



Shannon Scheidell, Valencia Voice

Condom trees for visitors.

'Get your sexy back'

By Shannon Scheidell
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ORLANDO, FL - The Peer Educators of Valencia Community College support safe sex. The students of the Winter Park campus came together Thursday, to bring awareness to the student body about the consequences unprotected sex may reap.

There were tables set up, laden with finger sandwiches and information packets. The girls even made a bouquet of roses out of unopened condom wrappers.

Some of the event goers held passionate beliefs on the uses of condoms and being careful with sexual partners, in general.

David Ives, a sophomore, said, "Sex is a very relative issue. It's better to show condoms and make them available, for health reasons, than to hide the fact altogether."

Having unprotected sex may lead to Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) in women, and all sorts of other dismal acronyms. Not to mention, unexpected pregnancy.

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ValenciaVoice

Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

Hip-Hop for Haiti hits campus

By Collin Dever
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This year the Valencia film program decided to use their yearly film festival to help those victims of the recent earthquake that struck Haiti. Organized by Ralph Clemente, program chair for film production technology, Hip Hop for Haiti took place Friday and Saturday night on the East campus with all the proceeds from Saturday going to Yele Haiti, an organization started by hip hop star Wyclef Jean.

The film festival premiered eight shorts created in the film class by the students, as well as two feature films that the students had the opportunity to work on, 'H2O Extreme' and 'Just Another Day,' a film directed by Peter Spierer about an up and coming hip hop artist.

Donald Phillips was a second second assistant director on 'Just Another Day.' The second second is the right hand man to the assistant director. Their job is to make sure the production runs smoothly by organizing the scenes and talent. With a cast full of hip hop art-



Shannon Scheidell / Valencia Voice

ists things didn't go as planned, on the set.

"We were filming in h2o church for the club scene the assistant directors laptops got stolen," said Phillips. "I went out to find Trick Daddy and I couldn't find him. Five minutes later he came back, both laptops in his hand." Depending on who you asked there are two

stories on how the laptops got recovered. One that the laptops were stored under some equipment to take later. The other is Trick Daddy got a gun out of his trunk and started getting quick answers.

One thing that makes the Valencia Film program so unique is this ability to work on

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Olympic Tragedy



Wally Skaltj/Los Angeles Times/MCT

Get the story on page 11

VCC volunteers tutor children

By Shaniece Dixon
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As many students here in Florida know, the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test, or what we know as the FCAT, are administered to students from grades 3 to 11, testing them on skills such as reading comprehension, writing, mathematics, and even science.

To help elementary students prepare for this statewide test, Valencia Volunteers East Campus has organized a tutoring event on campus. Tutoring services are open to all Orange County students from first grade to sixth grade, taking place in Building 5-112. Starting from Feb. 6, this will continue every Saturday until March 27 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m.

"Any student can help with the tutoring," said Lynn Lancashire, a teacher from Laurel Oaks Academy, who tutors students on the side, "if you have the heart and time to come in and help out."

Among the number of volunteers, many of them represented Valencia Future Edu-

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Valencia film festival raises money for relief



Shannon Scheidell / Valencia Voice

From left to right: Ibis Rodriguez, Donald Phillips, JJ Ramos, and Cait Snyder responded to the audience during a Q&A session after their films' premiere.



Shannon Scheidell / Valencia Voice

Lev Mergian Director of 'Searching' and Brian Larson Director of 'System Overload.'

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movie sets creating features destined for the silver

screen, and it is that hands on experience that sets Valencia apart. "The Valencia Film program is amazing," said Lev Mergian. "I got my bachelors from UCF and then came to Valencia afterwards because the film program here, I thought, was way better." Mergian also worked on 'Just Another Day' as well as writing and directing two of the film shorts. "Valencia is hands on. Your working with a crew [...] where as other schools are just teaching you theory."

"In the beginning I felt it was very important that these student have an opportunity to work on real film," said Clemente. "Film is team art everyone works together." Clemente

has been the head of the film program for the past 22 years and before that was a film professor at University of Miami. He built up hollywood contacts like Peter Spirer in the classroom as their teacher. Clemente is also a member of the Director's Guild of America. An craft union representing directors, assistant directors, and stage managers.

Saturday nights show raised approximately \$1,400 to donate to Yele Haiti along with two truckloads of clothing, food, and essential supplies for the survivors. The entire film program uniformly agreed that they should use their event as an opportunity to help our global neighbors. Clemente said, "When you visit the planet it comes with a price, and part of it is to look out for your brothers and sisters."

