random scenes one after the next, with a screenplay that screamed "trying too hard", and a chase scene that could only be described as an epic failure.



(Courtesy Columbia Pictures, MCT Campus)

John Travolta, seen here with Robin Williams in "Old Dogs" stars in "From Paris with Love" as a trigger happy secret agent.

## 'From Paris with Love' is breezy entertainment

By Rene Rodriguez  
McClatchy Newspapers

In the generic but breezily entertaining "From Paris with Love," John Travolta runs around sporting a bald head, a goatee, a hoop earring and an I-don't-give-a-damn disposition. Playing Charlie Wax, a U.S. special agent sent to Paris to thwart a terrorist attack.

Travolta is funny and limber and a genuine bad-ass \_ someone who gets a secret kick out of always being smarter than everyone else in the room.

This is Travolta's most enjoyable and energetic performance since "Pulp Fiction" and "Primary Colors," and he's a blast to watch.

Directed by Pierre Morel, who previously made two equally brisk movies ("District 13" and last year's "Taken"), "From Paris with Love" doesn't waste a second of its 92 minutes. A protege of French filmmaker Luc Besson (who produced the film), Morel has an unusually strong knack for pacing without assaulting you with his editing (ahem, Michael Bay). Morel is also shrewd at never slowing down his story with unnecessary exposition. Here, you learn everything you need to know along the way.

For example, the movie introduces James Reece (Jonathan Rhys-Meyers), an assistant to the U.S. ambassador who will become Wax's unwilling partner. At first, you figure Reece for a nebbish pencil pusher, until a scene in which he tries to plant a microphone under a desk with chewing gum that isn't sticky enough. Although he's resourceful, Reece is the mirror opposite of Wax \_ he's a man of words, not action \_ and their odd-couple pairing should have been tiresome and cliched.

But here, the mismatch leads to some inspired action, such as a scene in which the men ascend a spiral staircase lined with bad guys, Wax one floor ahead of Reece to clear the way, the latter horrified at the

stream of bloodied bodies his partner keeps flinging over the bannister.

"From Paris With Love" is also filled with bits of business that you'd never catch the good guys of American pictures doing. When the heroes hole up in a brothel to wait for the bad guys to arrive, Wax decides to pass the time by partaking of the services offered. For about a third of the movie, the pair runs around holding a large vase filled with cocaine. The drug is supposedly evidence, but they occasionally dip into it for an extra boost before walking into a gunfight.

Even the plot of "From Paris with Love," as simple as the film's brief running time implies, contains a couple of terrific twists, including one dinner scene that would horrify even the Food Network's unflappable Barefoot Contessa.

"From Paris with Love" isn't anything special, and it lacks the furious energy that Liam Neeson brought to "Taken." But the movie is a more-than-adequate time filler before the big films of spring start to arrive, and it proves there's plenty of life left in Travolta beyond crap such as "Wild Hogs" and "Old Dogs." He just needs the right director to get his spark going.

— MCT Campus



# Trickery and INT lead to NO win

Continued from page 1

of the TV," a fan by the name of "hurricat" posted on the Times-Picayune's Web site. "I ... wouldn't want to take away from the hard work of those incredible guys on the field and the sidelines, but I can't help thinking (that) the critical mass of saints in heaven (have) made a difference this year."

The celebration will probably continue for days: The city, hedging against a defeat, had planned a special parade for the team on Tuesday, win or lose. The following Tuesday is Mardi Gras. Bobby "the Cajun Cannon" Hebert, the former Saints quarterback and radio personality, has repeatedly predicted a party of Brazilian proportions.

Fans from around the Gulf Coast began clogging the French Quarter on Sunday afternoon in expectation of the pandemonium that would come with a victory. But first, much of New Orleans went to worship, dressed in Saints attire.

In storm-battered New Orleans East, they poured into a tiny storefront church by the name of Jesus Outreach Ministries and Fellowship. The boys wore long braids in the Deep South style and Drew Brees jer-

seys; the women wore T-shirts with fleur-de-lis jewelry and matching handkerchiefs.

"Oh, look at all that black and gold," said the Rev. Billy Zacharie Jr., his own Saints T-shirt peeking out from behind a well-tailored suit jacket. "We thank God for the earthly Saints and the heavenly saints, Amen?"

"Amen!" the people shouted.

"And with the help of the Lord we gonna be in that number victorious, Amen?"

"Amen!" they said.

Before Katrina, Zacharie's church was in the Ninth Ward. It flooded after the 2005 storm, so Zacharie relocated for awhile to his garage. More recently, his church has been in this flood-beaten stretch of New Orleans East, in a ramshackle strip mall with a gravel parking lot. Every week since early fall, church members have been singing, "When the Saints Go Marching In," and praying for their team.

Most of the 70 or so members had lived some version of the Katrina story. Zacharie spent the days after the storm in the festering, neglected Superdome. But today, there was a feeling that New Orleans, once written off as lost and unlivable, had been validated. The Saints were in the big show. This was an occasion for pride and joy.

