

Earthquake strikes Chile



Michael Chavez / MCT Campus

Toppled buildings, in Constitución, Chile.

By Chris Kraul
Los Angeles Times

BOGOTA, Colombia - One of the biggest earthquakes in recorded history rocked Chile on Saturday, killing more than 300 people, toppling buildings and freeways, and setting off sirens thousands of miles away as governments scrambled to protect coastal residents from the ensuing tsunami.

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet declared parts of the country "catastrophe zones" in the wake of the magnitude 8.8 quake, which was centered about 70 miles offshore from the port city of Concepcion.

With images of Haiti's devastation from an earthquake last month still fresh, the world woke up to new disaster and fears of another catastrophic toll. But the Chile quake's epicenter was relatively deep, at

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Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

Goal, Canada

Canadian team defeats USA in overtime to claim gold medal

By Jo-Ann Barnas
Detroit Free Press

VANCOUVER, British Columbia — Years from now, it will be remembered and revered like those aging black-and-white snapshots that capture a brilliant sliver of time from a bygone era.

A classic.

That's what it was.

It was the world's top two hockey powers and longtime rivals—the United States and Canada—ending regulation play dead-even, a 2-2 tie (with 32 shots apiece), after the first 60 minutes of the Olympic men's gold-medal final.

And then, wouldn't you know? It was Sidney Crosby—successor to Canadian hockey greats Steve Yzerman and Wayne Gretzky—who brought the gold medal home to Canada on Sunday with a magical goal that brought the Olympics to an electric close at Canada Hockey Place.

In the first gold-medal matchup between the two countries since Canada defeated the U.S. at the 2002 Salt Lake



Nuccio DiNuzzo, Chicago Tribune / MCT Campus

Team Canada rallied after their 5-3 defeat at the hands of Team USA in the preliminary round. They went undefeated from then on, outscoring their opponents 21-9 en route to their gold medal.

City Games, Crosby turned and beat Team USA goaltender Ryan Miller—who was superb all tournament - 7:40 into the extra period to give Canada a 3-2 victory.

After the medal ceremony, Mike Babcock, Canada's and the Red Wings' coach, was joined for a team photo by two members of Wings management who were instrumental in forming the

team: Yzerman, executive director of Team Canada, and Ken Holland, one of Yzerman's advisers.

Canada became the first nation since the 1980 U.S. Miracle on Ice team to win on home ice.

"It doesn't even feel real," Crosby said. "It feels like a dream."

— MCT Campus

SeaWorld trainer killed by orca



Julie Fletcher / MCT Campus

Continue to page 5 for full story

Alves feels his trial will vindicate him

By Nikki Namdar
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Marcelo Alves continues his participation in a home confinement program after judge Walter Komanski set a \$20,000 bond on Feb. 19 for the ex-Valencia Community college contractor, nearly a year after being incarcerated for his alleged attack on a 20-year-old girl.

"I'm just here [at my home]," said Alves, 39. "So far, so good. It was good because it was a chance to come home."

Alves' trial is planned for next month, but after a series of rescheduling, Alves said he feels doubtful on whether it will take place or not. Alves is unsure of his trial date, and his lawyer, Timothy A. Berry failed to return the Voice's call on the matter, and according to Alves, Berry hasn't returned his calls either.

"As far as I know," Alves began, "the last time I was in court, to get the bond, they said it would be next month but they didn't record a date."

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Disaster overwhelms the people of Chile

Continued from page 1

21.7 miles, and building codes are strict in a country that 50 years ago was struck by the biggest earthquake ever recorded: a magnitude 9.5.

Nonetheless, Bachelet said in an address to the nation Saturday night that 1 million buildings had been damaged.

And with television stations showing topsy-turvy structures, severed bridges and highways whose pavement looked as if it had been tilled by some giant farm machine, the death toll was expected to rise.

Concepcion resident Alberto Rozas said his building began to shake and he grabbed his daughter in terror amid shattering glass and an ungodly roar.

"It was awful," said Rozas, who lives next to a 15-story apartment building that was reduced to rubble. "The only thing I did right was throw clothes on the floor so my daughter and I could escape without ruining our feet. But we're still covered with cuts."

As a flurry of 30 aftershocks, some measuring greater than magnitude 6, continued to strike the region all day, Chile's Interior Ministry said tsunami surges reaching heights of 10 feet hit the nation's Juan Fernandez Islands, leaving three people dead and 13 missing.

Memories of the tsunami that was unleashed on Southeast Asia and around the Indian Ocean five years ago haunted govern-

ments across the Pacific on Saturday. In Hawaii, 100,000 people were evacuated to higher ground, and the U.S. Navy's Pacific Fleet sent four warships out to sea as a precaution against damage near shore at Pearl Harbor.

A series of small 3-foot tsunamis hit Hawaii's Big Island shortly after 1 p.m., churning up sediment but causing no apparent damage. Early Sunday, Japan's Meteorological Agency warned that a "major" tsunami of up to 10 feet could hit northern coastal areas.

The U.S. moved briskly to offer assistance to Chile. President Barack Obama spoke with Bachelet to offer condolences, praising the country's quick response and reiterating the United States' readiness to aid in rescue and recovery.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said she planned to visit the region Sunday.

Some observers, however, worried that international relief efforts could be stretched thin by the continuing response to the Haiti earthquake, which left more than 215,000 people dead and 1 million homeless.

In Chile, television images showed collapsed highway overpasses and buildings in southern Santiago, the capital, and in Concepcion, 300 miles to the south. Bachelet was reported to be headed to the region to inspect the damage.

President-elect Sebastian Pinera, who will take office in two weeks, told reporters that in addition to scores of deaths, the country had suffered serious damage to its infrastructure, including highways, airports and housing.

"This earthquake has delivered a tremendous blow to Chilean society," Pinera said, adding he would request emergency funds totaling 2 percent of the budget to help rebuild. "Our government will do everything for the recovery and to accelerate reconstruction."

Santiago's international airport will be closed at least through Monday, officials said. Although the runways are in good condition, the control tower and customs facilities suffered extensive damage, officials said.

Key structures in Santiago, including ministry buildings, suffered heavy damage, said Education Minister Monica Jimenez. Government employees will be asked to stay home Monday as officials assess structural safety, she said. Public schools that were to have reopened Monday after summer vacation are now scheduled to reopen March 8.

The quake, lasting 30 seconds or more, struck about 3:30 a.m. Saturday. Santiago residents, many of them in their pajamas, poured into the streets.

A chemical fire at a factory raged out of control and there was smoke in much of the city. Telephone and electricity were still out in one-third of the capital as of the afternoon and communication was problematic because of the collapse of several cell phone towers.

Santiago faces possible mass transit chaos, with the city's subway system closed indefinitely while the tracks are inspected.

Bachelet asked that drivers not use major thoroughfares because traffic lights weren't



Michael Chavez / MCT Campus

Chilean flag amid destruction.



Michael Chavez / MCT Campus

Residents in Constitucion, Chile sit amidst the rubble after the 8.8 earthquake hit.

working and many pedestrian bridges had collapsed.

Major damage was reported in Concepcion, the country's second-largest city and the one closest to the epicenter. Several fires due to gas leaks were reported. A multi-story building also collapsed.

The mayor of Concepcion, Jacqueline van Rysselberghe, described her city as "Dante-esque" in the aftermath of the quake, saying two bridges over the Biobio River had collapsed and others were damaged. She said officials still were not sure of the death toll.

The city is home to one of the largest universities in the South American nation, Universidad de Concepcion, a public school with a decidedly liberal student body. Its grounds are often the site of socialist and anarchist protests.

— MCT Campus

Alves: 'Everything is going to come to an end next month'

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Alves said he never requested a bond previously, but then decided to transfer it. "I don't see why he would deny the bond. It was good," Alves said, with a chuckle, as he expressed how he received the bond. "Knowing you are going home and to be close to your family is always good."

Alves will remain on house arrest until the trial hearing next month, which Alves said there's one of two outcomes that will come from it, either found innocent, which will make him "free," or guilty which will send him to prison. "Everything is going to come to an end next month," Alves yearned.

When Alves was placed on home confinement, he was also forced to forfeit his passport, which would have been his ticket back to his home in Brazil, but Alves said he has no plans on returning to his home country because "there's no reason to go anywhere else."