Kids get early FCAT help

Continued from page 1

cators, a group on campus for students interested in teaching. Though for some it was their first time, others were eager to help a second time around.

"We tutored 2nd graders with reading as well as math," said Alexis Lemay, a student from Boone High School.

Notifications were sent to all Orange County school principals and assistant principals, hoping to get the word out to parents who were concerned about their child's progress on FCAT materials. Many of these concerned parents accompanied their kids to last week's tutoring session. Pedro and Shirley Velazquez brought their son Neil, who's in the 3rd grade, in hope of getting him better prepared.

"I want him to be familiarized with the FCAT," said Shirley Velazquez, "He's so scared and I hope that he can feel comfortable with the test."

Many other elementary students also feel nervous about their results; especially since students could possibly be held back a grade if they don't meet the passing requirements.

"Sometimes I get really scared," said Micaela Buchanan, a fourth grader from Lawton Chiles Elementary, "Because if I don't pass I won't get to the next grade."

Other students have particular difficulties with certain concepts that make them apprehensive about taking the FCAT in the spring. At times, they'll not only face these difficulties on the test, but in the classroom as well.

"I need help with learning about volume, length, width, and area," said Dillon Perez, a fifth grader from Stone Lakes Elementary whose favorite subject is math.

Every session starts off with signing in the students and breaking them into groups according to their grade. It consists of a variety of activities, including Arts & Crafts. Last week, students created messages in a bottle to give to their parents for Valentine's Day.

For anyone interested in bringing in their child for tutoring sessions, no pre-registration is needed. For more information, go to Building 5-212 or contact Olivia Gonzalez.

Red Day raises awareness

By Roxy Smith
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National Wear Red Day is an event that was created to raise awareness about heart health and disease. According to the American Heart Association, the number one killer among women is heart disease.

Companies and organizations everywhere are spreading the word about cardiovascular health and heart disease. The day is celebrated nationally on Feb. 5, but the Heart Association touts that any day can be a red day.

The American Heart Association urges small and large companies, churches and other social organizations to participate in the wear red movement across the nation. To honor this event, Valencia Community College hosted its very own Red Day which was Feb. 11 on the West Campus.

"This is the first year Valencia has hosted a Wear Red Day," said Becca Shevlin, the Valencia Volunteer coordinator for the event. "So far it is a success."

During the event students were able to purchase snacks and Valentine's Day gifts

like teddy bears with their picture on it and other holiday mementoes for donations. 100 percent of the proceeds went to the American Heart Association.

The event was sponsored by Valencia Volunteers and Student Development. Students who attended were able to listen to music, enjoy a healthy heart grill out and have a chance to win free prizes and give-a-ways.

"This is such a wonderful event," said 21-year-old Zia Ansari. "I'm impressed that Valencia Volunteers would take a genuine interest in promoting heart health and awareness."

The red dress logo that the American Heart Association uses is meant to represent that heart disease isn't just a "man's disease." Heart disease can attack anyone.

"Every minute a woman dies of a heart attack or

stroke," said Shevlin.

The good news is that heart disease is often preventable with good health and exercise. All men and women have the responsibility and ability to make the right decisions about their heart health.

A healthier heart can lead to a longer and stronger life.

Ways to detect a heart attack

- Chest discomfort or discomfort in other areas of the upper body such as arms, back, neck, jaw or stomach
- Shortness of breath
- Dizziness or nausea
- Fatigue or weakness
- Breaking out in a cold sweat
- Aching, burning, tightness or squeezing



Karen Raffaelo, Valencia Voice

The female students stayed in their seats while the male suitors moved from date to date in hopes of finding love.

Finding romance in 3 minutes

By Angelis Barrios-Montalvo
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Valencia students got to search for their soulmates without ever leaving the SSB Patio.

On Feb. 11, in the looming shadow of Valentine's Day, Student Government hosted "A Timed Romance," a speed-dating event aimed at connecting West Campus students to one another.

There was one long table set up with chairs on each side, and two-sided cue cards with suggested

questions that the prospective young lovers could ask each other to break the ice.

According to Courtney Wilson, the SGA Press Secretary, the idea arose when a male student asked her "why don't you guys do something so we can meet more girls?"

A number of students said they attended the event for the opportunity to meet new people.

Nardo Baldwin, one of the participants enjoyed the event, "This should be done more often, with different takes on it," he said.

One of the most popular features was "foto-licious," where a student's picture was printed on edible paper and then wrapped around a white chocolate bar.

Students could also get their picture put on teddy bears to give to their Valentine.

A complaint that arose from students centered on what they believed to be a lack of advertising for the event, many students were unaware the event was taking place until they stumbled across it.



