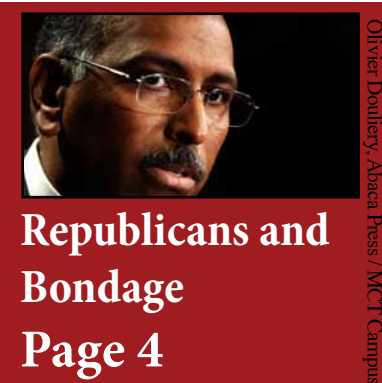


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NASA's \$9.4 Billion Mission to Nowhere

By Joel Achenbach
The Washington Post

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. — Anyone need a \$500 million, 355-foot steel tower for launching rockets into space?

There's one available at NASA's Kennedy Space Center. Brand new, never been used.

The mobile launcher has been built for a rocket called the Ares 1. The problem is, there is not yet any such thing as an Ares 1 rocket — and if the Obama administration has its way, there never will be.

President Barack Obama's 2011 budget kills that rocket, along with the rest of NASA's Constellation program, the ambitious back-to-the-moon effort initiated under President George W. Bush.

People here were shocked when they heard the news last month. They were already facing the imminent retirement of the aging space shuttle, and the likelihood of thousands of layoffs in the contracting corps but many hoped to find a Constellation job, stay on site and essentially just switch badges.

Now suddenly, they're looking at no shuttle, no Ares 1, no NASA-owned spaceship of any kind in the near future. American astronauts for years to come will hitch rides to space on Russian rockets.

"It's almost like losing manned space flight," said Michele Kosiba, 44, a quality inspector for United Space Alliance.

The space center is a unique place, built on a flat expanse of marsh and scrub that knuckles into the Atlantic. Long, straight, government roads are lined with ditches patrolled by alligators. Launch towers stand sentinel on the horizon. From here, the United States launched some of its most spectacular national achievements. But the decision to kill Constellation has shrouded this part of the world in an unfamiliar gloom.

People are dismayed and bewildered. Obama has gotten the message and will fly to the Kennedy Space Center on April 15

Continued on page 2



The Ares 1 mobile launch pad cost \$500 million and is likely never to be used.

Jack Peller / NASA

'It's just a big old tower now'

Continued from page 1
to hold a space conference and a town hall meeting. He is certain to point out that his budget actually boosts funding for NASA.

The new NASA strategy shifts the task of launching astronauts to low Earth orbit from traditional government contracts to commercial contracts. If the private sector can create a taxi to space, NASA can focus on

new technologies and longer journeys in the solar system.

A presidential commission, led by former aerospace executive Norman Augustine, reported to Obama in September that the Ares 1 would have limited use and that the heavy-lift rocket necessary for a moon mission probably wouldn't be ready until 2028.

At that point, the panel said, there'd be no money left in the program for a moon lander or moon habitat. In effect, the Augustine committee said Constellation, which has already cost \$9.4 billion, was destined for a (metaphorical) crash landing.

"We could get to the moon and do what?" said Dale Ketcham, a University of Central Florida professor who runs a think tank called the Spaceport Research and Technology Institute. "The taxpayers would really be ticked

off. Sixty years later we go back and plant the flag and go home."

Lawmakers in Congress in both parties, particularly those in districts with space jobs, have given the Obama plan a cold reception. Congress still must approve Obama's budget. Until that happens, Constellation maintains a ghostly existence as "the program of record."

Across the country, work continues on Ares and the new crew capsule, Orion. The Orion launchpad abort system will be tested later this spring in New Mexico. Even if Congress sanctions Obama's plan, the administration expects to spend \$2.5 billion just closing out contracts and shutting down Constellation.

NASA employees and contractors at Cape Canaveral say they were caught off guard by the new strategy.

"It's such an awesome machine," said Tim Keyser, a mechanical lead in another orbiter bay. "It's not old. I go in the midbody, it's pristine. It looks like it rolled off the assembly line."

People here talk of the orbiters — Discovery, Atlantis, Endeavour — as if they are beloved members of the family. There are only four shuttle flights left, with the last scheduled for September,

though the timetable could slip a few months. Some lawmakers are scrambling to keep the shuttle flying, perhaps with a drawn-out flight manifest.

Howard DeCastro, shuttle program manager for United Space Alliance, the primary shuttle contractor, said the shuttle is flying better than ever. The main challenge for shuttle extension is restarting supply contracts that have already shut down. It would take two years, for example, to produce a new external fuel tank for an additional shuttle flight. Still, DeCastro said, "there are no showstoppers in flying the shuttle longer."

NASA officials insist that they could still find a use for the half-billion-dollar tower even if the Ares 1 never materializes. But space technology tends to be highly customized. A worker was overheard saying he wanted to climb the mobile launcher "before it becomes an artificial reef."

DeCastro, the United Space Alliance executive, said he doubted the mobile launcher could be useful without the Ares 1.

"It's just a big old tower now," DeCastro said. "I guess you could sell it to SeaWorld or something and put a big ol' slide on it."

— WPBloom

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Stands For Opportunity



Obama touts new student aid bill

By Steven Thomma
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Saturday a new law he'll sign this week will save the federal government billions and give college students more help paying tuition.

"This reform of the federal student loan programs will save taxpayers \$68 billion over the next decade," Obama said in his weekly radio and Internet address.

"And with this legislation, we're putting that money to use achieving a goal I set for America: by the end of this decade, we will once again have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world."

The changes in the Health Care and Education Reconciliation Act of 2010 will save federal taxpayer money by ending government subsidies to banks and other institutions that process student loans. Critics have called it a government takeover of the student loan industry.

"Year after year, we've seen billions of taxpayer dollars handed out as subsidies to the bankers and middlemen who handle federal student loans, when that money should have gone to advancing the dreams of our students and working families," Obama said.

Obama said the money saved by making loans directly to students will allow the government to expand the federal Pell Grant program for college students, in part by increasing them to keep pace with inflation.

