

## Florida Music Festival

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# ValenciaVoice

Official Student Media of Valencia Community College

## VCC goes green for Earth Day

By Roxy Smith

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Valencia Community College celebrated the 40th anniversary of Earth Day on Thursday, which took place on both the East and West Campuses. The event was a collaboration between Peer Educators, Valencia Volunteers, Student Development and Student Government Association.

"I remember participating in the very first Earth Day," said Victor Collazo, West Campus' head of Student Development. Collazo, was also part of Valencia's "Recycle Mania" project. Valencia placed all of the garbage that it collects in a pile, to show how much of it could be recycled.

The West Campus court yard had vendors and companies from all around Central Florida, that promote eco-friendly products, sustainable solutions and help teach the public about conserving and protecting the world we share.

The event had free giveaways which included seeds for planting, green bags for shopping, office supplies made from recycled materials and reusable lunch boxes. Students were able to listen to live entertainment, while eating vegetarian burgers and tofu hot dogs, get their fortune told and have photo opportunities to make Earth Day post cards.



Angelis Barrios / Valencia Voice

**West Campus' Senator of Events Patrick O'Connor and Student Government Association president Robert Stio hosted an event on the West Campus to promote eco-friendly lifestyles.**

Entertainers like "Team M & M" typically focus on balloon and body art, however to promote Earth Day, they came up with a way to create eco-friendly bracelets with products they already used.

Students were able to make 100% biodegradable bracelets that are made with a latex that comes from a rubber tree. The trees live for 40 years and

aren't cut down or harmed from the extraction of latex.

Many companies are taking steps towards creating a better environment and coming up with ways to reinvent the ways we use our resources.

The Earth Day celebration reminds us that every day is Earth Day, and protecting the planet all share is everyone's responsibility.

## VCC grads go Ivy League

By: James Austin

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Community college has, in the past, had a very negative stigma attached to it. Most people see it as a place for university rejects or students who couldn't quite cut it at a four year school. However it seems that this negative image is changing. Not only are more students seeing the advantages of local transfer programs like the Direct Connect to UCF program here at Valencia, but some are even going as far as the Ivy League.

Three Valencia students have been accepted at Columbia University as transfer students for the coming fall semester. Located in New York City, Columbia admits fewer than 10 percent of applicants for transfer admission each year. With extremely limited space in the sophomore and junior classes and an expected minimum GPA of 3.5 transfer admission from any institution is incredibly difficult. Not only is this a huge accomplishment for the three students, Ryan Robinson, Jemlynn Tatlonghari, and Shannan Roddy, but it's also a testament to the hard work and dedication of all the professors and staff at Valencia.

Ryan Robinson has been attending Valencia since the fall of 2007. He is getting his AA degree in political science and will be pursuing a degree in Philosophy at Columbia. During his time at Valencia he was an editor on the Phoenix, the schools literary magazine, a Vice President of the east campus model UN, and a member of Phi Theta Kappa. "Valencia has exposed me to so many new ideas" said Robinson, "there's always something to learn"

Jemlynn Tatlonghari first attended Valencia in the fall of 2002. She has changed major several times and is getting her AA degree in general studies, at Columbia she'll be trying for a degree in Math and Statistics. A member of Phi Theta Kappa, Tatlonghari said one thing Valencia has taught her is perseverance. "If you seek out help from professors, there's a lot of opportunities" Tatlonghari said.

Shannan Roddy couldn't be reached for comment.

Students at community colleges have a history of being looked down upon as lesser students. Students who have failed to make it into more 'prestigious' institutions. Slowly however, students like Robinson, Tatlonghari, and Roddy are changing that image.

Through their hard work, and the hard work of the Valencia staff, the image of community college is changing, from a fall back plan to a truly better place to start.



# Arizona immigration law denounced

By Alfonso Chardy and Juan Carlos Chavez  
McClatchy Newspapers

MIAMI — South Florida immigrant rights advocates on Tuesday denounced a new Arizona law that requires police officers to detain suspected undocumented immigrants and announced plans for a rally Saturday in Miami to support legalizing those who live and work illegally in the United States.