"This season's been a blessing, man," said Gary Leigh, the bassist in the three-piece band. "Just an uplifting for the whole community."

The congregation met a few hours later, turning the pews toward the flat-screen TV that Zacharie brought from his den. The Saints trailed 10-6 at half-time, and it looked as if all that faith might have to absorb a defeat.

But by the fourth quarter, with the Saints leading, 24-17, the congregation sounded joyful, as if they'd like to take the field to help their team.

"This is it, defense!" the reverend yelled. "Suck it up!" And then, a little less loud: "I need my shoulder pads. I gotta get out there."

Moments later, the Saints' Tracy Porter, a defensive back from Port Allen, La., had intercepted Colts quarterback and New Orleans native Peyton Manning and run the ball into the end zone for another Saints touchdown.

There was a hollering and a hugging to rival Bourbon Street at the Jesus Outreach Ministries and Fellowship, and a final word from Zacharie:

"Thank you, Jesus!" he cried. "Hallelujah!"

— MCT Campus



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

UCF footballs head coach George O'Leary had a very successful recruiting class which landed him in the top 50%.

## O'Leary, UCF find signing day success

By Bryan Fox

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Head coach George O'Leary and his staff recently put the finishing touches on the 2010 football recruiting class.

This year-long process culminated on Feb. 3rd when student athletes signed their national letters of intent. While recruiting is far from an exact science, O'Leary has always been known as an expert recruiter.

His success continued this year when O'Leary reigned in one of the best classes in school history. According to Rivals.com, the Knights ranked 59th out of 119 in the Football Bowl Subdivision (formerly division 1A).

More importantly, UCF was third among Conference USA teams behind only Houston and Southern Miss.

The gem of the class is unquestionably 4-star wide receiver prospect Joshua Reese. Reese, a Miami native, spurned offers from the University of Florida, Florida State, Tennessee, and Nebraska to come to Orlando.

In a last minute shocker, mammoth offensive lineman Torrian Wilson (four stars) decommitted from Louisville and gave his pledge to the Knights.

Coach O'Leary continued his trend of staying local as the majority of these prospects hail from the Sunshine State.

To celebrate the end of this recruiting season a signing day party was held at the UCF arena where the UCF coaches unveiled their entire 2010 class.



# Risky decision pays off in the end

## Saints onside kick opens up path to Super Bowl victory

By Randy Covitz  
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — The Saints kept waiting for the right time to try it. Finally, at halftime, coach Sean Payton decided to pull the trigger.

Trailing Indianapolis 10-6 at halftime of Super Bowl XLIV on Sunday night, Payton didn't want to let the Colts start the second half with the ball.

So he ordered the onside kick. Kickoff specialist Thomas Morstead got the right bounce with his kick, and after it ricocheted off Indianapolis receiver Hank Baskett, New Orleans' Chris Reis was on the bottom of the pile with the ball at the Saints' 42. New Orleans went on to score a touchdown for a 13-10 lead and seized the momentum of the game won by the Saints, 31-17.

"We knew we were going to call it at some point," Payton said. "All week we had practiced that onside kick,

and at halftime I just told those guys we would do it. It was a good hit by Thomas. Our guys did a good job in showing a normal kickoff coverage look."

"You know you get a little nervous. There's a lot going on in the week of the Super Bowl, and the key was the kicker.

**"It was awesome. It bounced off someone, Chris Reis recovered it, and it squirted down his legs."**

"The guys recovered, and we were able to take advantage of it and get seven points, and then it becomes more like a turnover."

Morstead, also the Saints' rookie punter, dedicated the play to former Chiefs head coach Frank Gansz Jr., his special-teams coach at SMU who died last year.

"I was praying it would go 10 yards and back up the way it was supposed to," Morstead said. "I played soccer and can bend the ball a little bit. John Carney (former Saints kicker and now kicking consultant) said, 'Bend it like Beckham.'

"It was awesome. It bounced off someone, Chris Reis recovered it, and it squirted down his legs. I saw him recover it and tried peeling off some of the bodies on top of him."

The onside kick turned the game around.

"It was huge," said Indianapolis safety Melvin Bullitt. "As a special-teams captain, I feel like we didn't do what we were supposed to do. We always talk about the little things, and that was a little thing that was huge.

"If we would have got the ball right there, maybe on the 40-yard line going in, the game could have gone a totally different way. We would have been up by what, 14 points, almost 17 points, so that was a huge turning point in the game."

Bullitt said the Colts were caught off guard by the kick.

"They ... made a great call," Bullitt said. "It was gutsy, and it's the Super Bowl. What do you have to lose but this last game? You might as well go for it. And you see what happened? They got it. The defense didn't stop them. All the credit goes to them."

—MCT Campus



Robert Duyos, South Florida Sun-Sentinel / MCT Campus

New Orleans Saints Chris Reis falls on the football during an onside kick to start the second half as the New Orleans Saints faced the Indianapolis Colts.

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