He said the law also will cap college graduates' annual student loan repayments at 10 percent of their income, increase support for Minority Serving Institutions, and help improve community colleges. The changes take effect in 2014.

"To make it sure our students don't go broke just because they chose to go to college, we're making it easier for graduates to afford their student loan payments," he said.

The changes in the federal student loan program were added to the second health care bill passed last week by Congress.

— MCT Campus

U.S. and Russia sign partial nuclear treaty

By Michael Muskal
Los Angeles Times

WASHINGTON — The United States and Russia have agreed to a new nuclear arms treaty that will be signed April 8 in Prague, Czech Republic, President Obama announced Friday after speaking with his Russian counterpart.

The treaty substantially cuts the nuclear weapons that the United States and Russia will deploy and will significantly reduce missiles and launchers, Obama said. It follows a 1991 treaty that expired in December and about which the United States and Russia have been negotiating.

"In many ways, nuclear weapons represent both the darkest days of the Cold War, and the most troubling threats of our time," Obama said. "Today, we have taken another step forward in leaving behind the legacy of the 20th century while building a more secure future for our children."

Obama also said the treaty would show that the United States and Russia, the world's major nuclear powers, intended to lead on the issue.

"By upholding our own commitments under the nuclear nonpro-

liferation treaty, we strengthen our global efforts to stop the spread of these weapons, and to ensure that other nations meet their own responsibilities," the president said.

Obama said the treaty was part of his effort to improve relations with Russia.

"Since I took office, I have been committed to a 'reset' of our relations with Russia," Obama said.

"When the United States and Russia can cooperate effectively, it advances the mutual interests of our two nations, and the security and prosperity of the wider world. We have worked together on Afghanistan. We have coordinated our economic efforts through the G-20. We are working together to pressure Iran to meet its international obligations. And today, we have reached agreement on one of my administration's top priorities — a pivotal new arms control agreement," he said.

Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton, who also attended Obama's briefing, said the agreement shows "deep and substantive cooperation on a matter of vital importance" with Russia and that "patient principled diplomacy can advance our national interests."



Olivier Douliery, Abaca Press / MCT Campus

President Barack Obama, flanked by secretary of defense Robert Gates, speaks during a White House press conference on the new nuclear arms-reduction treaty with Russia.

Defense Secretary Robert Gates, who addressed reporters along with Clinton, said the reductions would not hurt the United States.

According to the White House, the agreement would require both Russia and the United States to reduce their long-range warheads to 1,500. This is 74 percent lower than the START number in 1991 and 30 percent lower than the limit of the 2002 Moscow Treaty.

Obama and Russian President Dmitry Medvedev discussed the treaty in a telephone conversation Friday morning. It was their 14th direct meeting or phone call on the issue.

Prague was chosen for the treaty signing to commemorate the anniversary of Obama's April 5, 2009, speech in the Czech capital where he offered his vision for reducing global nuclear arsenals.

"I am pleased that almost one year to the day after my last trip to Prague, the Czech Republic — a close friend and ally of the United States — has agreed to host President Medvedev and me on April 8th, as we sign this historic treaty," Obama said.

The treaty will require Senate approval. Earlier this week, Obama met with Sens. John Kerry (D-Mass.) and Richard Lugar (R-Indiana) to discuss passage.

— MCT Campus

Big stink over RNC kink

GOP under fire for \$1,946 spent at high-end bondage club

By Steven Thomma
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — Under fire from both the right and the left, the Republican National Committee is investigating how and why it spent nearly \$2,000 for “meals” at a bondage-themed strip club in West Hollywood featuring topless dancers simulating lesbian sex.

The GOP confirmed Monday that it reimbursed a California consultant for \$1,946 spent at Voyeur, a high-end bar/lounge that’s described on one Web site as “classic slutty” where “you might not be completely shocked at

the almost naked women writhing on each other, but you will undoubtedly be in awe.”

“It was obviously improper for more than one reason,” said party spokesman Doug Heye. “It was not a sanctioned RNC activity. It was improper because of the venue.”

He said the party will get its money back from Erik Brown, the president of Orange County-based Dynamic Marketing Inc., who submitted the bill for reimbursement.

Brown, who couldn’t be reached for comment, has worked for Republicans including California gubernatorial candidate Steve Poizner. His firm also maintains an office in Washington.

Brown socialized in the past with Republican National Committee Chairman Michael Steele, once messaging via his Twitter account that he was “enjoying the football game with RNC

Chairman Michael Steele. (Eagles vs. Redskins at FedEx Field).”

RNC aides said that Steele was not present at the strip club.