Alves says he hardly thinks of his future once he is released from jail because he is taking his life day by day, although he does plan to get a job or open

ing a business. "I need to go one step at a time," said Alves. "First, I need to concentrate all my energy to win the trial, after that, I will think of something. Right now there's so many things I need to take care of that I left behind, that on a daily basis I'm trying to start getting back."

Alves described his release as a "sign from God," to be enabled to fulfill his needs that were put on hold when he was incarcerated.

"What's going to help my case is me reading the Bible and being faithful to God," Alves said, "and He's the one who's gonna save me from that and He will."

"I need to win this case," Alves proclaimed. "We need to win this case."

It has been nearly a year since Alves' arrest, and in a previous interview with the Voice, Alves was declaring he was not guilty and stated he believes his innocence is found in the online conversations between himself and the alleged victim.

"I know we have this evidence," said Alves. "It took a while for the sheriff's office to give that information to my

lawyer. I know he got it; he got it the beginning of December. I know he got all the information he needs, but I don't know anything other than that."

Alves said he hasn't spoken to Berry in over two weeks, and barely does, stating that in jail, "you lose contact with the world."

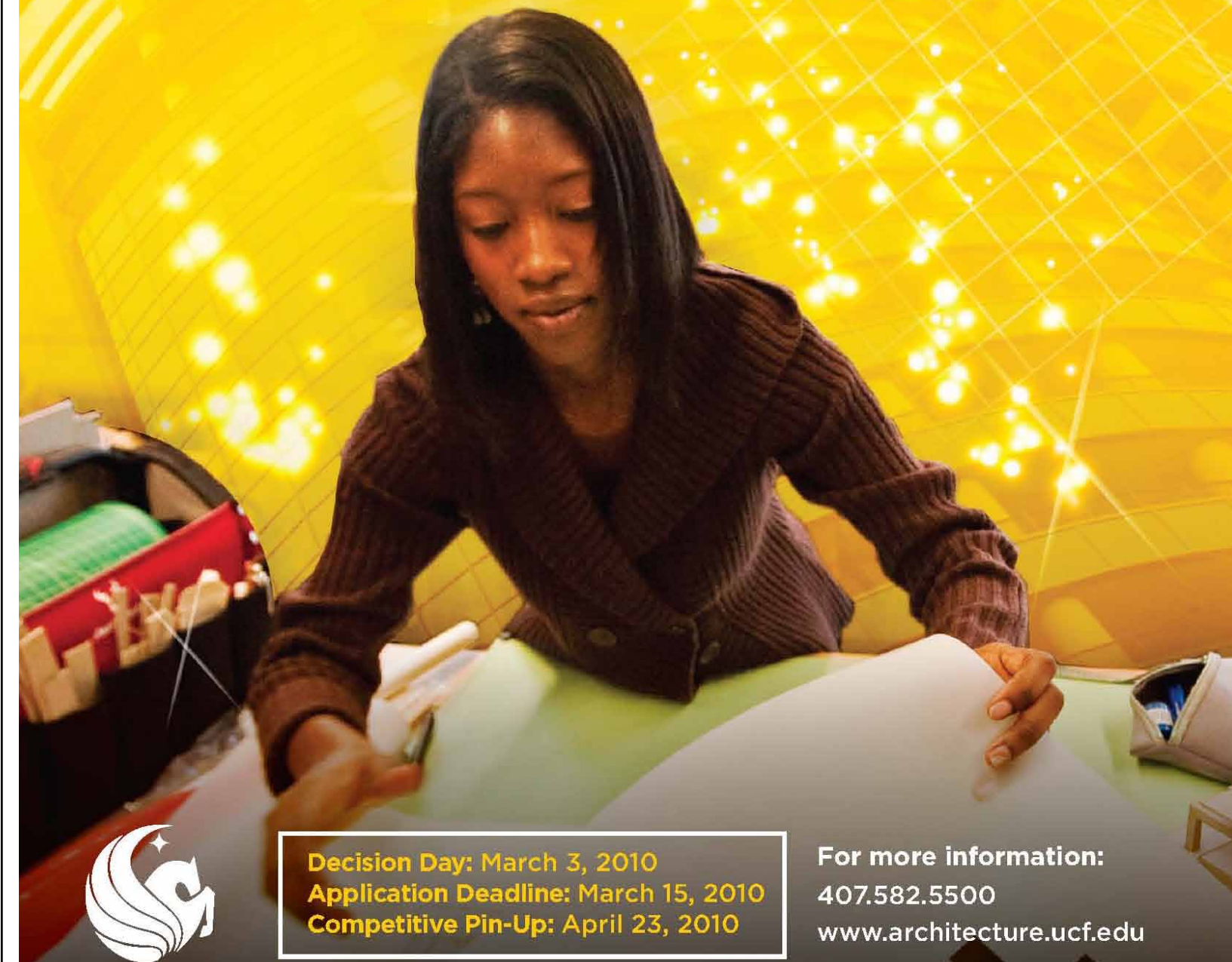
"[Jail] is not the best place on earth," Alves said. "But I was blessed because I was able to go to this program inside the jail, inside the Christian dorm and I really had a good experience, a good time with God . . . It's been a blast. I mean I learned so much. I gave my heart to Jesus, now I'm gonna live for him."

His children, Daniel, 11, and Julia, 10, visit Alves at least once a day, which Alves describes as "a blessing," but stated he no longer speaks to his now ex-wife, Ana Regina Myrrha, 48. "I have two kids," said Alves, "I need to think about them with my life as well."

Alves still resides in the same home he lived in before he was arrested, only this time with an anonymous friend. He says according to Berry, the 20-year-old Alves made arrangements with is currently still in Las Vegas.

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A 'Blakk Affair' to remember

By Omshante Lee
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The Blakk Affair was an affair to remember as students from all campuses gathered in a celebration of fashion and black history on Friday February 27th. Held at the East campus' performing arts center and sponsored by the African American Culture Society or A2CS, the diverse compilation of runway, music and dance provided a unique variety of entertainment just as the month dedicated to African American History came to an end.

"Every black history month, the students come up with their own idea," says advisor Vertrilla Hunt. "It's the students' show." With guidance from Hunt and stylish garments provided by local designers, James Thomas and the remaining student members of A2CS had the perfect components for a successful show.

"James was the chair," Hunt said. "He put it all together because he wanted a runway fashion show with other entertainment in between."

Featuring performances by rap group Paperboiz and dancer Jhonnie Alexandria Greene, the club members achieved their goal keeping the audience at the edge of their seats the entire night. "I thought it was cool," said Brad Markowitz.

"They were definitely working the outfits for sure. It was really entertaining," Markowitz is a University of Central Florida (UCF) communications major.

Apart from simply enjoying the show, the audience mainly comprised of Valencia and UCF students had a deeper connection to the looks going down the runway. "All 13 models were either Valencia or UCF students," said president of A2CS, Lakendra Williams. She admits that planning the event was challenging but said that "once we opened more to the student body, it started to run smoothly."

A2CS did not have to look far to find the talent necessary for the show. "I've done hair shows, shows at my high school, step, dance and modeling shows," said Zaundra Gillum, a model in the show. "You're always nervous no matter who you are. You get butterflies in your stomach, but it's all excitement."

Not only did A2CS work with student models, but also student designers. In addition to local boutiques, Dechoes and Etoile, the fashion show featured the clothing line, Ehrow. Created by designer and West Campus student Eli Louis, Ehrow delivers a positive message and was a favorite in the show.

As if music performances, dance numbers and original fashion were not enough, the members of



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

The models and designers at the 'Blakk Affair' fashion show on the East Campus were either VCC or UCF students.

the African American Culture society added one more component that allowed the audience to get involved. "We asked trivia related to black models, and historical figures, and gave away prizes to the audience members," said Hunt.

The Blakk Affair was not just about glitz and glamour alone. It was an exciting experience that provided entertainment, as well as a lesson in black history. Students can look forward to another A2CS show composed of fashion and comedy sometime in March. For more information on Ehrow clothing please visit www.ehrow.com.

Peer Educators show a little love

By Roxy Smith
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"With a warm hug you can make someone's day a little brighter." That was the motto that Peer Educators on Valencia's West Campus were striving for Feb. 23 during their "Free Hugs" event.