Fearful Miami may go the way of Arizona, they also demanded that South Florida authorities end their participation in a federal program that encourages local law enforcement to share fingerprint records of foreign nationals who are arrested and jailed. The program, say federal officials, seeks to identify and deport illegal immigrants who commit major crimes.

Advocates, in two separate news conferences in Miami-Dade, said they plan to hold a rally in downtown Miami Saturday to demand legalization for the nation's estimated 10.8 million undocumented immigrants, including 720,000 in Florida.

The rally will be one of many around the country in which immigrants and their advocates will express their frustration at the failure of the Obama administration to push aggressively for immigration reform.

Joining a rally in Washington, D.C., will be four young immigrant students from South Florida who are scheduled to end their four-month, 1,500-mile walk from Miami at the nation's capital on Wednesday. They will attend a news conference at the National Press Club Wednesday and then walk to the White House to deliver a petition demanding an end to the detention and deportation of undocumented immigrant students.

The events are part of a national strategy by pro-legalization groups to step up pressure on President Barack Obama to champion the fight for legalization in Congress and protest the Arizona law.

Being in the country illegally is a civil offense elsewhere, including Florida.

Obama has labeled the Arizona law "misguided" and reaffirmed his commitment to immigration reform but has not announced a specific time when congressional debate could begin.

He has called on Republicans to embrace immigration reform and has suggested that it can only move forward as a bipartisan bill.

But the key Republican senator working with Democrats on immigration reform, Sen. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina, said this week it likely will not hap-

pen until 2012.

The focus of local immigrant rights activists' anger Tuesday was the Secure Communities program — a cooperative agreement among U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and 20 states, including 24 Florida counties.

While ICE officials maintain the program's priority is the arrest of dangerous foreign nationals with criminal convictions, immigrant rights advocates insisted Tuesday that undocumented immigrants without criminal records are also swept up in the program.

"We are here to demand that our local county officials do not turn Miami-Dade County into another Arizona," Subbush Kattel, a community organizer for Florida Immigrant Coalition told a news conference in front of the county hall building downtown.

Nicole Navas, an ICE spokeswoman, reaffirmed her agency's contention that Secure Communities is focused on locating dangerous "criminal aliens."

"One of the greatest challenges in ICE's ongoing effort to target dangerous criminal aliens for removal has been getting timely, accurate information from local law enforcement agencies when foreign national criminal offenders come into their custody."

— MCT Campus

# Obama announces fiscal commission

By Steven Thomma  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Tuesday that everything was on the table — including tax increases — as he launched a bipartisan commission to recommend ways to cut the government's budget deficits.

"Our friends in the media will ask me ... what we are willing to rule in and what we are willing to rule out," Obama said in the White House Rose Garden after making opening remarks. "It's an old Washington game, and one that has made it all but impossible in the

past for people to sit down and have an honest discussion about putting our country on a more secure fiscal footing.

"So my message is simple: We're not playing the game, because I want this commission to be free to do its work."

The co-chairmen of the National Commission on Fiscal Responsibility and Reform, Democrat Erskine Bowles and Republican Alan Simpson, joined Obama. Bowles is the president of the University of North Carolina system and a former White House chief of staff under President Bill Clinton.

The commission is supposed to

make recommendations by Dec. 1 on ways to cut the deficit.

"In theory, there are few issues on which there is more vigorous bipartisan agreement than fiscal responsibility. But in practice, this responsibility for the future is often overwhelmed by the politics of the moment," he said.

"It falls prey to the pressure of special interests, to the pull of local concerns and to a reality familiar to every single American: It's a lot easier to spend a dollar than save one. That's what, at root, led to these exploding deficits. That's what has led to this day of reckoning."

— MCT Campus



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# Supreme Court set to consider violent games law

By Michael Doyle  
McClatchy Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Supreme Court on Monday agreed to review a challenge to California's ban on the sale of violent video games to minors.

Hot on the heels of overturning a congressional ban on videos depicting animal cruelty, justices said they would consider the constitutionality of California's 2005 law sometime during the next term that starts in October. A federal judge has previously blocked the state law from taking effect.