Shannon Scheidell / Valencia Voice

Students who attended the event received free goods and materials for protection.

Peer educators promote safe sex

Continued from page 1

"A lot of girls are uneducated. [They] disuse birth control. They think that's all they need," a student admitted.

The active ingredient that serves as a spermicide in birth control is nonoxynol-9. Although it is designed to serve as a barrier between the sperms' interaction with ovaries, it can't prevent bacteria from entering the body and wreaking havoc with the organ systems there.

The truth is, 90% of women infected with STDs, such as

gonorrhea and chlamydia, have little or no symptoms. But, if treated promptly, antibiotics can help combat these diseases from spreading throughout the body.

The Educators came up with the entire idea behind "Get Your Sexy Back" on their own. This is the first year that an event has been arranged to engage and encourage students to be aware of their decisions with sex.

Nikki Arnold, who was the head organizer, attributes most of her ideas for this event to the recent Bacchus conference

for Peer Educators. She and Sylvia Martinez, in charge of Student Development on campus, added a more Valentine's Day feel to the decorations and overall theme. The concept of the holiday mixed with all of its implications-relationship wise-seemed an appropriate approach, Arnold says.

Though, one freshman said he didn't attend the event necessarily for informational purposes:

"I like the candy that might be around," he said. "Free candy, that was the puller."

Etiquette master CHARMs VCC students

By Angelis Barrios-Montalvo
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Ryan Sexton the student services specialist who cohosted the C.H.A.R.M. School workshop on campus etiquette wants to help the students of Valencia master the art of courtesy.

Sexton is convinced that if students take time to learn those skills, that Valencia "will be a better place to learn at."

Armed with an easy to remember acronym, Sexton and Lauren Johnson, made a presentation on

Feb. 8 about the dos and don'ts of campus, both within a classroom and outside of one.

C.H.A.R.M stands for the key characteristics of proper campus etiquette: Communication, honesty, attentiveness, respect, and motivation.

"I learned a lot about communication skills and the workshop will help me to not procrastinate," said Seeta Basdeo, a student in attendance.

Johnson and Sexton believe the lesson will help students, not only becoming a great college student,

but also once they move on into the professional world.

"Some students are unaware of such things, by hearing an example of what not to do they might learn something they are doing that they weren't aware of before."

Students sometimes choose not to attend campus workshops because they believe them to be boring, but according to Carla Reyes, a student that attended, "it was not boring because the acronym made it easier to remember and the speaker made it interesting."

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OUR VOICE

Mayans, mooses and tea, oh my!

With all the wild predictions of what is to come in 2012, new theories are being debated all the time. Not focusing on the apocalyptic, but instead the political. A new movement that has been brewing in America's mixing kettle. Yes, with all the tea parties breaking out across the country in no time we will all be swimming, in Earl Grey.

The Tea party Movement, since it's inception, has been founded on the distrust Americans feels for its political and entrepreneurial elites. Republicans don't trust government influencing business, and democrats don't want business running wild. In the last two years we have seen the economy ran aground by the captains of industry, and the government forced to salvage and bale out the economy while stepping into the role of C.E.O.'s.

In 1912 the presidential elections ballot had three check boxes. A new progressive party unhappy with the pocket lining of the politicians was formed to end the business governmental affair. formed by Teddy Roosevelt history remembers it as the Bull Moose Party. Leaving us to wonder if Sarah Palin, who recently spoke at a tea party rally, is as strong as a Bull Moose, or perhaps only just a smart as one.

History's cyclical nature makes 2012 an easy call it will go just as it did 100 years before. Hoping to draw

support from both parties the bull moose party failed to gain enough of a following amongst the democrats. The result was Roosevelt split the republican ticket and democrat Woodrow Wilson strolled right into the white house.

The tea party movement draws too much from the republican base. Republican causes such as gun rights, anti-tax law, and militia organizers have all leached onto the tea party movement. Any sign of central leadership for the party have been republican affiliated names. Any candidate that runs under the tea party (party?) would only serve to handicap the republicans.

When it comes to American politics it's like walking into an ice cream store that only serves chocolate and vanilla. We all wish for more ideological variety in politics but the answer is not the tea party movement. A party can not stand on distrust alone. Distrust is a natural product of the human condition. We cannot rally against something inherent in all of us. Honesty is not a policy. Truthfulness is not a bill.

For a true third party to emerge it must be based on government and economic models not virtues. Hopefully we can see an emergence of a libertarian and populist parties bringing more progress to the current opposite immovable forces of American politics.