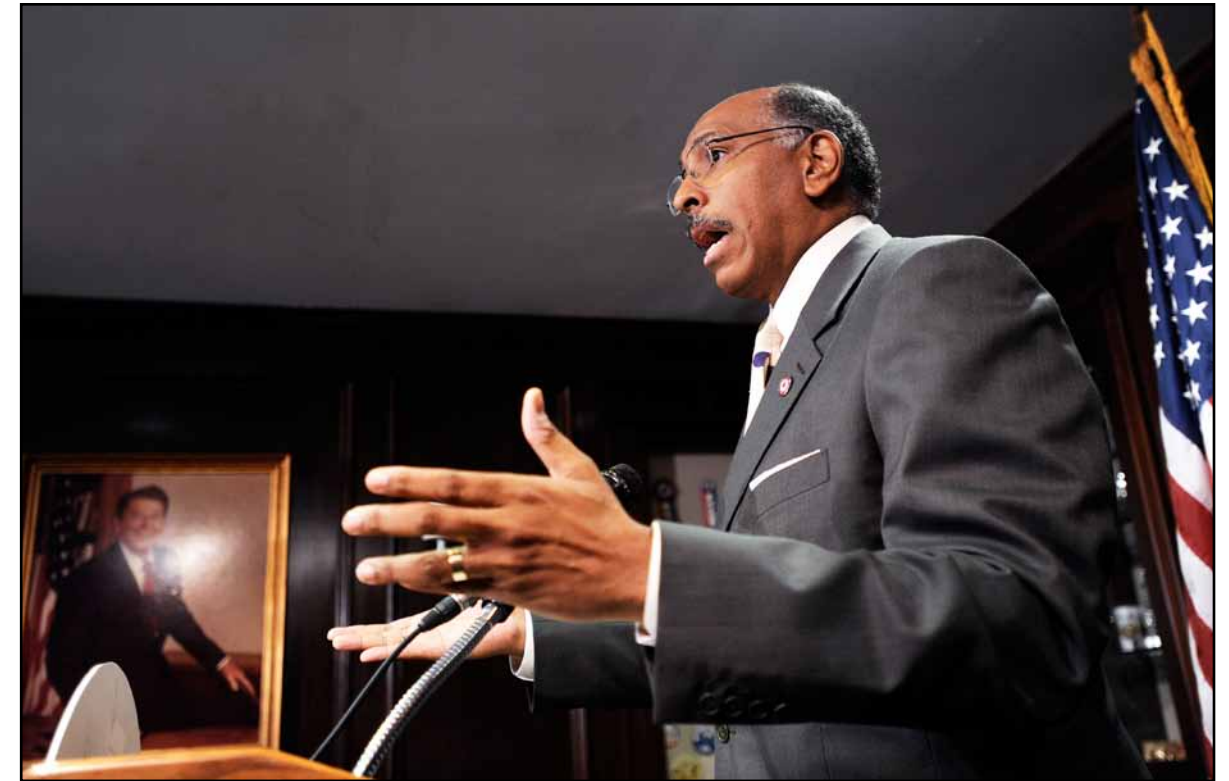
“The chairman was never at the location in question, he had no knowledge of the expenditure, nor does he find the use of committee funds at such a location at all acceptable,” Heye said in a statement.

Democrats pounced on the report, first revealed by the Web site dailycaller.com, eagerly distributing media accounts of the brouhaha round the country.

Conservatives questioned it as well, led by the group Concerned Women for America.

“Did they really agree to reimburse nearly \$2,000 for a bondage-themed night club?” asked the group’s chief executive, Penny Nance.

“Has this kind of thing been approved in the past?” The strip club costs were among several travel expenses that were listed in the RNC’s



Olivier Douliery, Abaca Press / MCT Campus

RNC chairman Michael Steele at a news conference in Washington on Nov. 4, 2009. The party is under fire for money spent at an LA club that features bondage and simulated sexual acts

most recent report to the Federal Election Commission and that have suggested a high-flying lifestyle for party officials. Among February expenses reported to the FEC: \$17,514 for pri-

vate jets; \$12,691 on limos; \$19,016.63 at the W hotel in downtown Washington; \$9,099 at the Beverly Hills Hotel in California.

— MCT Campus

Christian militia indicted for plotting to kill police officer

By David G. Savage
Tribune Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Nine members of an anti-government militia that posted its warrior exercises on the Internet and allegedly plotted to kill police officers were indicted in Detroit Monday on conspiracy and weapons charges.

The indictment said that members of Hutaree see law enforcement as the enemy and that they planned to kill a police officer, possibly at a traffic stop, and then attack the funeral

procession to kill more officers.

U.S. Attorney Barbara McQuade said federal agents moved to arrest the leaders of the group over the weekend because they had discussed carrying out an attack in April.

“The safety of the public and of the law enforcement community demanded intervention at this time,” she said.

The group’s Web site refers to the Hutarees as “Christian warriors.” It also posted videos of their military-style exercises. Government officials said they were uncertain of the group’s motives and aims.

“This is an example of racial and extremist fringe groups which can be found throughout our society,” said Andrew Arena, the FBI special agent in charge. “The FBI takes such extremist groups seriously, especially those who would target innocent citizens and the law enforcement officers who protect the citizens of the United States.”

The leader of the group was among eight persons taken into custody. He is David Brian Stone, 45, of Clayton, Mich. Also indicted were his wife, Tina, and two sons, Joshua and David Jr. The FBI said they have not arrested Joshua Stone,

who is classified as a fugitive.

The federal charges include seditious conspiracy against the government, attempted use of a weapon of mass destruction and possessing a firearm during a crime of violence.

It was apparent that the FBI had been monitoring the group for some time. The indictment says they had met on Feb. 20 in Lenawee County in eastern Michigan to plan further operations. The group also publicized its own militia activities on its Web site.

— MCT Campus

A pope with a problem

By Tim Ruten
Los Angeles Times

This has been a tough Lent for the Roman Catholic Church. Its seemingly endless sexual abuse scandal finally has seeped into the papal apartments, and the Vatican's response to this week's revelations suggests that far too little has been learned from this squalid affair.

Until now, Pope Benedict XVI had seemed to be taking a far more forthright approach to the problem than his predecessor, John Paul II, most recently in a blistering "pastoral letter" to the entire Irish church.

Last week, however, the New York Times published a pair of stories suggesting that Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger — the future Pope Benedict — participated in precisely the sort of secrecy and administrative negligence that has been at the root of this scandal.

Documents produced over the church's objections in an American lawsuit show that the Vatican's Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith, which Ratzinger headed from 1981 to 2005, declined to defrock Father Lawrence C. Murphy, even though he molested at least 200 boys at a Wisconsin school for the deaf. In 1996, then-Milwaukee Archbishop Rembert G. Weakland twice wrote directly to Ratzinger requesting a trial aimed at defrocking Murphy, whose crimes were known to three successive Milwaukee prelates.

Ultimately, Ratzinger's deputy, Cardinal Tarcisio Bertone, authorized a trial, then halted it after Murphy — by then aging and in ill health — wrote to Ratzinger appealing for leniency. As pope, Benedict has appointed Bertone to the Vatican's two highest offices, secretary of State and Camerlengo. The last Italian cardinal to hold both posts simultaneously was

Eugenio Pacelli, the future Pope Pius XII.