"The public agrees (that) video games should be provided the same protections as books, movies and music," Entertainment Software Association President Michael D. Gallagher said Monday, adding that "we look forward to ... vigorously defending the works of our industry's creators, storytellers and innovators."

The law's author, California State Sen. Leland Yee, a Democrat from San Francisco, likewise said he was "pleased" with the upcoming court review.

"The Supreme Court has never heard a case dealing with violent video games," Yee noted, so "states are now certain to receive direction on how to proceed with this important issue."

The closely watched free-speech case is likely to become one of the first to be heard by the newest Supreme Court justice, who is expected to be nominated by President Barack Obama in coming weeks.

The court's newest member will replace Jus-



Gamespress

**Violent games like Grand Theft Auto 4 would be illegal to sell to minors if the Supreme Court upholds the law.**

tice John Paul Stevens, who joined an eight-member majority last week in overturning the congressional ban on videos depicting animal cruelty. That 8-1 decision, with its expansive view of the First Amendment, suggests justices could be skeptical as they review California's law.

"The First Amendment's guarantee of free speech does not extend only to categories of speech that survive an ad hoc balancing of relative social costs and benefits," Chief Justice John Roberts Jr. wrote for the majority last week.

The California law now in question prohibits the sale of video games to minors under 18 "where a reasonable person would find that the violent content appeals to a deviant or morbid interest of minors." As with laws governing obscenity, the state statute exempts games that have "serious literary, artistic, political, or scientific value."

At least nine other states and localities have enacted similar restrictions, including Washington, Minnesota and Illinois. In California, retailers are subject to \$1,000 fines for each violation.

—MCT Campus

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## OUR VOICE

# The little newspaper that could

Enter “newspapers are” into any Google search, and the top two suggestions are “dead and dying.” For a room full of journalism students, “newspapers dying” is not a reality we want to think about. But alas it is true. We are regaled with stories of the golden days of journalism and wake up on the bleak horizon of the future.