Roxanne Cobben is a senior staff member for west campus peer educators and is one of six peer educators on the west campus. Cobben who has been active member of the program for two and a half years wore her blue 'free hugs' shirt with open arms in hopes to bring the campus closer together.

"The west campus participated in a free hug day a few semesters ago and had a good turnout," said Cobben. "Sometimes you give a person a hug and they say thank you," Cobben added.

Students, staff and faculty were all encouraged to participate in the non-threatening campus-wide function. Free shirts were given to the first 50 who signed up for the event. In total 80 students signed up to volunteer during the event not including the six members of peer educators who participated.

The event lasted from 11:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Volunteers formed groups and went out during selected

time blocks throughout the day offering free hugs to anyone who wanted one.

"When people see our shirts, they come up to us and give us a hug," said 20 year old Rodney Thompson, a member of peer educators. "I have given out a lot of hugs," said Thompson.

Thompson emphasized the importance of not forcing a hug onto anyone. "Hugs were not given unless the person wanted one," said Thompson.

"I think free hugs is great," said Denise Elmore, 25, "I wanted to participate in the event, but peer educators ran out of shirts," said Elmore. "This event really boosts morale around campus, 'Free hugs' makes you stop and recognize other people," said Elmore.

Peer educators focus on activities that help students make better decisions by promoting many different campus activities, that teach students how to make healthier and smarter choices. The next event the peer educators will be hosting is safe spring break week, which will take place during the first week of March.



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Valencia Peer Educators spread love with free hugs on West Campus.

Orca kills trainer at SeaWorld

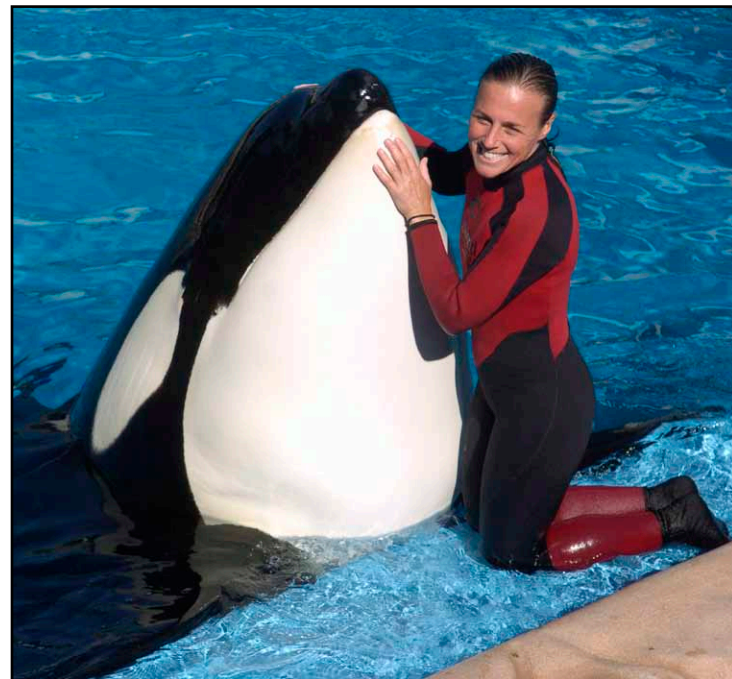
By Jason Garcia, Bianca Prieto,
Susan Jacobson and Amy L. Edwards
The Orlando Sentinel

ORLANDO, Fla. – A SeaWorld Orlando animal trainer was killed Wednesday afternoon during an accident at SeaWorld's Shamu Stadium, park and law enforcement officials said.

Law-enforcement sources said the victim was Dawn Brancheau, a 40-year-old with extensive training experience.

Park authorities said a trainer was in a whale holding area when she apparently slipped or fell into the tank and was fatally injured by one of the park's killer whales.

Authorities provided few immediate details, but two witnesses told The Orlando Sentinel that one of the park's whales had the woman by the upper arm, tossing her around in its mouth as it swam rapidly around and around in the tank.



Julie Fletcher, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus

Dawn Brancheau a whale trainer at SeaWorld Adventure Park, shown in a file photo performing with a killer whale.

Brazilian tourist Joao Lucio DeCosta Sobrinho, 28, and girlfriend Talita Oliveira, 20, were at an underwater viewing area when they suddenly saw a whale with someone in its mouth.

The couple said they watched the whale show at the park two days earlier and came back to take pictures. But Wednesday afternoon the whales appeared agitated before the incident occurred.

"It was terrible. It's very difficult to see the image," Sobrinho said.

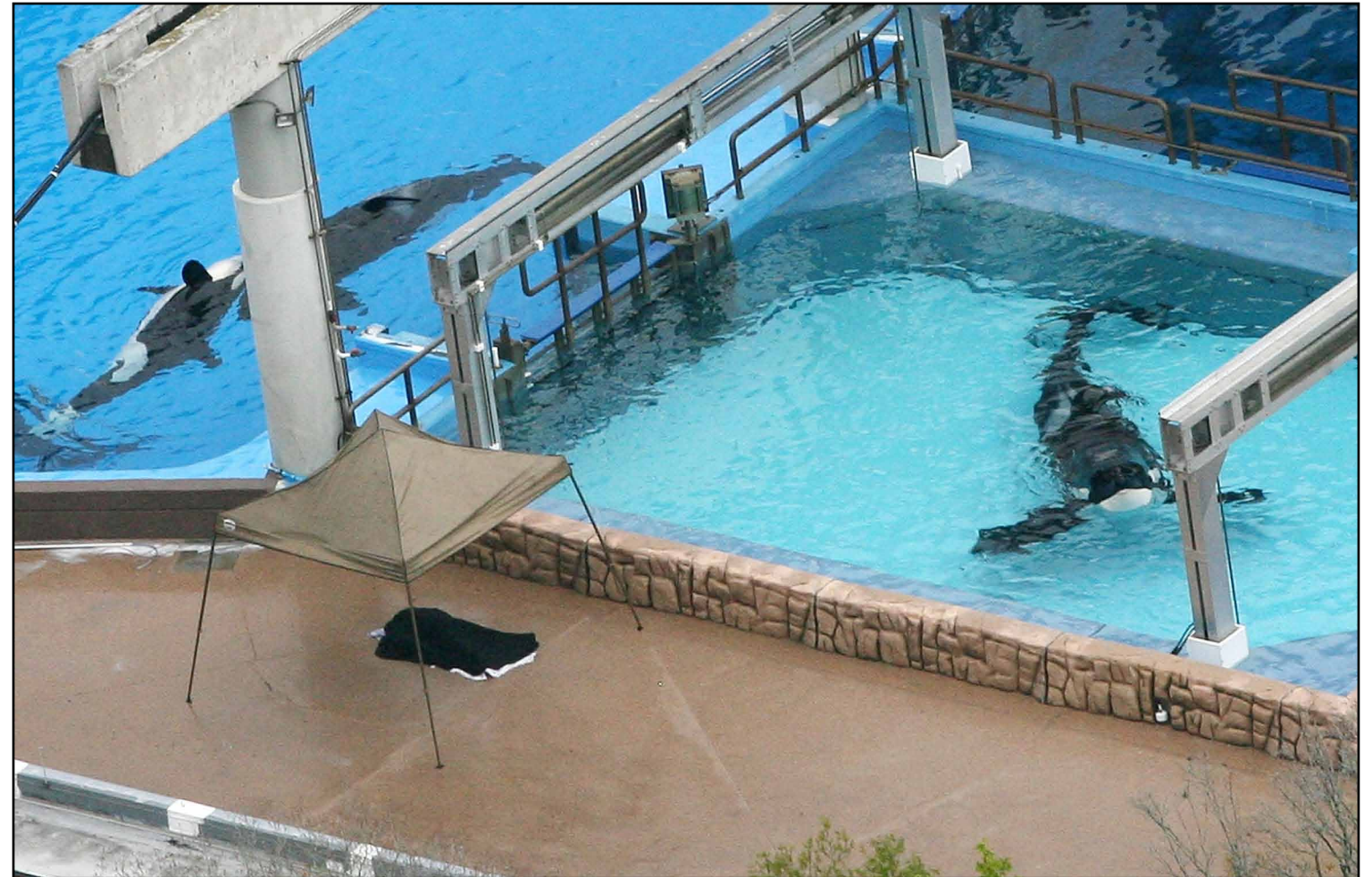
The woman was bleeding from the face or mouth, they said, and the whale turned her over and over as it swam.