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Tea Party protester in downtown Orlando.

And for those who don't know their history, after the 1912 election the bull moose party fizzled out and disbanded. If the tea party ever gets organized enough to form a party

and run campaigns it will not be sustained and it will not grow. It's only a matter of time until someone pulls the plug on this party.

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POLL

Rising fees, declining returns

Rights fees for the Winter Olympics have steadily increased, while ad revenue has eroded.

■ Rights fees ■ Ad sales

1998 Nagano, Japan (CBS)



2002 Salt Lake City (NBC)



2006 Turin, Italy (NBC)



2010 Vancouver, Canada (NBC)



*Estimated

Source: International Olympic Committee, Kantar Media
Graphic: Los Angeles Times © 2010 MCT

Will you watch the Winter Olympics?



No, I didn't know they had winter Olympics
—April Joiner



Between work, school, and being a single dad I have no time.
—Fransisco Sotomayor



Nope... I have a SGA retreat
—Courtnee Wilson



Sure I'll catch some of it definitely curling
—Matthew Gamble



I probaly won't watch. I didn't know they had Winter Olympics.
—Phuk Huynh



I might watch freeskiing
—Melissa Bockius



No... I'm not into sports
—Raymond Angeles



Yeah if I can. I'll check out speedskating, snowboarding, and ice skating
—Jennifer Hurless

YOUR VOICE

What's love got to do with it?

By Roxy Smith
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February is the month when love is in the air, flowers are blooming, butterflies are flapping their wings for the first time and the birds are singing. Cupid is sitting on a cloud with a dirty diaper and canister full of love arrows.

These arrows can be considered as poison for the people living the single life. February is nothing but a month of dread for the lonely and depressed. February is the shortest month, but for the lonely it can feel like the longest.

Valentine's Day rears its ugly head into every department, convenience, quick stop, gas station and school way before the month of February even begins. Stores stock their shelves and prepare for the madness as boyfriends and husbands everywhere search for the perfect gifts.

Some may think that this made up holiday was just another creation from the candy company, like Halloween or just another way for stores to get rich off of our mindless spending habits.

Valentine's Day wasn't invented by the candy company; it was invented by a group of bitter old hags whose husbands left



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

them long ago. It was invented to remind the relationship challenged that they are single.

In high school this so called holiday was the absolute worst if you didn't have a boyfriend or girlfriend. Every class and ev-

ery hallway was filled with kids walking with balloons in one hand and flowers in the other.

If walking through the tiny narrow hallways wasn't already bad enough trying walking down the hallway on Valentine's Day.

Roaming the halls definitely wasn't the place to be for the claustrophobic or the easily annoyed.

Forget about learning anything because there were always too many interruptions during class. In every class the door would open at least five times and all the girls would be showered with gifts from secret admirers, friends and lovers.

Valentine's Day wasn't invented for guys; it was invented for girls to show each other up. It is when you get to brag about your boyfriend and all the great things he did for you without looking like an obsessed crazy person.

If a girl says she doesn't want anything for Valentine's Day, she is a liar. Girls always want things from their significant others. It doesn't have to be expensive and no one said you even had to spend any money, in this case a simple hand-made card will do.

I for one love Valentine's Day because it's an extra birthday or anniversary in the year. It's just another excuse to celebrate your love for one another and receive gifts. It is an excuse to eat cake and chocolates without feeling guilty for doing so.

To my single Valentines

By Josh Koehn
Newton (Iowa) Daily News

Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, reminded those of us who were fortunate enough to not spend money on someone we don't love, that loneliness is something to embrace during a recession.

For those of you who are in love -- with a person -- and spent yesterday with that love, Sergeant Pepper and his band and I would like to wish you the best. Now get lost. This article isn't for you or the object of your affection.

This article is for the people who persevered through V-Day like it was a three-hour rom-com.

No grand statements will be made here. This column is simply an opportunity to declare my appreciation for those who went solo on Couple's Day. I want each of you to know that you and I were not alone in being alone.

And now, like it or not, I'm making you my post-Valentine's Day valentine. Please, don't argue with me. We're good for each other.

If you didn't eat the sweet candy that accompanied Cupid's arrows yesterday, let a certain sense of calm come over you. I didn't eat any either. Let's cast dreamy looks at one another and scoff about how these candies give us gas. Our waistlines remain true.

Oh, my special, lonely little valentine, you might remind me that V-Day isn't about candy; it's about love, sharing that moment with someone you love, making sure they know you love them because sometimes life gets so crazy you forget to say it hurrying out the door or after an argument. To all of this, I say: shut up, my furry valentine.