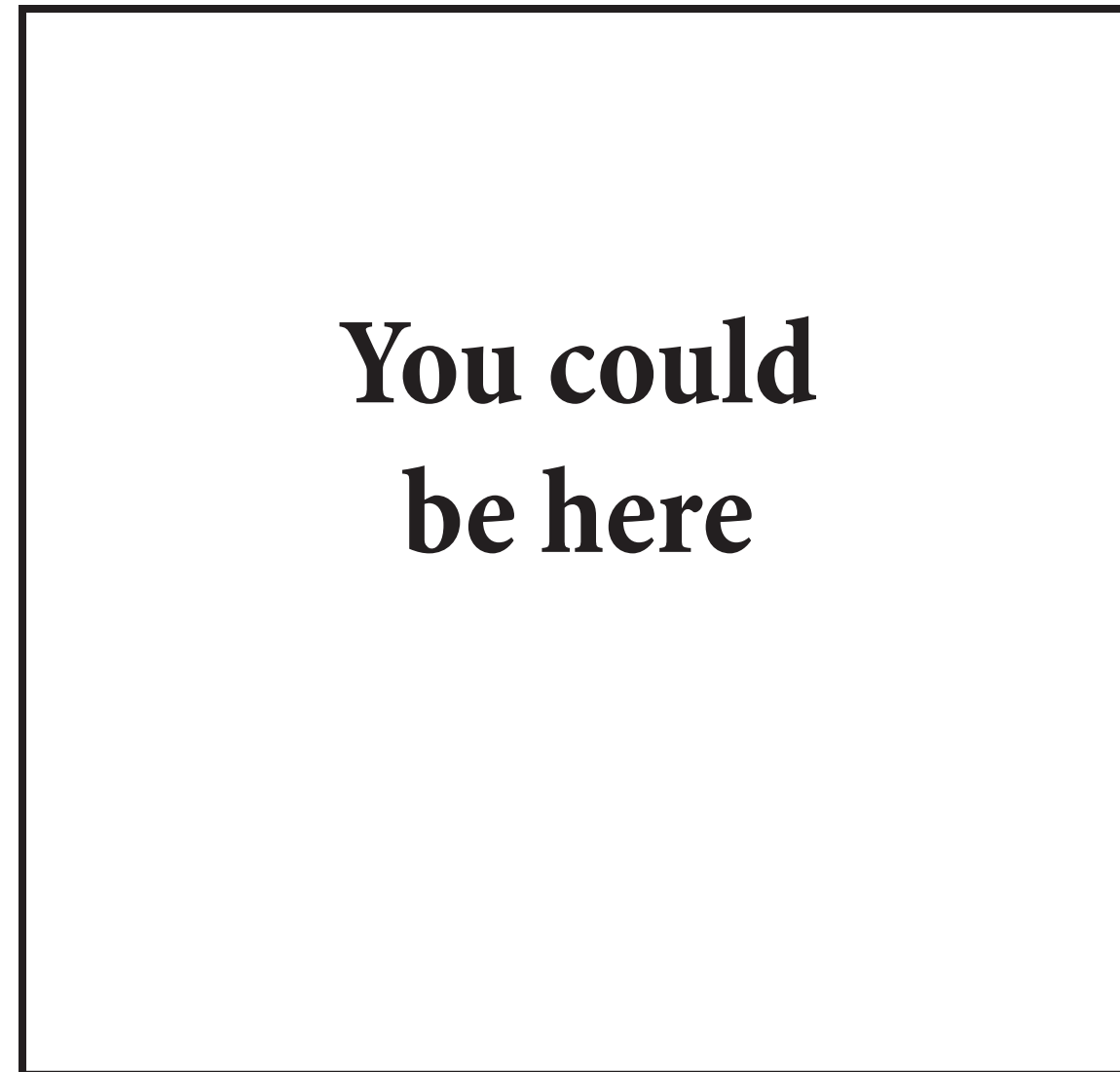
In the not so distant past every major city had two to three papers competing for a market that virtually included everyone. Then, as technology picked up and markets fell down, news moved faster, from hourly news programs to internet pages updating every eleven minutes.

The New York Times website is one of the most viewed pages on the planet. Yet, they still struggle to find a way to make money off all the page views they get.

We at the Voice find ourselves in a our own quandry. In addition to a full-time course load, a group of students assemble each week to compile a chronicling of our collective lives.

We strive to provide insight to how much difference a group of students can make.

This semester alone we covered: Hip hop for Haiti, presented by Valencia’s Film program, the Valencia Alumni Associaton’s 5k run, and journalists Helen Thomas and Craig Crawford speaking. We re-



ported about the rules change in the student lounge, Board of Trustee meetings, free hug day with the student leaders, Valencia Volunteer’s spring break awarness, and the recent SGA elections.

In this process we talked to countless students, each helping us to pass along the news to you. For those we did get a chance to meet and talk to we thank you for your

participation, without you none of this would be possible.

With numerous events occurring on multiple campuses we would be remiss to say we feature each and every story that happens at Valencia, but that is not the real problem. The problem lies in the people who will never see these words.

We do not put together this paper for ourselves, though it will look

great on a resume one day. Truthfully, this is done for the students, faculty, and staff. To open their eyes to the multitude of things which happen everyday.

Still, we often ponder who will ever read our words.

Newspapers aren’t dying. Newspaper readers are dying. Every kid with Wi-Fi, who feels they shouldn’t have to pay for anything, murdered the newspaper readers to get their hands on the first smart phones.

You need news. One person cannot witness all that their world has to offer, but one still must understand how these things affect them. News will always be gathered and dispersed.

What good are words with no one to read them? What good is a story if it is never heard?

So do us a favor. Make yourself involved. Write in your opinion; inform us on what news you’ve heard, tell us your story.

Our relationship, like any other, is a two way street; we need your feedback in order to best represent you.

Robert M. Hutchins, a former Dean of Yale’s Law School, once said “The death of democracy is not likely to be an assassination from ambush. It will be a slow extinction from apathy, indifference, and undernourishment.”