Other eyewitnesses who were in the park for the Dining with Shamu program, which features a private buffet next to the killer whale habitat, told the Sentinel that a female trainer was petting a whale when it grabbed her and plunged back into the water with her. The whale reappeared on the other side of the tank.

"It is with great sadness that I report that one of our most experienced animal trainers drowned in an incident with one of our killer whales this afternoon," SeaWorld President Dan Brown said in a brief statement to reporters. "We've initiated an investigation to determine, to the extent possible, what occurred."

Brown said no SeaWorld park had ever before experienced a similar incident and pledged a thorough review of all of the park's standard operating procedures.

"This is an extraordinarily difficult time for the SeaWorld parks and our team members. Nothing is more important than the safety of our employees, guests and the animals entrusted to our care," Brown said, his voice breaking slightly. "We extend our deepest sympathies to the family and friends of the trainer and will do everything possible to assist them in this difficult time."



Red Huber, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus

In this aerial view, Feb. 24, 2010, at SeaWorld, the body of whale trainer Dawn Brancheau lies under a black tarp. A killer whale grabbed and dragged her underwater, killing her.

Orange County Fire Rescue personnel arrived on scene within five minutes of receiving a 911 call for an unknown medical condition just prior to 2 p.m. EST, a spokesman said. The woman was dead when rescue crew arrived.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration dispatched an investigator from Tampa, Fla., to investigate, an OSHA spokesman said.

The whale that is used primarily for the Dining with Shamu program is named Tillikum, and that whale has been involved in at least one other incident at the park.

Tillikum, nicknamed "Tilly," has a controversial past. The large whale was blamed for the drowning of one of his trainers in 1991 while he was performing at Sealand of the Pacific in British Columbia.

Sold to SeaWorld as a stud in 1992, the whale was involved in a second incident when authorities discovered the body of a naked man lying across his back in July 1999.

Authorities later concluded the man, who had either snuck into SeaWorld after hours or hidden in the park until it closed, most likely drowned after suffering hypothermia in the 55-degree water.

But they also said it appeared Tillikum had bit the man and tore off his swimming trunks, likely believing he was a toy to play with.

A former contractor with SeaWorld told the Sentinel that Tillikum is typically kept isolated from SeaWorld's other killer whales and that trainers were not allowed to get in the water with him because of his violent history.

— MCT Campus

‘Get Into Reading’ hosts second talk about ‘Winterdance’

By Roxy Smith
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Karen Cowden is a reading professor at Valencia Community College and delegates the Winterdance book discussion groups.

Valencia’s West Campus had its second book discussion for the semester on Feb. 28, which lasted about an hour. The discussion had about 15 students, not including online students who attended through the internet and four faculty members.

Cowden was the professor in charge of selecting the book, which is the book being read for Valencia’s “Get Into Reading” program and “The Round Table,” Valencia’s literary club.

“I love this book,” said Cowden, who has visited Alaska, although not in the part where the book takes place.

Gary Paulsen the author of Winterdance generally writes for children. Cowden was reviewing children’s books when she came across the book.

Students who attended the discussion received free food and are going to be in charge of designing a shirt for the book.

During the discussion, students were immersed in terminology from the book and shared thoughts about what it takes to be a musher in the Iditarod. Students also made lists of what the Iditarod means to them and watched videos from people who have participated in the Iditarod.



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Students discussed “Winterdance” and were put into groups to design a shirt for the book.

Students go through rough times and Cowden made it easy for students to compare the book to their own lives.

“I enjoyed that I was able to relate to the book more because of the discussion,” said Angelis Barrios-Montalvo, who participated in the event for a class.

Mushers have already left Anchorage, the starting point for the Iditarod which officially began this past week.

The Iditarod is more than just a race to people who live in Alaska, it’s a way of life. For more information on the official race or the Iditarod itself visit www.iditarod.com.

VCC celebrates soul food

By Shannon Scheidell
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The Soul Food Festival on the West campus with Janet Bryan as the primary hostess.

The festival took place Thursday, under the overhanging roof of the side of the SSB building and spread to the picnic area beyond. Students gathered around to wait in line for a heaping plate of African American delicacies, while Martin Luther King’s “I Have a Dream,” speech played in the background.

This was the 16th annual Soul Food Festival and the third year being run with the help of student volunteer and all-around community representative, Janet Bryan. John Stover is the advisor to African American Cultural Society and Black High Achievers. He organized the festival from the ground up, with the help of Bryan.

“Some of the other festivities that we do help students understand more about our culture,” said Stover.

The festival is named after Bryan, who has been a very community oriented student and volunteer for Valencia for the last three years.

“I believe in giving back to the community. Someone gave me

this, so I wanted to give back,” said Bryan.

Beverly Stanisclaus is a full time student at Valencia. She decided to stop by and grab some food after her classes were finished for the day. Acaie and saw fish is her favorite soul food. She was excited to try the DSM Catering version of the dish. “I think I see it up there, already,” she said.

While students waited in line to pick up food, they talked among themselves and read a brief snapshot of the history of the contributions that African American leaders gave to America. There was a framed poster

of Martin Luther King, Jr. and Malcolm X shaking hands on the right and African artifacts to the left of milling students.

“We have a lot of displays and we hand out scholarship information, which also helps,” said Stover.

A few tables held decorations, showcasing original artifacts from Kenya, Africa. There were fur-lined drums, wooden statues, pewter dinnerware, and even miniature clay models of cultural icons.

The free food was provided by a company called DSM Catering, suggested by the Black History Class, on campus.



The African American Culture Society hosted the Soul Food Festival on west campus.

Obama angers wildlife conservationists

By Paul Rogers
San Jose Mercury News

SAN JOSE, Calif. — During his first year in office, President Barack Obama won praise from environmental groups for a wide range of decisions, from toughening gas mileage rules to spending billions on renewable energy projects.

But now there’s grumbling on his green flank. A growing number of environmentalists are clashing with the administration over its management of America’s struggling wildlife populations and what they call its reluctance to use the nation’s most powerful environmental law, the Endangered Species Act, to stand up to industry.

Last week, five conservation groups, led by the Sierra Club, sued the federal government after the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service refused to draw up critical habitat maps for the Florida panther. Two weeks earlier, the administration sparked controversy when it announced it would not add the American pika to the endangered species list.

Found in California’s Sierra Nevada range and the Rocky Mountains, the pika is a rabbit-like mammal that has been considered symbolic of the impact

of global warming because it can overheat and die at temperatures above 78 degrees.

But, declaring it endangered could have led to new restrictions on coal mining, oil drilling and other fossil fuel uses.

The Fish and Wildlife Service said although it expects the West to warm, and although pika numbers are declining, there is enough alpine land for the pika to move to higher elevations and not go extinct.

“We’re coming off eight years of the Bush administration where they actively worked to cripple endangered species programs,” said biologist Noah Greenwald, endangered species program director for the Center for Biological Diversity, a nonprofit group in Tucson. “We would have liked to have seen a strong effort by the Obama administration. But we just haven’t seen it.”

In its first year, Obama’s administration added only two new species to the endangered list, the fewest in any president’s first year since Ronald Reagan in 1981.

While those species, the Idaho slick spot pepper grass and a white flower named *Phyllostegia hispida*, found only on the Hawaiian island of Molokai, now have protection, 249 other

species remain on the “candidates” list. Federal biologists have concluded they are scientifically worthy of protection but they haven’t been declared endangered because of other priorities for the department.

Valerie Fellows, a spokeswoman for the Fish and Wildlife Service, said the agency plans to list 55 new species this year, including 48 found only on Kauai. Much of the past year, she said, was spent responding to lawsuits filed over the past decade.

“Up until very recently, our entire listing budget was driven completely by court-ordered action, lawsuits and litigation,” Fellows said.