They can have their commercial pitfall on an otherwise ordinary Sunday in the frost of February. If I only bothered to let you know how much I care on one out of 365 days, what kind of valentine would I be? Not the kind to write you a letter the very next day, I tell you this much.

Take solace, my silly little valentine, that V-Day lasts almost as long as most relationships. What we have is stronger than that, because we're realistic about where this is going.

I have nothing to give you but this note, letting you know you were on my mind. As the broke and humble and happy like to say, it's the thought that counts.

So, don't you worry, my 2010 valentine. With me and Sergeant Pepper here, the Lonely Hearts Club is all you need this year.

—MCT Campus

‘Shadow Tag’ is worth a read

By Jimmy Tater
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Louise Erdrich, an American author from Minnesota returns with novel 13: “Shadow Tag.” She is known for featuring characters in her novels who are distinctively of Native American descent and continues that inclination with a husband and wife, Gil and Irene, and their three children.

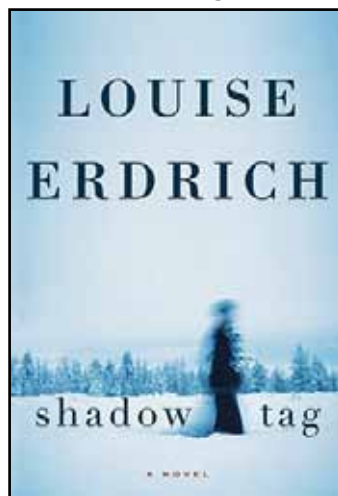
Gil is a painter made famous by the nude portraits of his wife, known in art circles as an America. Faced with an identity crisis about being a mother and the women recognized in the painting, Irene becomes increasingly unstable and keep two diaries.

One is factual and one is fictional, because she is paranoid that her husband, Gil, is reading her personal work and tries to manipulate him by suggesting, in writing, that he is not the father of all three of their children.

After Gil becomes abusive and strikes the eldest son, Irene decide to get a divorce, but she is an established alcoholic and it is more likely that Gil would get custody of the kids.

The theme of the battle of the sexes is used in the novel as several characters are involved in power struggles with someone of the opposite sex in the small family. Husband and Wife,

Gil and Irene try to manipulate each other in several way resulting in extreme measures, whether its Gil domestically abusing his wife or children, or Irene writing hurtful or falsified thoughts in a pri-



vate diary that she suspects Gil reads, in an attempt to manipulate him.

Even the children show power over their parent of the opposite sex. The only daughter, Riek, who is elementary school has resolved to take away her father’s power as head of the household after deciding that she has seen enough of the effects of his domestic abuse. Eventually, she puts her father to shame, accomplishing her goal.

Later, Florian the eldest son, who has a stark resemblance to a younger version of his father, shows some sway over his mother when she detects the smell of wine on his breath.

Although Gil and Irene have domestic issues, they find divorce is not the answer because they have synergy- one makes up for where the other fails in the marriage, whether that is alcoholism or domestic abuse.

This novel makes references to Ernest Hemingway’s short story “The Snows of Kilimanjaro.” When the youngest child, Stoney, is first being described he was noted to be an artist like his father and drew whatever he could.

This includes his brother’s secret tattoo of a snake eating itself, which is what Hemingway’s character, Harry, describes a snake to do if its back was broken, out of bitterness for its injury.

Later, when Gil is absent from their home she offers him a metaphorical “broth” in a diary entry, which is what Helen offers Harry tangibly in Hemingway’s story.

Both stories feature an artist losing their edge, unstable relationships, and a characters who is partial to alcohol beverages.

Erdrich uses these characters to show the difficulties people have in marriage and does well in explaining Gil’s fall as a great painter in the modern day.

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‘Big Daddy’ comeback for 2K’s Bioshock sequel

By James Austin
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It’s been almost two years since the world was introduced to Rapture, the dystopian city setting for the game Bioshock. After the immense success of this title, Irrational Games and 2K Games have been working hard on a sequel and the fans of this first person shooter have been eagerly awaiting its release.

The story of Bioshock 2 takes place about eight years after the events of the original game. But instead of playing a visitor, and victim, in Rapture you get to play as one of the predators, a Big Daddy. Not just any Big Daddy either, you play as project Delta, the first Big Daddy successfully paired with a Little

Sister. It is learned in the prologue that Eleanor is actually the daughter of Sophia Lamb, now the ruler of Rapture. At the end of the prologue Lamb forces Delta to kill himself and takes Eleanor away. The player wakes up as Delta 10 years later, revived by a Vita Chamber, and discover that Lamb has taken Eleanor and is holding her hostage. One must journey through Rapture to find her and set her free, and try to destroy Lamb along the way.