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## POLL

# Do your part to help

By Tiffany Janiczek  
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With Earth Day just passed, I want to take a few minutes to discuss how, as a school, we aren't doing everything we can to do our part.

Sure it's hard not to notice the bins which offer recycling of aluminum, plastic and paper, and I'm sure some of us use these often (I know I do), but there is so much more we can do.

For example, while some teachers allow online submissions of papers and homework most still require a hard copy of the same assignments.

If we really wanted to make an impact we could become the first school to require every assignment be submitted electronically thus reducing our paper consumption dramatically.

Instead of textbooks, use Ebooks or online collections of text.

While the aforementioned examples will probably never happen, here are a few everyday things that anyone can do to make an individual effort to save our planet.

Re-use printing paper for different assignments. No teacher can argue with you if your rough draft has an old assignment on the back. If they do, tell them that while they've chosen not to go green you are trying to do your part.

Whenever possible rent textbooks, buy used or get an online copy of the book. Not only is this environmentally friendly, it is friendly to your wallet (Ebooks average 50% less than print books, chegg.com is super cheap and we all know the benefits of buying used).

If everyone employs one of these suggestions an impact will be made. Well, while it may not be walking on the moon or winning an Oscar, if all I'm known for is doing my part to help save the planet I'm okay with that.

We only have one planet, we need to do our part to keep it because at the rate we're going my grandkids may not have much left, and by then it will be too late.

# How do you help make the Earth a better place?



I don't recycle because I don't really have time.

—Bernadette Telcius



I make the effort to recycle bottles...not so much with paper though. I also use energy efficient light bulbs.

—Roger Burns



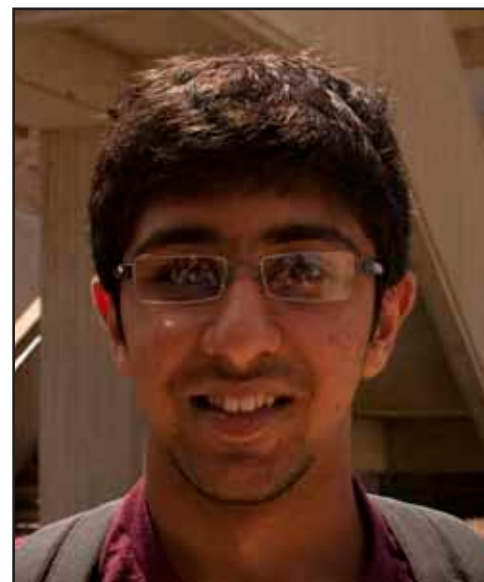
I can't say that I consciously do much of anything to help the environment.

—Dominique Johnson



I usually recycle bottles, newspaper, cardboard, and glass. I also use energy efficient light bulbs.

—Rosalind Elafonso



I recycle every day. On Earth Day I make the effort to turn off any lights that are not being used throughout the day.

—Sajjad Plumber



I try to conserve water while brushing my teeth. I also turn off lights when I'm not using them but I don't really consider myself to be very eco-friendly.

—Tenneshia Harvey



I only recycle if the proper bins and containers are nearby.

—Joel Ellis



I recycle but I don't really do anything different on Earth Day.

—Jessica Wellington



# Voice On Location: Florida Music Festival

Stories by Jimmy Tater



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Rock/Reggae band Jahfè performs at the Florida Grammy Showcase

## Jahfè tops Florida Grammy Showcase

**ORLANDO** – Jahfè won the Florida Grammy Showcase at the Lyrica lounge on April 21. The eight-piece rock and reggae group traveled to the showcase from Miami, FL. The event was MC'ed by by Buckethead, host of "The BS," from Orlando's Real Radio 104.1.

The showcase featured six finalist who competed for necessities to supplement their music careers like recording time, or music gear. The panel that made the decision were mystery judges, not revealed to the public, who were said to be industry professionals.

"If here is the coconut tree and you want coconut, you don't sit over there," said Jahfè's Sasha Sanon. "I don't like the competition, I wish we could all be winners."