On Friday, the New York Times reported that, as archbishop of Munich, Ratzinger presided over a meeting that approved the return to parish work of an admitted pedophile, who went on to molest more children. A memo from that period also seems to show that the cardinal was "kept informed about the priest's assignment."

The Holy See's reaction to both stories has been swift. An unsigned editorial last week in the Vatican newspaper L'Osservatore Romano attacked the New York Times by name, accusing the paper of willfully ignoring the "truth" of Ratzinger/Benedict's record and of attempting "to instrumentalize, without any foundation in fact, horrible episodes and sorrowful events uncovered in some cases from decades ago." The media, it continued, showed a "despicable intent of attacking, at whatever cost, Benedict XVI and his closest collaborators."

Earlier in the week, New York's archbishop, Timothy Dolan, used his blog to dismiss the New York Times' reports and defend the pontiff's record by arguing that authorities outside the church also are culpable. Stories about sexual abuse by priests were "fair" if "unending," he wrote. But he condemned the media for portraying child sexual abuse "as a tragedy unique to the church alone. That, of course, is malarkey."

Sadly, this latest everybody-is-responsible-so-nobody-is-to-blame defense is of a piece with a little-noticed section of Benedict's letter to the Irish church in which he seemed to blame the crisis, in part, on "new and serious challenges to the faith arising from the rapid transformation and secularization of Irish society."

What now seems likely is that the pontiff, who turns 83 next month, will spend the rest of his papacy



Nati Shohat, Flash 90 / MCT Campus

Pope Benedict XVI delivers mass in the Basilica of Annunciation, one of the holiest Christian sites in Nazareth, May 14.

dealing with the fallout of an ever-widening scandal.

His situation will be precisely the one over which he assailed the Irish bishops in his recent letter: "It cannot be denied that some of you and your predecessors failed, at times grievously, to apply the long-established norms of canon law to the crime of child abuse. ... I recognize how difficult it was to grasp the extent and complexity of the problem, to obtain reliable information and to make the right decisions in the light of conflicting expert advice.

Nevertheless, it must be admitted that grave errors of judgment were made and failures of leadership occurred. All this has seriously undermined your credibility and effectiveness.

— MCT Campus

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POLL

And another fine for the smoking crime

By Reese Wallace
rwallace@valenciavoices.com

The life of a smoker in modern America is like a game of whack a mole from the moles point of view.

Every time you think you've found somewhere safe to light up a new law comes down to smack you back into the darkness.

Taxes continue to go up on cigarettes to the point where a new Ferrari is more cost-effective.

You cannot smoke them in a bar. You cannot smoke them in a car. We're one law away from a Doctor Seuss book theme.

Some of these laws make sense, because they protect those who cannot protect themselves, in the case of a new law on the Florida docket that means protecting children from second hand smoke in their parents cars.

Under the new law, anyone caught smoking with a child under 16 in the car would receive a fine of up to \$100.

We tend to go overboard in our antismoking fervor, do we really need to stop people smoking in bars? That's why people go to bars.

As epic drunk and long time smoker Peter O'Toole once said, "My idea of heaven is moving from one smoke-filled room to another."

We have, in our drive to eliminate smoking, trampled the rights of smokers while making up entirely new rationalization for denying their rights.

Certain laws should be in place because it is a bad habit that shouldn't be sold to kids or forced on them by second hand smoke, but lets tone it down folks.

Should drivers who smoke with their children in the car be penalized?



Yes. Smokers shouldn't let that habit be around their child, especially while driving a vehicle.

—Raymond Furaess (non-smoker)



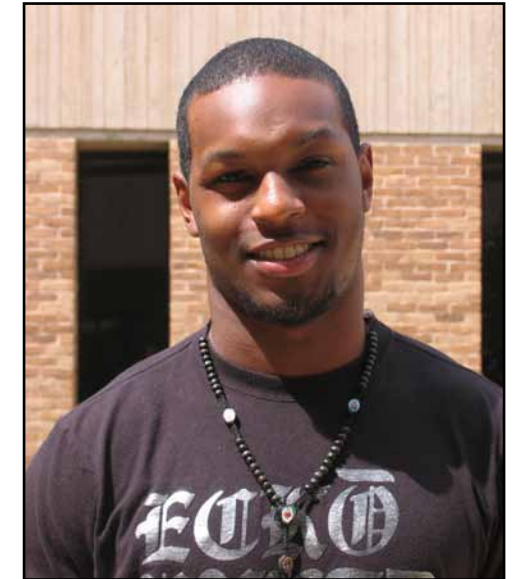
Yes. It's the same thing as a minor smoking.

— Jonathan Mahadeo (smoker)



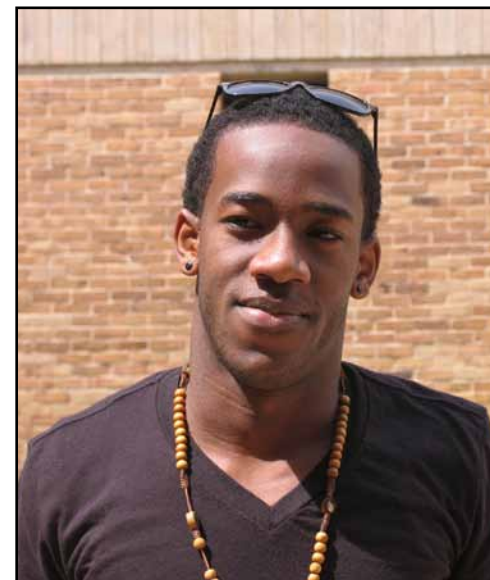
Yes. Second-hand smoke is something that really kills a lot of minors.

— Jahrid Colbourne (smoker)



No. The guardian of the child should be able to make the decision of whether or not their children will be in the vehicle while they're smoking.

— Marc Anthony Henry (non-smoker)



No. I don't think second-hand smoke is that bad.