The game play of Bioshock 2 is very similar to the first version, and should be very familiar with some experience in first person shooter games. But because your not a normal human character you get to play with the power and brutality of a Big Daddy, and you still have the ability to use plasmids. Plasmids are used the

same way as in the first, and give special abilities like Telekinesis or Electricity attacks. The the rivet gun and drill become available, but you can pick up additional weapons along the way. The drill is a constant brute force weapon, used to bash and drill enemies and break through certain environments.

As a Big Daddy individual splicers, the common enemies you encounter, aren’t as imposing or challenging as they were in the first game, however, they’re barely seen on their own and can become overwhelming when they swarm the player if not careful. There are other Big Daddy’s in Rapture; they are slightly less intimidating, but they still provide enough of a challenge that a player should probably think twice before picking a fight with these behemoths. The Little Sisters they protect are once again very useful in this game, and because your a Big Daddy yourself they instantly trust you after their protector is dead. Just like the last game you can harvest the Little Sister for ADAM, the material used to make plasmids, or you can adopt her, letting her ride around on your back and lead you to bodies where she can harvest more ADAM.

As a Big Daddy there are very few real threats from individual opponents, and your even given some advantages over other Big Daddys. However the creators of Bioshock 2 have given you a new opponent to fear. The Little Sisters you saw in the first game have all grown up by now, and they are mad! These Big Sisters, as they are called, have been tasked with maintaining Raptures ecological balance and are controlled by Lamb. They are very effective plasmid users and have a long

needle mounted on their arm that’s used for melee attacks and extracting ADAM. These characters were designed with your trembling fear in mind. They tend to show up after you’ve harvested or rescued the last Little Sister in the level your at and will find you wherever you are in Rapture. You even get a warning when their coming so that you can prepare, get health, set traps, and generally gather yourself for the fight. The Big Sisters are significantly more powerful, faster and better equipped then the player’s. They like to jump around the environment and generally tend to flank. And if that didn’t make them hard enough to kill, they can even draw ADAM from passing splicers with their huge scary needle and heal themselves during the battle. Having such a powerful opponent wandering around gives one the true feeling of being hunted, and it makes for some very tense moments.

Bioshock 2 has a story based multi-player mode that takes place just before the events in Bioshock and allows the player to choose sides in the Rapture civil war. It includes variations of the traditional first person shooter multi player functions, such as capture the flag, and survival of the fittest.

Overall this is a very good game. It brought back all of the details that made the first game successful and added a few more tweaks. It’s deep storyline and great attention to detail does a lot to progress the adventure through Rapture and really involve the player in the history and environment of the city. Its multi player mode isn’t anything to scream about but it get’s the job done. Mostly it’s just a really fun way to experience the story.



MCT Campus

The use of heavy machine guns and plasmids are some of the crucial tools used to survive in the city of Rapture.

Cast can't save '44-Inch Chest'

By Steven Rea
The Philadelphia Inquirer

Like "Reservoir Dogs" with a Cockney bark – but without Quentin Tarantino's filmmaking chops – the British entry "44 Inch Chest" offers a tough-talking meditation on jealousy and marital betrayal. Its cast is stellar – Stephen Dillane, John Hurt, Ian McShane, Tom Wilkinson and, at the center of it all, a broke-down bad man, Ray Winstone.

But its script, from David Scinto and Louis Mellis, the cowriters of "Sexy Beast," is nothing more than a heavy rotation of expletives and redundant riffing. (The F-bomb is dropped 162 times, according to one count on the Web.) The whole thing feels like middle-period Mamet with English accents, and not much to say.

The premise: Winstone is Colin Diamond, a temperamental bloke who discovers his wife (Joanne Whalley), unhappy in her marriage, has been cheating on him. So what does he do? He assembles his mates, all of whom seem to have watched one too many British crime movies, and they abduct the loverboy, a Frenchman working in a London restaurant.

For most of "44 Inch Chest's" running time, then, Diamond and



Courtesy Image Entertainment

Ray Winstone and Tom Wilkinson join several heavyweights of the film world in the british gangster movie 44-inch chest.

his crew gnaw and jaw, twitch and cuss, circling the adulterer, and torturing him, as he sits trembling, a hood over his head, tied to a chair. And this takes place in a pretty much bare room, in an abandoned building, in an empty stretch of town.

Music video director Malcolm Venville whooshes the camera around, jump-cutting and flash-backing, but his hyperactive visuals really serve only to draw attention to, not away from, the flimsy, one-note aspect of the screenplay.