Gina Limbrick, an actress and stunt woman said about the contest "The choice was difficult, but Derek Olds had more marketability. You just don't hear reggae on the radio."

The various groups shared that stage and played 2 song sets each and Jahfè, the contest winner, returned to the stage for an encore.

The other artists that competed were Venejer, The Black Rabbits, Derek Olds, Dreaming in Stereo, and Select Start.

The artists not only shared the stage, they performed using the same communal instruments with minor additions of a personal amplifier or custom instrument.

"It was strange not using our own equipment, lights, or amps," said Jason Polo from Tampa's Select Start. "We didn't have any control over the lights, it was what [the house] wanted, it didn't go with the music."

"It was a great opportunity to be here with all these bands," said Jose Gonzalez the lead guitar from Miami's Venejer. "The decision had to be tough, when there so many bands here that represent different genres."

The audience provided another perspective. "It was a great opportunity no matter what place they got," said Fullsail student Zach Ceretello. "Everyone was so unique that it was tough to compare them with each other, but they blew themselves out and got good exposure."



Jimmy Tater / Valencia Voice

When They Wake came from Switzerland for the Florida Music Festival, they were shown American courtesy when they had to compete with the broadcast of a Orlando Magic playoff game during their show.

# When They Wake far from home

When they Wake is an alternative metal band from central Switzerland. They took the stage at Backbooth on April 24.

They have good chemistry on stage and interact well. This may come from the long hours they spend together practicing. "We all have jobs, but we come home around 6:30; Then we go to rehearsal," said guitarist Sven Ehmes.

They have to earn respect from Americans. Shortly after their set began the Orlando Magic were in the last foul and commercial laden minute of Game 3 against the Charlotte Bobcats. It turns out that announcer Jeff Van Gundy was just as loud as the band when not muted.

"We would do better in Switzerland if we played hip-hop or dance. This style of music is not popular there," said Ehmes. In America there too many band that play this style of music including some of the ones they cites as their influences, like: Bullet for My Valentine and 30 Seconds to Mars.

As seen by their stage presence they're excited about the music they play, they may even be bigger fans of the genre than the people in the audience.

After the Magic game finished and the sound turned off, I thought "do they need the same criticism Dwight Howard got from Orlando Sentinel sports writer George Diaz, who said Howard needed to look meaner on the court?"

No, not at all, these guys are having clearly having fun performing and are living their dream--how many bands have international dates scheduled after just recording their first EP?

# Lynhurst is a family affair

## Sibling trio left school and Minnesota to pursue dream

Lynhurst is a trio of siblings who are a pop-rock band from Minnesota. They played at the Social on April 24. Mari Abdo, addressed the crowd from center stage as she played drum set and provided the lead vocals for the group while her brothers, guitarist Matt and bassist Jake, provided backing vocals. They ended their show by maxing-out their arpeggios with a wild cover of The Cardigans' "Lovefool."

"We have a similar music background and we're siblings, we harmonize unlike any other," said Mari, 19.

"We've played many years before, but formed as a band when I graduated high school."

The three siblings decided to forgo the University of Minnesota follow to their dream of having a music career. "We had a family that was supportive of us. That, that was cool," said Matt, 22.

The band has spent time recording in Los Angeles and are now scheduled to open for Owl City at the Minneapolis State Theater on May 1.



Sibling trio Lynhurst





Jimmy Tater / Valencia Voice

On his website Avi Wisnia describes his sound as "Ben Folds meets Norah Jones, if they had a love child in Brazil."

## Avi Wisnia evolves on the run

### Improv singer wants every single show to be different

Avi Wisnia is a singer-songwriter from New York and Philadelphia who performs improvisational jazz with Brazilian influences.

Normally a solo artist, he assembled a team for his performance on April 23 at Pine St. Live.

"I like to play with a band and get surrounded by some great talent," said Wisnia, 27. "Every element helps, for example we added a ukelele at the last minute. We don't want it to be the same every time. When it's live there is more emotion, if we played it exactly the same way it was recorded it would have less emotional connection. The way I write the songs, they are left open to let someone play a solo, [if] that's

what they play. The performances can never be the same if its not the same place or the same people; that makes it special."