— Marquise Lane (smoker)



Yes. Smoking is bad. It's very unhealthy.

— Floresca Isme (non-smoker)



Yes. Second-hand smoke affects non-smokers. People can still smell and be around it when they get in the car.

—Lara Grant (non-smoker)



Yes. They (driver/smoker) are influencing the minor. Second-hand smoke is unhealthy even with the windows down.

—Amara Bowles (non-smoker)

Picoult takes on crime and Aspergers in 'House Rules'

By Jimmy Tater
jtater@valenciavoice.com

Jodi Picoult, an American author from Long Island, New York, and former writer for DC Comics' Wonder Woman series returns with her 17th novel: "House Rules."

Jacob Hunt is a high school Senior in Vermont who has



been bullied for years because he displays social quirks in public as a result of having Asperger Syndrome.

Emma, his mother and his his younger brother Theo live on a tight budget to cater to Jacob's specialized needs.

He has to have meetings with Jess Ogilvy, a University of New Hampshire grad student, who accompanies him as he practices appropriate social interaction in public.

Mark Maguire, Jess's boyfriend occasionally accompanies the duo on the social les-

sons but is impolite because he does not take Jacob's inability to understand social cues seriously.

Jacob, who is very isolated eventually asks to date Jess in front of her boyfriend and they have a disagreement.

They were to applaud Jacob's social risk, although inappropriate.

The next day Mark reports her missing to the police after she does not answer her cellphone or arrives at the professor's home she is house sitting.

After a call to 911 from her cellphone her dead body is found in the woods, but she is found with Jacob's blanket and he becomes a suspect surrounding her death.

The novel tries to educate the reader about Asperger syndrome and demonstrates the impairments it causes through Jacob.

He has high functioning autism, which means he has a high IQ level, but does not comprehend the body language and the mood indicators of the people around him.

He has a very specific range of interests and becomes very absorbed in that field.

His interest is in crime scene investigation, which includes watching his favorite show, Crimebusters, and staging crime scenes around the house with red corn syrup.

There is no cure for Asperger syndrome and is stressed throughout the story.

Emma, his mother, has found that the best way to help Jacob control his outbursts and getting jittery is by giving him a diet of certain vitamins and minerals.

The story changes narrators often to give another character's perspective on the situations as they emerge although the plot continues in chronological order.

The story rarely deviates, but it acts like a composite story when Deputy Rich and Jacob meet.

The story from each of their perspectives pertaining to how they arrive at a crime scene is linked in their respective sections.

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in partnership with

Central Florida Brazilian American Chamber of Commerce

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Moderated by visiting filmmakers
Elisa Tolomelli & Malu De Martino



My Name isn't Johnny

Rated: 14 and older

Thursday March 25th, 2010
West Campus
1800 South Kirkman Rd
Orlando, FL 32819
Reception in Building 3 Atrium
6:00-7:00 pm

Film in Building 3 Auditorium:
7:00-9:00pm followed by Q&A



Life is What You Make it: An Urban Odyssey

Rated: 16 and older

Monday March 29th, 2010
Osceola Campus
1800 South Denn John Lane,
Kissimmee, FL 34744
Reception in Building 2 Atrium:
6:00 - 7:00pm

Film in Building 2 Auditorium:
7:00 - 9:00pm followed by Q&A



In Therapy

Rated: 14 and older

Wednesday March 31, 2010
East Campus
701 N. Econlockhatchee Trail,
Orlando, FL 32825
Reception Building 5 room 112
6:00-7:00pm

Film in Performing Arts Center:
7:00 - 8:30pm followed by Q&A



A Gastronomic Story

Rated: 16 and older

Thursday April 1, 2010
West Campus
1800 South Kirkman Rd
Orlando, FL 32819
Reception in Building 3 Atrium
6:00-7:00 pm

Film in Building 3 Auditorium:
7:00-9:00pm followed by Q&A



All films are in Portuguese with English subtitles. Free and open to the public.
For detailed synopses, please contact Professor Richard Sansone (rsansone@valenciacc.edu)





(L-R) Craig Robinson, Clark Duke, Rob Corddry and John Cusack star in MGM's "Hot Tub Time Machine"

Courtesy MGM

'Hot Tub' only lukewarm

By Andrea Fuguet
afuguet@valenciavoices.com

Have you ever wished you could go back in time and relive your teenage years?

That's exactly what Adam, Lou, Jacob and Nick do in the latest comedy flick "Hot Tub Machine."

Four losers depressed with their lives get a second opportunity to live their wonder years all over again. Drunk, alone and miserable the four friends transport back to the past to change their pathetic lives and have a brighter future or well at least try to all while sitting in a hot tub.

Like the movie "Back to the Future" but with a modern twist and flair this flick gets you laughing at the stupidity of each of the characters and the mishaps they have to go through to have the shot at the life they always wanted but never got. This movie contains gross out gags and it never takes itself too easily, its goofy and easy going.

Great comedy movie for a Saturday night with some chicken wings and beers, this is the kind of movie to watch in a boy's night out. It has the kind of humor that only a guy would appreciate like one of the characters vomiting

on a squirrel.

I personally found the movie light and more capable of bringing out more laughs and spontaneity. It seems to me the directors and writers focused more in recreating the 80s that in the laughs.

The whole point of the movie is to voice out the nostalgia of the 80s like the show VH1's "I love the 80s." Adam (John Cusack), Nick (Craig Robinson), Lou (Rob Corddry) and Jacob (Clark Duke) deliver a decent comedy with gross antics only a strong stomach would endure but I wish it was funnier like "The Hangover".

Crowe's 'Robin Hood' to open Cannes

By Steven Zeitchik
Los Angeles Times

After making animation, or at least the people who create it, the stars of the red carpet last year with "Up," the Cannes Film Festival is going with a more traditional opening night this year.