As the burly cuckold, Winstone blubbers and rages, and Hurt (with false teeth that amus-

ingly thwart his speechifying) and McShane, playing a cool gay gangster, are fun to watch. But ultimately, "44 Inch Chest" has very little on its mind.

P.S. – That said, Hurt does offer a wonderfully colorful synopsis of the Victor Mature-Hedy Lamarr togas-and-torment classic "Samson and Delilah," intercut with footage from Cecil B. DeMille's 1949 extravaganza. Can't remember what brings this cinema-appreciation moment on, but in the thick of all of "44 Inch Chest's" theatrical jabbering, the moment is, well, appreciated.

—MCT Campus

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Becoming a champion

By Wilnifred Santiago
wsantiago@valenciavoice.com

Whenever you think about an athlete, the first thought that comes to your mind is a body-builder, right?

Probably not, but that is the sport that Valencia Community College student Ed Sanguino practices.

He's been training as a weight lifter since he was 15, and he began competing when he was 19. Now in his 20's, he is an up and coming star in the sport.

In his first ever tournament, the 2009 NPC Southern USA Classic, he received first place in the teen division. According to Sanguino this competition gave him a big vote of confidence and motivated him for his next tournament, the NPC Mid Florida International on June 19.

But becoming a champion in this sport takes more than just pure skill. There is a lot of vigorous training and a diet that consists of eating low fat foods six to seven times a day. Sanguino trains five times a week, two-three hours a day, with exercises including a combination of function movements and weightlifting. His daily regimen starts at 6 a.m. and lasts



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

VCC student Ed Sanguino is training for greatness.

until 10 p.m. and includes taking numerous vitamins.

'Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishments.'

Sanguino trains at Gold's Gym located in Doctor Phillips with his personal trainer Jason Phillips.

Even though weightlifting comes with a great deal of discipline, Sanguino enjoys the sport.

He said that he chose this sport with the goal of trying to stand out from the average body, "It is a 24-hour sport that makes you

stand out body wise."

Sanguino's plan for body-building is to keep practicing it. He is going to compete in the middle weight class for his upcoming competition.

He stated that body building is a lifestyle and that once you are in it, you don't go back to your old customs.

He does however plan to keep studying to eventually become an attorney. His major is political science.

By practicing this sport Sanguino is a true believer that: "Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishments."

Luger's death leaves officials 'heartbroken'

By Michelle Kaufman
McClatchy Newspapers

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Nodar Kumaritashvili, a 21-year-old luger from the Republic of Georgia, died after a high-speed crash during his final training run, casting a pall over the start of the 2010 Winter Olympics.

Kumaritashvili was going 88 mph when his sled flew off the course after rounding the final corner of the Whistler Sliding Centre track, a course that some Olympians had complained was dangerously fast. He slammed his upper body on an unpadded metal pole and was knocked unconscious. Blood was pouring from his face, according to wire reports, and he was placed on a stretcher. Doctors were unable to revive him, and he died at a local hospital.

Olympic and Vancouver officials were nearly in tears as they discussed the tragedy hours before the Opening Ceremonies.

Kumaritashvili is the fourth Winter Olympian to die, and all the deaths happened during training runs.

"We are heartbroken beyond words," said John Furlong, CEO of the Vancouver organizing committee. "This athlete came to Canada with hopes and dreams that this would be a magnificent occasion in his life. I am told by members of his delegation that he was an incredibly spirited person. He came here to experience what being an Olympian was."

International Olympic Committee president Jacques Rogge was visibly shaken as he addressed the media. "Here you have a young athlete that lost his life in pursuing his passion. He had a dream to participate in the Olympic Games. He trained hard and he had this fatal accident. I have no words to say what we feel. The whole Olympic family is struck by this tragedy,

which clearly casts a shadow over these Games."

Asked if the track was too challenging for some Olympians, Rogge said: "This is not the time for that debate. This is a time of deep sorrow. That discussion will come in due time."

The International Luge Federation is conducting an investigation into the circumstances of the accident. Training was suspended, and officials want to make absolutely certain the course is safe for competition.

Josef Fendt, president of the ILF, said: "This is a terrible accident. This is the gravest thing that can happen in sport, and our thoughts and those of the luge family are naturally with those touched by this event."

The track is one of the fastest in the world, and more than a dozen Olympians had crashed during training this week. Armin Zoeggler of Italy, the 2002 and 2006 gold medalist, crashed Friday morning but was unhurt. Violeta Stramaturaru of Romania crashed on Thursday and was knocked unconscious but wasn't seriously injured.