The performance featured local drummer Mason Fox, a University of Central Florida student who played with Wisnia just for that night and bassist Toru Takiguchi among others.

Takiguchi predominately plays jazz music and has been playing the improvisational style for years with Wisnia in New York.

In addition to his own songs he covered a highly improvised version of The Cure's "Lovesong." Wisnia's debut album "Something New" will be released on June 3.

## Kai Abelardo's mellow show

Kai Abelardo is an singer-songwriter from Maitland, Fla who writes easy listening pop music for acoustic guitar. He performed at Annie's Cafe on April 22.

He normally performs alone, but he was accompanied on bongos during the show.

He has a good acoustic act that could have seemed like it started out on a sidewalk, but was quickly upgraded to a cafe because it easy to listen to and was ideal coffee shop music.

"It had a mellow feel, it was like island music," said Jason Fischer, an advocate for local organization that helps troubled youth. "It was something you want to listen to after a hard of work; it was melodic, something I could vibe to."



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

Kai Abelardo performed an acoustic set at Annie's Cafe.

Abelardo, 25, owns an automotive transportation company, but pursues music on the side. "I would like a publishing contract in music more," said Abelardo.

As far as playing solo, "you like being able to rehearse when you want. But, I do like the different colors a band adds to the music."

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# Poloneius Pluck is true to himself

Inspired by “The Bard” to teach that rap isn’t just a street thing

Poloneius Pluck is a hip-hop artist from Duval County, Fla. who now resides in Orlando, Fla.

He performed his first show in Orlando on April 24 at Club 57 West.

The show had high energy and featured longtime collaborator T-Well supporting Pluck with vocals.

T-Well acted like a coach encouraging Pluck to deliver a better line than the last in a loud, and aggressive performance.

“There are more college kids than drug dealer, more college kids than killers,” said Pluck, 28, an an engineer by day.

“Education has been slept on for too long. We have struggles, but you need to get a job and handle yourself.

“My engineering job has taken me all over the world, like Japan and I take my music with me and promote it there.

“You don’t have to be street to be a rapper and you can be corporate and be yourself.

“I’m corporate, but I can speak



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

**Poloneius Pluck works full time as an engineer when he isn’t performing.**

to the streets and the upper-middle class. I have street-cred. One of my friends just got out, he has the tracker on his leg, but he still came to support.”

Pluck, a Florida A & M graduate, modeled his name after a character from the Shakespeare play “Hamlet” who said “to thine own self be true.”

And he does so by earning credibility off the stage as an engineer and as a hip-hop artist by winning titles like “Freestyle Champ” and “God MC Award” in southeast regional contests.



Collin Dever / Valencia Voice

**Munk Tung debuted five new songs during their set including their newest single from their upcoming album “Sick Simulation.”**

## Munk Tung debuts new songs

Munk Tung, is an Orlando area alternative and progressive rock power-trio. They introduced introduced five new unrecorded songs from their upcoming album at Club 57 West on April 22. The new single from their unrecorded forthcoming album was “Sick Simulation.”

Their show included a show case of the five new songs; then a brief intermission followed by several earlier tracks known to early fans who have followed them since their formation about 4 years ago.

Their last song was an early single, “Be Who You Are.” It featured longtime MT crew member Steve Atchison, formerly of the now defunct DireDrone, sharing the vocals with lead guitar Ethan Kennett.

“They had good energy,” said Valarie Vorpagel a volunteer for the Rock Pink charity. “They mesh well. Some bands don’t play well together.”

They expect to head to the studio to record in May. The new

record will be entitled “Near Life Experience” and will be a two part double disc. It is slated to be released later this year.

With the next record they “hope to see what the world thinks of us,” said bassist Marc Kryl. “We want to test the litmus of us because your friends won’t tell you that you suck.” As far as leaving Orlando to gain more attention “we’re more loyal our friends, who are other local bands. We want to push something together. Also, there are other things that keep us here, our lives are here.”