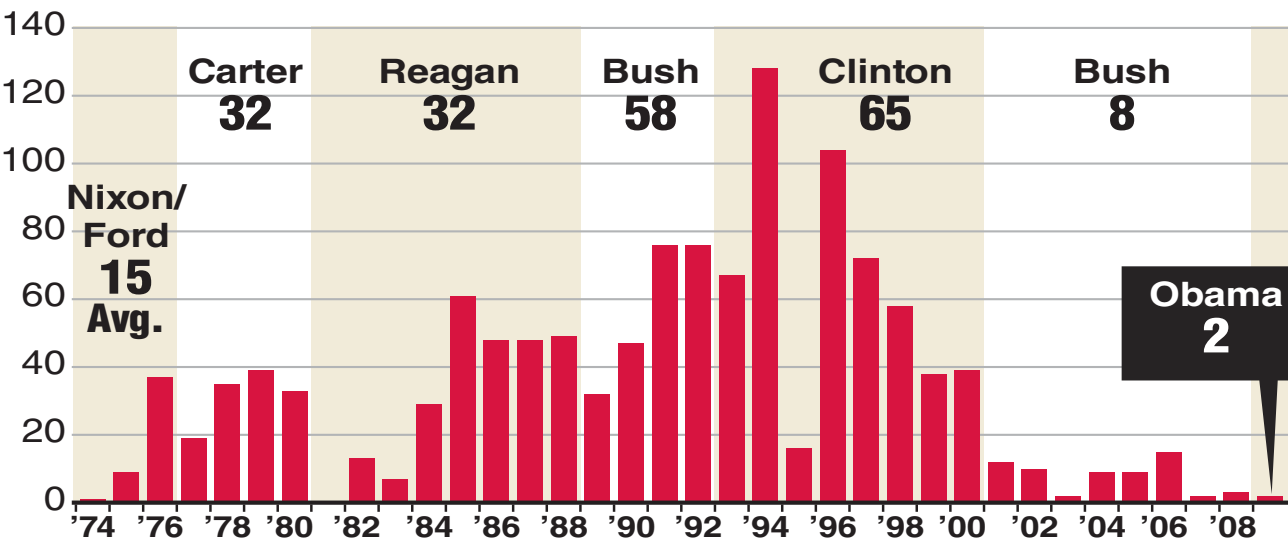
Because the Endangered Species Act, signed by President Nixon in 1973, can be used to limit development, logging, mining and other projects, adding new species can be controversial.

“Frankly, the Obama administration is defending the record of the Fish and Wildlife Service under President Bush,” said William Perry Pendley, “But the bottom line is that Obama’s been up to enough mischief in other areas - global warming, a war on oil and gas development, that kind of thing - to certainly balance it out.”

— MCT Campus

Obama’s vanishing act on species

The Obama administration has listed fewer species under the federal Endangered Species Act than the administration of any president in his first year since Ronald Reagan. Average annual number of species listed during each president’s term:



Source: Center for Biological Diversity
Graphic: Karl Kahler, San Jose Mercury News
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OUR VOICE

Media disaster: News coverage of “the tsunami that wasn’t” cast the cable media in the role of the fool.

A good portion of America spent a few hours on Feb. 27 glued to their TVs.

They had good reason. The story of the decade was on. Every cable news station was reporting on it: the impending destruction of the state of Hawaii.

On CNN, Rick Sanchez was asking a scientist to translate meters into english.

MSNBC was telling us that the whales had fled the harbors around the Aloha State for safer seas.

Meanwhile, the monstrous wave was still approaching.

The earthquake in Chile the night before was the cause of all the hulla-baloo.

The 8.8 magnitude quake was the 7th strongest ever recorded on Earth.

It was strong enough that NASA believes it shifted the Earth on its axis and made the days shorter.

It did not have the death toll of the Haitian earthquake of two months ago, which still shows its effects in the devastation of the island nation, but in terms of worldwide calamity, the Chilean shake-up was already off to a rousing start.

The cable news networks informed their viewers that every nation on the Pacific Ocean was in danger of cata-

strophic tidal waves that could hit without a moments notice.

Suddenly that shifted all attention from the true disaster, one that has claimed nearly 800 lives, to speculation as to the size and destructive capability of the oncoming tsunamis.

Back on Hawaii watch, they were saying the first salvo in the battle between man and sea could hit as early as 4 p.m EST.

As 4 p.m. approached, the furor hit its peak.

Grainy video from skype and the website of Hawaiian UFC fighter B.J. Penn was played showing seas that locals swore were rougher than normal.

The anchors prepared for the worst.

But the wave didn't come at 4 p.m.

It didn't even come at 4:05.

After their deadline of doom came and passed, the anchors started branching out.

MSNBC interviewed a local surf instructor who discussed the roiling sea and then plugged his surf academy.

Meanwhile, we were left to assume that in the threatened island paradise, hula girls ran for the high plateaus of active volcanos to keep themselves safe from Poseidon's wrath.

Arriving tourists left the airports tragically un-lei'd and pigs spent the

entire day lounging, instead of stuffed on a spit with an apple in their mouths.

The moment came around 4:45 p.m., the water began escaping into the ocean, and as the tide withdrew, the newscasters became breathless with clear anticipation.

But the waves were a bit underwhelming. There was no significant destruction of property. No loss of life, and no supermodels with shattered pelvises.

America let out a collective sigh of relief, but that was drowned out quickly by the gnashing of newscaster teeth.

It seemed illogical, but an obvious melancholy had settled over the fourth estate.

While the world looked on, glad that no one was hurt, the cable networks saw the loss of a news story that could have won them a Pulitzer, or added another zero to their paycheck.

As morbid as it seems, nothing can catapult a reporter to stardom faster than catastrophe.

Certain disasters are indelibly tied to the newscasters who immortalized them.

Anderson Cooper came out of Hurricane Katrina a star and when Walter Cronkite teared up while reporting

the assassination of JFK he became stamped into the cultural memory of America and added an exclamation point to his eventual nickname “The most trusted man in America.”

There is no denying that to some degree the coverage did good work. It warned the people of Hawaii that something could have happened, which emptied the beaches and kept the citizens safe, but it all got a little bit out of hand.

Instead of hearing the news of the day we hear speculation. That's because it is nearly impossible to fill 24 hours a day with meaningful news.

So when events like the pseudo-tsunami come up, its a welcome break from the humdrum catastrophes of everyday life.

The Don Henley song “Dirty Laundry” sums it up: “It's interesting when people die.”

Unfortunately, the cable news networks agree wholeheartedly.

Sensationalism has been a part of news for a long time, and it's not going anywhere. But a limit has to exist.

The battle for news ratings far surpasses the battle to deliver good news in the minds of network executives, so they embrace the circus.

A circus is all we got.

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POLL

No picture is worth a thousand regrets

By Reese Wallace
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The time has come again, the time to doff the majority of our clothing and celebrate the coming of spring-time. Of course, this year, with the bipolar weather and depressed economic state, may put a damper on the standard Spring Break élan, but in preparation for the oncoming debauchery, I would like to give on piece of advice to the youth of America.

Leave your camera at home.

Social networking sites like Facebook are flooded with unflattering images of inebriate coeds. These photos often represent the ONLY record of these events, the rest wiped lost to alcohol amnesia.

I understand that we all want to remember our good times, but every time I see a fuzzy photo of Pete's night out with the boys, I can't help but subtract 10 points from the IQ of every person in the photo.

First and foremost, we should all try to avoid drinking to the point that we have to use photos to rebuild last night like our own boozy "Memento."

Secondly, if you're doing something worth remembering, why are you actively seeking to not remember it?

No picture of how cute you looked in your sundress at the bar, or how much fist-pumping you and your buddies did at Señor Frog's, is worth the embarrassment of the picture of you face down in a puddle in Nassau.

Do yourself a favor this spring break, cut your alcohol intake by half and experience your week off through your eyes instead of a viewfinder.

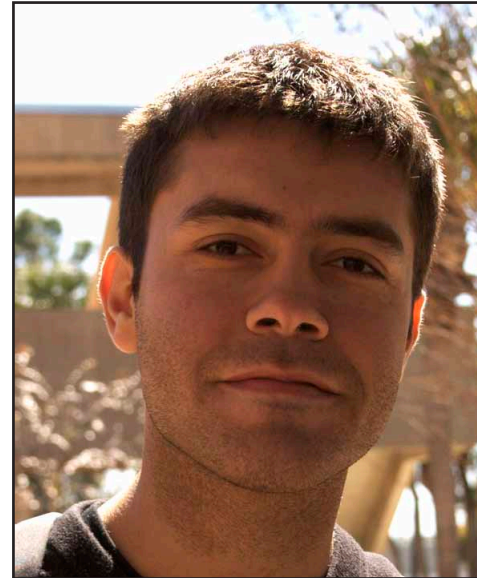
You'll find you remember it without problem and you'll be less likely to regret what happened.