Earlier in the week, U.S. luger Tony Benshoof said of the dangers of the sport: "The tracks are getting faster and faster. It's getting pretty crazy."

Hannah Campbell-Pegg, an Australian luger, went a step further. "I think they are pushing it a little too much," she told reporters after Thursday's training runs. "To what extent are we just little lemmings that they just throw down a track and we're crash-test dummies? I mean, this is our lives."

Georgia Minister of Culture and Sport Nikolos Rurua said the Georgian team will stay and compete in their teammate's memory.

"We decided to be loyal to the spirit of the Olympic Games," he said. "The athletes will dedicate their performances to their fallen comrade."

—MCT Campus

Florida teams make Olympic skating debut

By Michelle Kaufman
McClatchy Newspapers

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Jeremy Barrett forgave his girlfriend, Amanda Evora, for spending Valentine’s Day in the arms of a married man. In fact, he was beaming with pride when he saw her gaze into the man’s eyes as he held her close.

Barrett and Evora are U.S. Olympic pairs figure skaters from Bradenton, Fla., (yes, Florida), and though they have been dating for five years, they are competing against each other with other partners. Barrett, 25, is paired with 16-year-old Caydee Denney, and



Nuccio DiNuzzo, Chicago Tribune / MCT Campus
Caydee Denney and Jeremy Barrett perform during their short program Feb. 14.

Evora, 25, skates with 29-year-old Mark Ladwig, a married father.

They celebrated Valentine’s Day by performing their short programs at the Pacific Coliseum.

Evora and Ladwig had the better Sunday, delighting the pro-USA crowd with a near-flawless routine. They were grinning ear to ear

as their season-best score (57.86) popped onto the scoreboard.

They are in 10th place heading into the long program.

As for skating against her boyfriend, Evora smiled and said: “It’s just like every other day.”

Barrett and Denney also got a rousing reception from the crowd. They scored 53.26, and are in 14th place.

The two couples represent the Southwest Florida Figure Skating Club and train under coaches Jim Peterson, Alison Smith and Lyndon Johnston. Barrett is a native of Sarasota, Fla. Denney is a native of Ocala, Fla., and their partners moved to the area for skating. Peterson said he was proud of both couples.

The U.S. hasn’t won a pairs medal since Jill Watson and Peter Oppergard took bronze at the 1988 Olympics in Calgary.

— MCT Campus

Reasons to watch Winter Olympics

By Sam Donnellon
Philadelphia Daily News

PHILADELPHIA — Who cares about the Winter Olympics?

You do.

Oh, you might say you don’t today. You might say that you don’t care if Lindsey Vonn races or if Apolo Ohno breaks Eric Heiden’s career record of five Winter Olympic medals.

Well, maybe you feel that way now. But history and television packaging almost assures that you will. There will be something the next two weeks that pushes these Games in your living room, that captures your attention, that makes you shake your head in disgust or disbelief.

The Winter Olympics are about people as much as events. People (some of them anyway) as broke as you, or with a sad or inspiring story to tell.

Maybe both.

You didn’t pay much attention to U.S. skeleton competitor Jim Shea before the 2002 Salt Lake Olympics, but when he notched a gold medal two weeks after losing his father



George Bridges / MCT Campus
Apolo Ohno celebrates after winning a silver medal in the mens 1,500 M final on Feb. 13.

in a fatal auto crash, he was on the lips of every American worker the next day.

How about Vonn’s courageous run two days after crashing in Torino.

These events made their sports compelling in a way no athlete or marketing campaign could. Ohno has five medals, but the crashes he has been in have drawn interest and understanding to his sport.

Imagine that the Tonya Harding and Nancy Kerrigan incident before the ‘94 Games was nothing but a sinister Madison Avenue scheme. Could the results have been any better?

Yes, yes, these are the Olympics of the prefabricated as well, and Vonn is perhaps the

poster child. In two Olympics, she has yet to medal. Allison Baver, also in her third Olympics, is still seeking her first medal.

Yet they are athletes Olympic sponsor Procter & Gamble paid to promote its products before these Games, and for the obvious reasons. They ain’t bad to look at, or to be around.

If Vonn is shut out in Whistler, the alpine venue for the Vancouver Olympics, it won’t be due to a lack of trying or a lack of toughness.

No matter how pretty she looks in a Sports Illustrated bikini.

Ah, now you’re paying attention.

— MCT Campus



Nuccio DiNuzzo, Chicago Tribune / MCT Campus

Amanda Evora and Mark Ladwig did not medal in their event.