The festival announced Friday morning that "Robin Hood," Ridley Scott's take on the folkloric hero, will open its annual extravaganza on the Croisette. Russell Crowe

stars as the iconic character, firing arrows, tangling with the sheriff of Nottingham and generally making mischief.

The movie's a pretty logical choice for Thierry Fremaux and the people who program Cannes: It offers a patina of seriousness, with Scott a multiple Oscar nominee, but also the media-ready glitz that the festival prefers for its opening night, with a glamorous international cast that includes Crowe, Cate Blanchett, William Hurt and Max von Sydow. And it jibes nicely with Universal's release date for the Brian Grazer-produced film: May 14, two days after the festival opens.

How does this choice fit with past Cannes openers? It marks the fifth straight year that the festival is opening with an English-language film (Dominik Moll's French-language "Lemming" was the last time it didn't) but the first time since "The Da Vinci Code" in 2006 that it's going with an action movie.

— MCT Campus

Movie picks								
		New review						
		Valencia Voice	Chicago Tribune	Los Angeles Times	Miami Herald	Philadelphia Inquirer	Minneapolis Star Tribune	Seattle Times
★ Outstanding								
■ Worthy effort								
▼ So-so								
💣 A bomb								
The Bounty Hunter	PG 13	💣	💣	💣	💣	💣	💣	▼
Clash of the Titans	PG 13	■	-	-	▼	▼	-	▼
Diary of a Wimpy Kid	PG	■	💣	-	▼	▼	■	▼
Our Family Wedding	PG 13	-	-	💣	▼	▼	-	▼
Remember Me	PG 13	-	▼	▼	■	▼	▼	▼
Repo Men	R	-	💣	▼	■	💣	💣	▼
The Runaways	R	-	★	▼		▼	▼	▼
She's Out of My League	R	★	▼	■	▼	▼	-	▼

‘Clash’ is not quite titanic

By Roger Moore
The Orlando Sentinel

Here we are, back at the end of the world in 2012. Only this time it's 2012 BCE, as the gods of Olympus set out to take "man" in the form of early Greek civilization back to the stone age in a fit of Olympian pique.

Warner Bros. has revived "Clash of the Titans," the ultimate '80s "sword and sorcery" epic, as a vehicle showing off the state of movie special effects in 3D. The new film even references and scoffs

at one of the puppet-animation characters (the mechanical owl) from the original 1981 film, as if to say, "Look what we can do now."

What we can do now makes for a sometimes fun ride, a digital bastardization of Greek mythology with digital eagles, giant scorpions, wraiths and a Kraken — the sea beast to end all sea beasts.

What hasn't improved is the silly, archetypal story, or the stagey arguments among the gods of Olympus — Liam Neeson is Zeus, in chrome armor that

glows in soft focus.

Men from the island of Argus are rebelling against the gods, burning temples, tearing down gigantic statues. And since the Olympians live on prayers from the faithful, Zeus looses Hades (an almost unrecognizable Ralph Fiennes) upon them.

"You are specks of dust beneath our fingernails," Hades hisses. Olympic trash talk.

Hades wants a sacrifice — the lovely Andromeda (Alexa Davalos). But not if Perseus (Sam Worthington) has anything to say about it. He's a demi-god. Zeus tricked his mom into Olympic sex. He's grown up knowing Pete Postlethwaite and Elizabeth McGovern are his adoptive parents, though he has wondered about that ageless beauty, Io (Gemma Arterton), who looks over him from the shadows.

And like the demi-gods of "Percy Jackson and the Olympians," he's got daddy issues.

Perseus sets out on a quest — to consult with witches, visit Medusa in Hades and find a means to defeat the Kraken and keep Hades at bay.

Worthington is emerging as the new Charlton Heston — an actor big enough to fill a big screen with his bigness. But he plays every role the same — always a crewcut Marine, here battling beasts in the distant past. His out-of-place haircut and unflattering hemline do the "Terminator" / "Avatar" star no favors.



Warner Bros. / MCT Campus

Sam Worthington stars as Perseus in "Clash of the Titans," a remake of the 1981 cult classic.



Warner Bros. / MCT Campus

Jason Flemyng, left, stars as Calibos and Ralph Fiennes as Hades faces off with Liam Neeson who as his brother Zeus in "Clash of the Titans"

The guy who really chews the "Titans" scenery is Mads Mikkelsen, the Dane who made a meek Bond villain ("Casino Royale") but who makes a fierce warrior, Draco, who prepares Perseus and escorts him on his journey.

Louis "The Incredible Hulk" Leterrier directed this, and he benefits from terrific production design and art direction. The flinty, shattered shale hills of Wales and volcanoes of Tenerife provide backdrop for the palaces and temples of this

Clash. Olympus looks like the Emerald City of Oz, without the emeralds.

There isn't a serious moment in it, and the light touches come from one-liners and supporting players. For all the impressive (but not dazzling) effects, the scattered jokes and stentorian acting (especially from the Olympians), there's not much here that will stick with you after the popcorn's gone. But as any ancient Greek could tell you, that's sort of the point.

— MCT Campus

PBS documentary examines Buddhism

By Luaine Lee
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

PASADENA, Calif. — It seems like a clash of cultures when you compare the razzle-dazzle of American life and the tranquil practice of Buddhism. But the two are completely compatible, says documentary filmmaker David Grubin, whose two-hour film, "The Buddha" premieres April 7 on PBS (check local listings).

"We try to set his life in its historical context, but it's so long ago that we don't know what he really did," says Grubin at a press gathering here.

"But what I realized is, what he really did

doesn't really matter. What matters is the story and the meaning of that story and the message of hope that the story carries. And so you won't find in this film a searching for the historical Buddha. What you do find is a great story with great interpreters of the story," says Grubin, who's made films on Napoleon, Teddy Roosevelt and J. Robert Oppenheimer.

The disciplines of psychiatry and Buddhism may seem hectares apart, says Epstein, but that's not so. "Buddhism is all about looking at your own mind; the power that self-awareness has to actually heal," he says.