What are you doing for Spring Break?



Hopefully go to the beach if it gets warmer.

—Ashley Tule



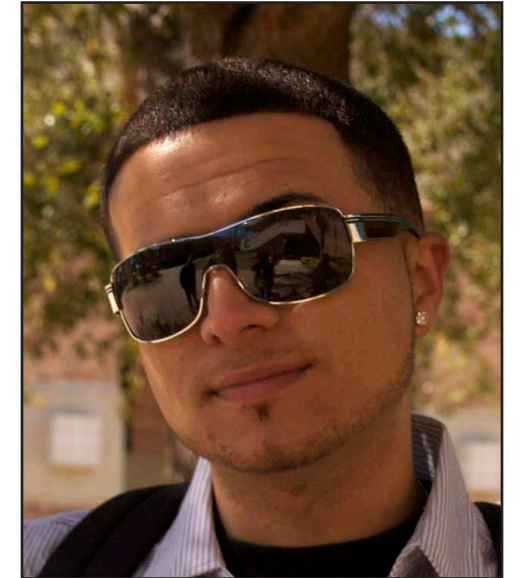
I might travel I don't know yet.

—B.K. Khatib



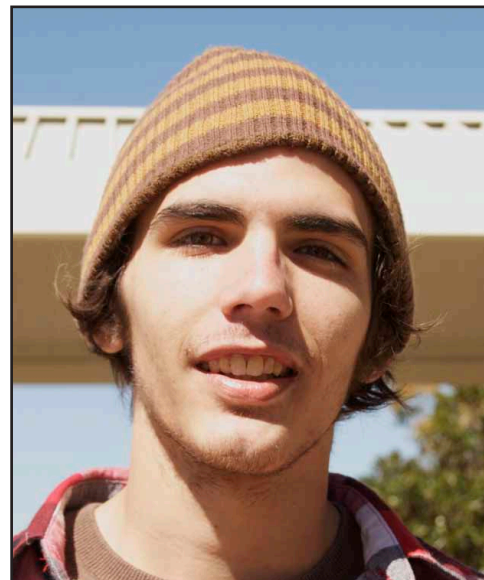
I'm going to Miami to visit friends and family.

—Sindia Toledo



Work.

—George Suleiman



Working to make money to go to California.

—Danny Williams



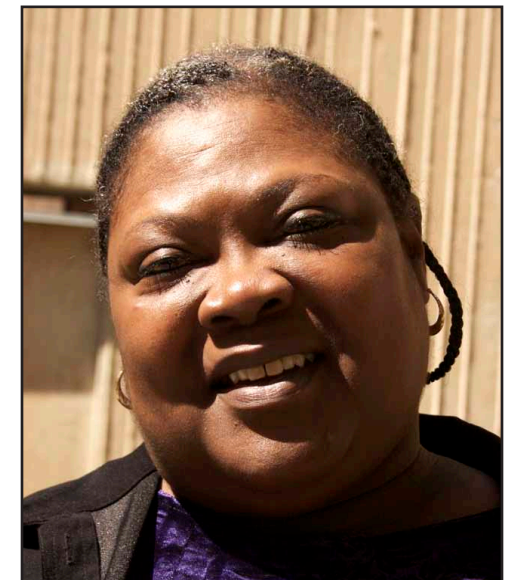
Get a job.

—Heather Tule



My girlfriend is coming to town.

—Danny Adams



I'm going to study up and get ahead.

—Vanessa Thomas

YOUR VOICE

PETA: People everywhere trying to get attention

I can't shake the feeling that some organizations, while they may imply good intentions are only there to get publicity. PETA, an organization for the ethical treatment of animals, seems to care more about making a statement and seeing their name in headlines than making an actual difference.

With yet another tragedy in an Orlando area theme park, PETA has already jumped all over it by creating forums on their website and Facebook groups saying "Free Tilly."

When working with wild animals there is always a risk and people are going to get injured on the job and in some cases death may occur. People who rescue dogs from negligent parents are at risk too, but should they stop doing what they love?

I think there are three types of people in this world when regarding zoos and aquariums. There is the type, like myself, who feels that if zoos didn't exist then most of earth's creatures would be extinct due to habitat loss, pollution, hunters and poachers. Then there is the person

who feels that animals have a right to be free and that cages at zoos aren't big enough to house them. Last, there are the people who just don't care.

First off you can't just release an animal from captivity back to the wild, that animal doesn't possess the skills it needs to survive. Zoos and other wildlife refuge parks have helped bring animals that were near extinction back to stable population numbers.

The Bald Eagle is a prime example of this. Our national bird was once close to becoming extinct and because of human intervention we've brought them from being an endangered species to only be a threatened species.

If PETA requests that parks like Sea World release all of their animals then they should protest all zoos, aquariums, aviaries and butterfly gardens should release their animals as well. If these facilities didn't exist most people wouldn't know that half of these creatures exist and much less become inspired by them.

People visit zoos all around the world to see animals close

up. It's not the same as watching it on television.

I am all for the ethical treatment of animals and protecting animal rights but groups like PETA just go too far. Throwing paint on people for wearing fur isn't going to make them stop, it's going to make them angry and buy another fur coat. Protesting that "meat is murder" isn't going to turn people into vegetarians either.

All animals should be treated ethically, and factory farms shouldn't exist, but the truth is that they do. For every person in the world who loves something there is another person who hates the same thing.

Who said that creatures as small as meerkats need an entire safari to dig tunnels under? Who said that a whale needs hundreds of miles to swim in? Animals in the wild have that opportunity because they don't have zones, but an animal doesn't need hundreds of miles to survive.

Zoos are made to educate people and help sustain animal life but if PETA is against that, than I am against PETA.

In Chile, 'an Emergency Without Parallel'

The Washington Post

First reactions to Chile's massive earthquake, both in and outside the country, included a sense of relief that a shock that registered 500 times larger than that of Haiti's in January caused nowhere near the same amount of damage or loss of life. The death toll, which passed 700 over the weekend, was expected to rise further but not to approach the more than 200,000 killed in Haiti; though badly shaken, the capital of Santiago and the most affected city, Concepcion, are still mostly standing.

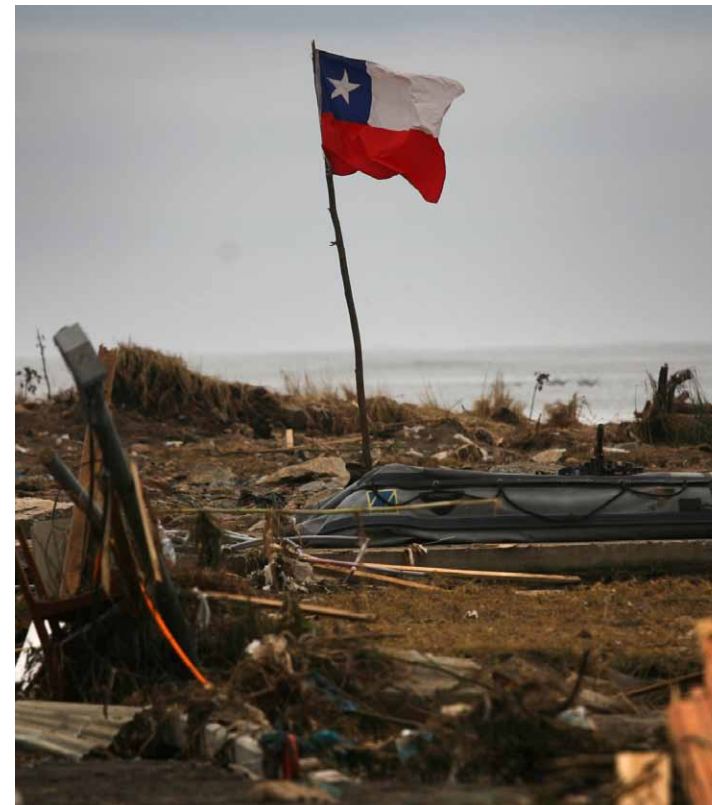
The second wave of reaction, however, has been more sober. Chile's leaders — who include an outgoing president and a president-elect due to be sworn in next week — are now talking about far worse damage than they initially anticipated, with potentially far-reaching consequences for Latin America's most successful economy. "This calamity is much

deeper, much more damaging and much more serious than we thought," said incoming president Sebastián Piñera.