"And psychotherapy is the same. It's about looking at your own mind in the presence of another person, using the help of conversation to look at your own mind. The idea being that self-awareness actually can help people change. So to me, they are two versions of the same thing."

Grubin agrees. "I think I've always been interested in psychology in my films," he says. "I think that's probably one thing that you can see from 'The Secret Life of the Brain' to 'LBJ' to 'Napoleon.' And the Buddha, you know, was really the first psychologist. He really thought about the human mind, the way our mind — our thoughts buzz and buzz and buzz and what that all means and what to do about finding a way to be more in touch with our lives and ourselves.

"He was searching for a kind of serenity. As W.S. Merwin said, he was trying to understand suffering in the world. And he came up with some ideas about that, which I wanted to explore — aside from the fact that I think I'm reaching the age where I'm looking for maybe a deeper kind of wisdom than you could find in a film about LBJ."

Epstein, whose father is a doctor, first became

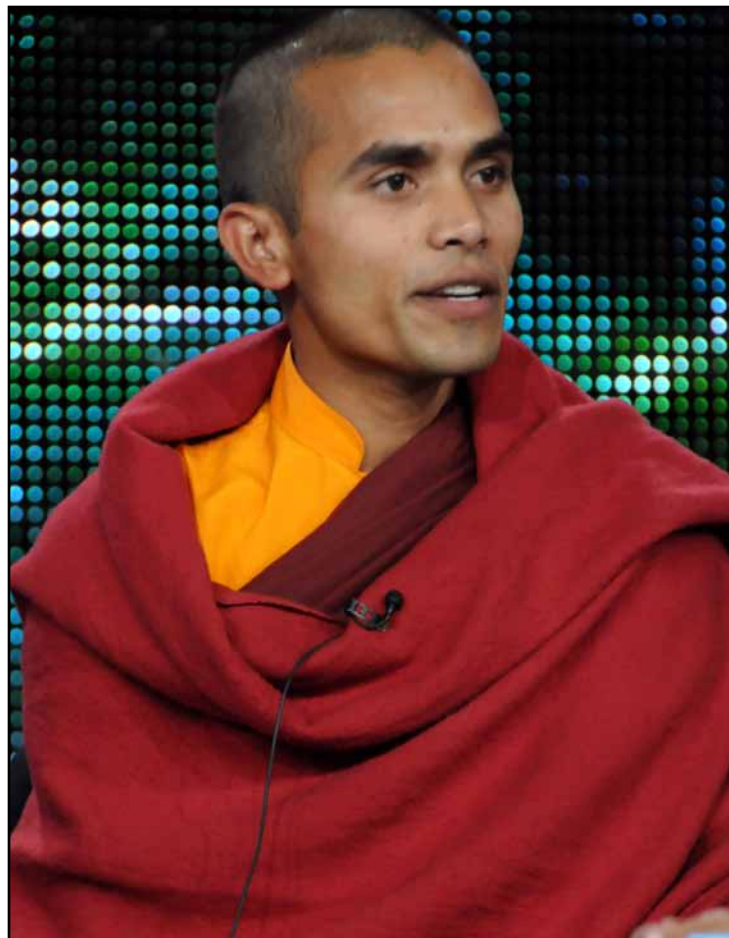
interested in Buddhism in college. "I was studying psychology with a vague notion of wanting to be a psychotherapist, but not really knowing what that would involve, and I must've been taking a religion class. I started reading some of the psychological teaching of the Buddha and I thought, 'This really makes sense.'

"So I pursued the Buddhist line first then I came around and said, 'Oh, Freud is really amazing and I can understand what he's saying too.' But by then I was already looking at the western psychotherapeutic material through the lens of the Buddhist material that I found. Then I went to medical school and became a psychiatrist and started doing therapy, which is mostly what I do.

But I'd already gone a little bit deeply into the Buddhist reading and practice and meditation and so on. So that was influencing me all along the way," says Epstein.

"Pardon me because I'm not very familiar with (the) West and also not very familiar with the kind of Buddhism that happens here," he says. "But with whatever experience I had meeting some Western people who practice and learn is that it happens with any person who starts on something as a fresher (beginner). He has no idea. So whatever he sees as one small part of it, he takes it as the whole. What it is really is only part of the whole thing. In our country, people grow up in that culture, and they see so many basic elements that are not discussed, that are not told, but they support that theory ... They create the mental software where they're receptive to that idea."

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Buddhist monk Metteyya Sakyaputta says he's studying "Friends" to become acquainted with the West.

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Michigan State advances to another Final Four

By Shannon Shelton
Detroit Free Press

ST. LOUIS — The 1.8 seconds that elapsed before Michigan State beat Tennessee, 70-69, to advance to a second consecutive Final Four might be the longest 1.8 recorded, and the 1.6 seconds that followed probably set some kind of mark as well.

The first mark was how much time was left when Tennessee's J.P. Prince fouled Michigan State senior forward Raymar Morgan as he went for a potential game-winning lay-up, and Morgan instead went to the free-throw line.

He made the first shot. Tennessee called a 30-second time-out.

He purposely missed the second to prevent the Volunteers from setting up a play that could end in a winning or tying bucket. Tennessee immediately called another time-out, and only 0.2 second elapsed.

"We anticipated that they would miss on purpose," said Tennessee coach Bruce Pearl. "And as result of the miss, if they could get the ball bobbled or loose, then the time runs off the clock. So I told the official prior that if we got the rebound, we're going to call time-out right away."

The Volunteers set up the final

play, having Wayne Chism inbound to Prince. Prince rushed downcourt and was forced to shoot from half-court. It fell way short.

Game over: MSU to the Final Four. It was worth the wait.

Two weeks after the Spartans lost to Minnesota in the Big Ten tournament, Durrell Summers was benched for poor defense. On Sunday, he was named Most Valuable Player of the Midwest Regional after scoring a game-high 21 points against Tennessee.