Outgoing President Michelle Bachelet at first suggested Chile might not need international aid; she was slow to declare a state of emergency in the most affected areas, which may have allowed looting to break out. Now she is talking about "an emergency without parallel in Chile's history" and asking for field hospitals, temporary bridges, water purification equipment and rescue teams. The United States, other nations and private rescue organizations are responding; their challenge will be to give Chile the aid that it requires without slackening the effort in Haiti, which still faces overwhelming needs.

Fortunately, Chile is better prepared than most other nations to handle a crisis of this kind. It scrupulously saved some of the bounty from its copper exports when prices were high in recent years, and as a result it has a rainy-day fund of nearly \$15 billion to draw on. (One initial estimate put the damage at \$15 billion to \$30 billion; the latter figure is about 15 percent of the country's gross national product.) Chile's government debt is low, and its free-market economy is flexible and able to respond quickly.

Piñera, a billionaire businessman who is the first right-wing politician to be elected president since the end of Augusto Pinochet's dictatorship, already has a plan, which he calls "Let's Raise Chile Up." Importantly, he plans to involve the country's robust private sector in the reconstruction. With luck, the disaster could have a silver lining in the revamping of vital infrastructure and housing. It will, in any case, offer a severe opening test for Piñera, whom some see as the leader of a new generation of Latin American leaders committed to economic and political freedom. Not only Chile will have a lot riding on his success.



Michael Robinson Chavez, Los Angeles Times / MCT Campus

Alkaline Trio

finally hits home

New album released under newly formed label

Christine Saraceno
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Alkaline Trio have been on a slew of different record labels in the past few years but it appears that they have finally



found a comfortable home on their very own Heart & Skull Records.

In connection with indie giants Epitaph Records, AT's seventh album, "This Addiction", will be Heart & Skull's first release and it's a very impressive one.

The band, which is made up of singer/guitarist Matt Skiba, singer/bassist Dan Andriano, and drummer Derek Grant, get in touch with their roots, helping them to become mainstream punk stars. The songs on this album have a more authentic feel than the overly produced (in my opinion anyway) songs of albums past, "Time to Waste" and "Mercy Me." The title track "This Addiction" is probably the best punk love song since Social Distortion's "Let It Be Me." The song uses a dependency on heroin as a metaphor for loving someone and not being

able to live without them. The lyrics probably won't make your girlfriend start swooning but they're romantic in their own twisted way.

AT pay homage to their heroes The Misfits with the second track "Dine, Dine My Darling" which is a reference to the Misfits' song "Die, Die My Darling."

Both songs are fantastic and I applaud their decision to make Andriano's vocals lead on that particular song.

Unfortunately the guys decided to be a part of the current vampire trend with "Dracula."

It's indisputably catchy though and the Mike Ness-like vocals are irresistible therefore making it a definite highlight of "This Addiction." The next single will probably be "The American Scream."

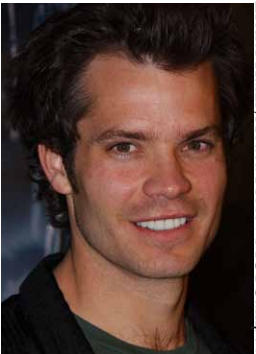
AT hasn't had much radio play in their career, but that song has potential to change that.

You just won't be able to keep yourself from singing along with it. All in all, this album is definitely not as commercial as 2005's "Crimson" or 2008's "Agony & Irony" (which landed the band an impressive #13 spot on the Billboard albums chart) so it will be interesting to see how it does sales wise, but statistics aside, fans are sure to be more than pleased.

No one is safe with 'The Crazies'

By Jenn Stripling
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Alas, 2010's first Zombie movie has premiered! After being delayed for re-



Lionel Hahn, Abaca Press / MCT Campus
Timothy Olyphant.

lease, "The Crazies" (directed by Breck Eisner) finally embraced the screen to give horror movie junkies what they crave most: Gore, gore, and more gore! A remake of George A. Romero's 1973 horror film, "The Crazies" stars Timothy Olyphant as David Dutton, the sheriff of a small town in Iowa, and Radha Mitchell as his physician wife.

Upon discovering a plane that crashed in their small town, Sheriff Dutton and

his handy deputy Russell, played by Joe Anderson, immediately attempt to shut down water supply to their town.

When their attempts fail, they take measures into their own hands, and soon realize that what they are about to encounter is much more drama than they ever hoped to see.

But when US Military raids the town and begins quarantine, the sheriff soon realizes that he must fight for his wife's life when they misconstrue her pregnancy to be the "sickness".

In one of the top ten gore scenes a doctor, whom is supposed to be helping the sick, becomes a zombie. The crazy doctor enters the quarantine room, and gazes over at the sick that are talking loudly, or laughing hysterically.

Then with one fluid motion, he hauls the pitchfork right into their center, and the camera zooms in for a close shot un-

derneath the bed, watching the blood ooze.

Right before the pregnant lady is killed off, her hero comes to her aid.

He rescues her and her companion before they attempt to leave town.

That is much easier said than done, for no one is safe. The government wants no one to repeat that their tests have gone astray, so they tried to just kill everyone instead.

After many zombie battles and the government trying to blow them up, the sheriff and his pretty wife escape and head to the nearest town for refuge.

Little do they know, the government has just targeted the town their headed to as their next location to experiment with. An epic closure to a well-done remade horror film.

Other Views

It's kind of crazy, but it's also pretty smart. And if your nervous system can stand it, you should see it.

—A.O. Scott

If the subtext's too heavy for you, you can choose to ignore it and instead read The Crazies as a survival guide to what to do when the zombie outbreak hits.

—Movies.com

Most modern horror films are more terrifyingly boring than actually terrifying. What's most effective about The Crazies is that it never drags. It's crazy fun.

—HollywoodChicago.com

A spooky, suspenseful, scary gorefest - but you expect that, don't you?

—SSG Syndicate

Even on the level of killer-virus-gone-wild gore-fest, The Crazies as rejiggered by Eisner is a dud.

—MSN Movies

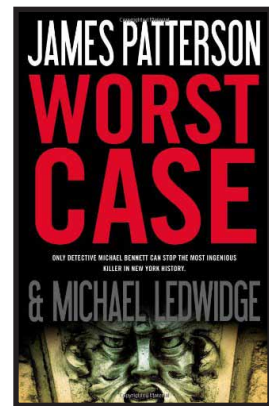
"The Crazies" does what an exploitation movie should: It gets in, it scares you silly, and it gets out, all while playing fair by the audience."

—The Boston Globe

A detective's 'Worst Case'

By Jimmy Tater
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Co-writers James Patterson and Michael Ledwidge add a third title in their book series featuring detective Michael Bennett.



In "Worst Case", Bennett, who handles high profile cases that involve public figures, socialites, and famous places, faces a serial killer who kidnaps the teenagers of wealthy people.

The puzzling abductions stump him as he takes a barrage of criticism from worried parents that put their trust in him.

He discovers that the killer has explosives and could become a bigger public threat if not found by Ash Wednesday.

"Worst Case" maintains a lighthearted tone throughout the entire book despite its dealings with criminal investigation, abductions, and liquid explosives.

The reader is introduced to Bennett and his family which consists of his father Seamus and his 10 children, and reveals that he is a widower.

Seamus and the caravan of children provide comic relief as they take every

opportunity to humiliate Bennett in front of Emily Parker, his partner in the investigation.

It even seems that Bennett is trapped in a love triangle with Mary Catherine, the children's nanny, and Parker. Both women show interest in the widowed male detective and he ultimately rejects one for the other.

Uniquely, even the antagonist is portrayed to be charismatic and likable. The serial killer, nicknamed "the teacher", gives his prisoners a chance to save their life, but only if they pass their "final exam."

These wealthy, spoiled teens have to answer ten questions about humanitarian ideas, like "how many gallons of gas did Americans consume last year?" When they do not know the answer they are killed.

Later, the serial killer is proven to be a very passionate humanitarian and environmentalist. He is a respectable, yet, criminal character because he tries to provide a means for overlooked charitable causes but does it in very unlawful ways.

"Worst Case" maintains a good balance of police action and hallmark moments between characters; it could be a great family book, if the swearing is overlooked.

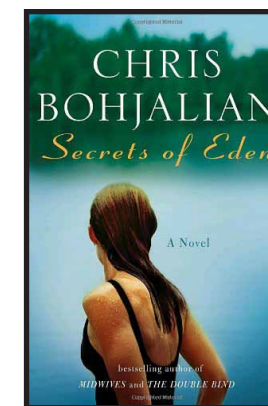
The serial killer called "the teacher" challenges the normal idea of a villain and is a very likable character in addition to rest of the cast.

Famous for his Alex Cross novels, Patterson claims in an end note that he has the most New York Times bestsellers than any other writer according to the Guinness Book of World Records.

Unique ensemble in 'Secrets of Eden'

By Jimmy Tater
jtater@valenciavoices.com

Chris Bohjalian, an American author from Vermont returns



with his 13th novel, "Secrets of Eden." After a reported murder-suicide in the New England area, the reader is

given a privileged view of four character's lives as they narrate their involvement in a case that leaves many questions unanswered.

Alice and George Hayworth were discovered dead in their home, not long after Alice was baptized. They leave behind their teenage daughter, Katie, who is now an orphan and treated very gingerly by the community.

Stephen Drew, the community pastor, quickly becomes a suspect after the diary of the strangled Alice is found to outline her affair with Stephen, who also counseled her as she endured a physically abusive husband.

There are stunning accusations made about characters early on. Particularly about Reverend Stephen, who is believed to have shot Alice's husband, who fell asleep drunk on the couch after allegedly murdering Alice.

A majority of the information revealed about the respective characters justifies their careers, but it is mainly used to cloud details that end up resolving the questions around the murder-suicide.

In Catherine Benincasa's section, it is shared with the reader that although she was horrified reading about crime in the newspaper as a child, it fascinated her. Although it seems aimless and may be filler, it shows why she was drawn to be an investigator.

Bohjalian crafts a good mystery novel that hides clues to the truth in the most innocent of scenes among characters.

At times it seems that the plot is abandoned to evaluate a character, so when an enormous break in the case is made or a character makes a discovery, the reader's attention is brought back to the forgotten murder-suicide case.

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When needed Magic bench steps up

By Brian Schmitz
The Orlando Sentinel

Marcin Gortat filled in for Dwight Howard. So did Rashard Lewis, Vince Carter, J.J. Redick, Jameer Nelson and maybe the beer vendor.

Everybody who played — all 10 of 'em — scored at least one point and grabbed one rebound.

The Orlando Magic replaced the foul-troubled Howard in a 96-80 victory against the Miami Heat, Sunday at Amway Arena.

"We told Dwight afterwards that we certainly owed him. He's been carrying us," coach Stan Van Gundy said.

Howard had been playing some of the best basketball of his career, but he ran afoul with officials early, picking up two in the first quarter.

He finished with only seven points, five rebounds and five fouls in just under 25 minutes.

Without Howard, the Magic's margin of error narrowed. They needed steady offense and some stout defense — and got both.

Lewis was more aggressive, filling the role of leading scorer with 22 points. Carter had an economi-



Photo by Stephen M. Dowell, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus

Orlando Magic center Marcin Gortat, left, and forward Mickael Pietrus, right, defend against Miami Heat center Joel Anthony, middle, at Amway Arena, on Sunday.

cal night, hitting 7-of-10 shots for 17 points.

Redick played a fine overall game, scoring 15 points with three assists and three rebounds. He led a 34-point bench effort.

Gortat scored nine points, grabbed seven rebounds and blocked three shots in relief, playing 23 minutes.

A significant storyline was that the Magic actually made a big lead hold up with Howard as a spectator.

When they seized a 14-point lead with about four minutes remaining, the Heat figured they had the Magic right where they wanted them.

Miami cut the margin to 88-80 but the Heat would get no closer.

The Magic limited their turnovers (eight for the game) and

made shots with nice ball movement (45.7 percent).

They also held the Heat to 38.2 percent shooting in the second half, monitoring Wade's whereabouts, especially in the paint. He scored just four points after intermission, going 1-of-5.

"We had to help more," Nelson said. "We can't leave guys on an island when they're playing against a superstar."

Considering where the Magic and Heat are aligned in the standings, the game was a possible playoff preview.

But the Magic certainly don't want to test this scenario in the postseason, with Howard making a cameo.

— MCT Campus



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The great migration

Spring training shifts from Florida to Arizona

By Bryan Fox
bfox@valenciavoice.com

Every year, in the month of March, a rite of passage occurs in the warmer climates of the southern United States.

Hundreds of baseball players cling to a single dream: To make the roster of a major league team.

Players past their prime, rookies with wide-eyes, baseball lifers hoping this will be the year for them.

Unfortunately, for baseball fans in the sunshine state, a frightening trend continues.

The sad fact is that the exodus of teams from Florida's Grapefruit League to the desert of Arizona's Cactus League continues.

Most baseball historians agree that the first spring training occurred in 1888 when the National League Washington Capitals held a four-day camp in Jacksonville, Fla.

When one mentions America's pastime, baseball is the first thought to cross most minds. No other sport in America has a richer tradition than baseball. Part of that tradition, for most major league teams, was to train in Florida.

While 15 of the 29 organizations still practice in Florida, the number is diminishing at an alarming rate.

Over the past 15 seasons, five teams have made the move westward to Arizona. That's an average of one team every three years. And the teams moving are not the "lesser" teams of MLB.

Teams include the Cleveland Indians, who played in Winter Haven until 2008, and the Cincinnati Reds, who called Sarasota home until 2008 as well. Sarasota also witnessed their last Chicago White Sox spring training game in 1997.

However, no move was more shocking than that of the Los Angeles Dodgers. 'Dodger-town,' in Vero Beach, is now reminiscent of a ghost town from the old west.

When the Dodgers were still playing ball in regular season games at Ebbets Field in Brooklyn, they had spring training in Vero Beach.

After celebrating their 61st anniversary the Dodgers ditched Vero.

Vin Scully, the long-time Dodger broadcaster summed up his emotions in an interview with Press-Enterprise journalist Allan Steele, "There's no particular place in the world, including my home, that holds more memories for me than Dodgertown." The

same can be said for the legions of Dodger fans in the area.

The reason for this disturbing occurrence comes down to a couple of factors: Money and facilities.

Team management will argue the fact that stadiums used in the Grapefruit League border on ancient. This may be true, however their age adds to their charm.

What major league stadiums are more celebrated than Fenway Park, or Wrigley Field? Built in 1912 and 1914 respectively, these parks are icons within themselves. And as most things in this world, it all comes down to money.

Taxes are lower in Arizona than in Florida. This cannot be argued. Especially in the current economy, teams are trying to maximize profits.

But by ignoring tradition they run the risk of alienating their most important clients: the fans.

If the current fad is not stopped at a higher level, such as league offices, or even government intervention, fathers will no longer be able to take their sons to see their favorite teams in the intimate environment Florida spring training baseball provides.

More so than money, this would be the ultimate loss.

FBI probes A-Rod HGH

By Pete Caldera
The Record

TAMPA, Fla. — Regarding the FBI's investigation of a doctor distributing Human growth hormone, Alex Rodriguez is on deck.

"I'm aware of an investigation, and I plan on cooperating," A-Rod said Monday.

It's uncertain when Rodriguez would speak with the FBI about his knowledge of Anthony Galea, a Canadian doctor

being probed for possible ties to the distribution of performance enhancing drugs.

A year ago, Rodriguez admitted to the use of steroids while a member of the Texas Rangers from 2001 to 2003.

Following hip surgery last year, Rodriguez's rehab was supervised in part by Dr. Mark Lindsay, a Canadian chiropractor identified as being a Galea associate.

In a statement released Monday afternoon, the Yankees distanced themselves from the probe.

"The New York Yankees have not been contacted with regard to an investigation of Dr. Tony Galea."

A report in Monday's New York Times stated that persons who had knowledge of the FBI investigation had information that Rodriguez had been treated "at some point" by Galea, though it was not known when those treatments may have occurred or to what extent.

— MCT Campus



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