"I just think we had to get together and get closer as a team and realize we could come up from this," Summers said about MSU's resurgence after losing games during the Big Ten season. "Once we got to tournament time, we said we'll have a fresh start."

Before the game came down to free throws, Summers drained a three-pointer with 2:47 left to put the Spartans ahead, 69-66. Brian Williams answered with a dunk for Tennessee to cut MSU's lead to one with 2:08 remaining.

Both teams then missed jumpers and lay-ups, but Korie Lucious, who played 35 minutes as the starting point guard, was fouled with 28 seconds left. He missed the front end of a one-and-one and was despondent.



Chris Lee, St. Louis Post-Dispatch / MCT Campus

Michigan State forward Draymond Green, center, jumps into the arms of teammate Garrick Sherman (41) after defeating Tennessee, 70-69, during the men's NCAA Basketball Tournament on Sunday, March 28.

"Don't worry about it; we'll get it back," coach Tom Izzo said he told Lucious.

Sure enough, Draymond Green fouled Scotty Hopson with 11 seconds left, and Hopson missed the second of two free throws. The game was tied at 69 with 11 seconds left.

Green, who also made the all-regional team, had a plan.

"I ran over to the bench, because when we took that time-out on the second free throw, I told Coach, '(Isolate) on me up top, give me the

ball, I'm going to break it down,' " Green said. "I don't think he felt quite comfortable with that, so he drew up another play."

Green ran the play he suggested all along. Lucious had the ball, passed to Green, who saw Morgan wide-open near the bucket. He passed to Morgan, and Morgan took the foul with 1.8 seconds left.

"It was just what I wanted," Morgan said about the opportunity to win it at the line. "I thought it was great."

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NCAA and CBS badly needed Duke to make the Final Four

By Jon Wilner
San Jose Mercury News

Think they're cheering on the campuses at Duke, West Virginia, Butler and Michigan State? That's nothing compared with the celebration at the NCAA's headquarters in Indianapolis.

The NCAA desperately needed Duke to win Sunday and lend some glamour to an otherwise ho-hum Final Four field.

No team moves the television ratings needle like the Blue Devils, and the NCAA never has needed that needle moved more than now, as it enters negotiations for a new long-term contract that is vital to the financial well-being of its membership.

Conspiracy theorists might even argue that the NCAA selection committee handed the Blue Devils an easier region than they deserved — a staggering No. 2 seed (Villanova), an upstart No. 3 (Baylor) and a hobbled No. 4 (Purdue) — to grease their bracket.

And they took advantage, winning four games by an average of 16 points to become the only No. 1 seed in the Final Four, joining a No. 2 (West Virginia) and two No. 5s (Butler and Michigan State).

Although the quartet features several appealing stories, this Final Four might be best remembered for which teams, players and fans weren't there:

—No Kansas, Kentucky, Syracuse, Ohio State, Villanova or Kansas State.

For the first time since 2000, the Final Four includes two teams seeded lower than No. 4.

—No John Wall, Evan Turner, DeMarcus Cousins, Wes Johnson, Cole Aldrich or Greg Monroe.

For the first time in who-knows-how-long, there won't be an NBA lottery pick on the floor. The top remaining prospect, Duke freshman forward Mason Plumlee, is at least a year away from leaving school.

—No CBS cutaways to Kentucky uber-fan Ashley Judd.

Instead, we will see plenty of Michigan State alum Magic Johnson, with a hefty dose of West Virginia legend Jerry West and possibly "Hoosiers" actors Gene Hackman and Maris Valainis, who played Hickory High star Jimmy Chitwood.

(In case you hadn't heard it mentioned 157 times over the past fortnight, the championship game in "Hoosiers" was filmed at Butler's Hinkle Fieldhouse.)

What else will we read, hear and see — both on the court and off — over the next eight days? Here's a Final Four primer:

Butler's home cooking. Playing 15 minutes from their campus, the Bulldogs are the warm-and-fuzzy story of the week. But don't be misled by their conference (Horizon) or the "mid-major" tag. They were No. 11 in the Associated Press pre-season poll, have a future first-round pick in forward Gordon Hayward and own a 24-game winning streak.

Michigan State's mulligan. One year after losing to North Carolina in the championship game, the Spartans get another chance. But they will have to do it without star point guard Kalin Lucas, who suffered a torn Achilles tendon in the Sweet 16. After winning tournament games by one, two



Chuck Liddy, Raleigh News & Observer / MCT Campus

Duke's Lance Thomas (42) grabs a critical rebound in the closing minutes of play against Baylor. Duke defeated Baylor, 78-71, in the men's NCAA basketball Tournament on March 28.

and three points, how much good fortune do the Spartans have left?

West Virginia's return. Led by coach (and alum) Bob Huggins, the Mountaineers are making their first Final Four appearance since 1959, when they lost to Cal in the championship despite 28 points by West. For Huggins, it's his first Final Four since he guided Cincinnati and Nick Van Exel in 1992.

Duke's back. After a five-year absence, which included a string of tournament losses to lower-seeded teams, the Blue Devils are on the Final Four stage again. They are smart and skilled and possess a guard, Nolan Smith, who can create his own points when the offense stagnates. Smith is the son of the late Louisville player Derek Smith, whose Cardinals won the 1980 NCAA title . . . in Indianapolis.

Best player: West Virginia's Da'Sean Butler. With multiple 30-point games during the regular season — and a 28-pointer to dispatch Missouri in the second round — the versatile Butler is more capable of carrying his team than any other player in the field.

Best coach: Michigan State's Tom Izzo. Yes, Duke's Mike Krzyzewski is a Hall of Famer with a gold medal, but Izzo is the best tournament coach in the country, with six Final Fours in the past 12 years and three in the past six.

Best bet: As the only No. 1 seed — and being Duke — the Blue Devils are a slight favorite. But they are just as likely to get KO'd in the semifinals as they are to win the championship.

One of the wildest tournaments ever comes to a fitting conclusion with a wide-open Final Four.

— MCT Campus