The band developed in Orlando and have been playing together for 4 years. “We want to stay in forefront of people’s minds” said Kennett. This does not mean that popular social networking sites are cure-alls. “You need to physically be out there, to see and be seen.

Their songs are efficient and uses the abilities of the three piece wisely. “As a power-trio there is no where to hide,” said Kryl.

“There has been an incredible amount of work to hammer this band into existence and we’re satisfied for now,” said Kennett.



# Hemp is becoming chic fashion

More boutiques use the 'green' material

By Susan Carpenter  
Los Angeles Times

It's durable. It's versatile. And when it's used in textiles, it's easier on the environment than, say, cotton. Yet its cannabis connection has slowed its widespread use. We're talking about hemp, and, by extension, hemp fashion - a concept that seems like an oxymoron but is quietly being embraced by the mainstream as major designers and clothing retailers take on the material that has long been equated with burlap and granola-munching hippies.

Stella McCartney, Giorgio Armani and Calvin Klein are among the design-

ers who've seen through the smoke and incorporated hemp textiles into their lines. And Whole Foods, Urban Outfitters, American Rag and Fred Segal are some of the better-known stores selling fashion-forward hemp brands, such as Livity Outernational, Jung Maven, Satori and Hemp Hoodlamb, all of which exploit hemp's various attributes in chic items that run the gamut from technical outerwear to dresses that would hardly be the first choice of the dreadlocks-and-dobie crowd.

"Hemp clothing has definitely come a long way," says Al Espino, the owner of two hemp clothing boutiques called Hempwise in Santa Barbara and Isla Vista.

"Ten years ago, a lot of the hemp clothing played on the connection with marijuana with labels saying 'contains marijuana fabric.' There was a lot of confusion and I think it held back the industry. Now, there are a lot of small [fashion-forward] companies. It's gone from a niche market with an illegal drug connection to appealing to the organic and natural crowd."

Hemp is an industrial, nonpsychoactive plant that is part of the cannabis family; the fibers are different and stronger than a marijuana plant, making it suitable for textiles.

What's drawing designers to hemp textiles are their natural performance attributes and their low impact on the environment. Hemp fibers are highly absorbent, UV resistant, antimicrobial and long lasting. Growing it also requires less water and fewer pesticides than cotton. Growing hemp in the U.S. has been prohibited since the '50s, so most of the hemp used by American clothing designers comes from China. "It's so high value and so much lower impact in every other way that it eclipses the carbon generated through shipping," said Isaac Nicholson, founder of the Santa Monica-based hemp clothing line Livity Outernational.

Eco-chic is a rising tide in the fashion world, and the use of hemp is swelling - aided by technological advances that have produced appealing and increasingly refined hemp textile blends, the most common being hemp and organic cotton and hemp fibers woven with re-



Lawrence K. Ho, Los Angeles Times / MCT

Al Espino, owner of Hempwise Boutique in Santa Barbara, California.

cycled plastic, both of which soften a material that can be coarse.

Still, hemp's illicit image is hard to shed. Two teenage girls read the sign for Hempwise and giggled before walking into the shop on a recent weekday to peruse the women's section, which is stocked with slinky hemp-blend T-shirts and Capri pants, and asymmetrical mini-dresses.

All of it was set out in displays that play up the "eco" with only the merest hint of "Rasta." A mint green Vespa was parked inside the doorway on bamboo flooring that led to displays of backpacks and wallets, hats and menswear - all made from hemp.

One of the brands sold at Hempwise is Livity, which Nicholson started after a friend pointed out that the materials he

was using as a clothing designer weren't in sync with his environmental beliefs.

"I was using nylon, PVC, Teflon - every toxin known to man wrapped up in a garment that we were putting on ourselves and dropping in a landfill later," said Nicholson, who started to look for alternatives and found one in hemp. Eight years later, he's running a multimillion-dollar business that sells outdoor-wear to Whole Foods and Urban Outfitters. Hemp is as high performance and functional and as cool, flashy and sexy as any conventional product, but it doesn't impact the planet in terrible ways. More and more, it's going to be incorporated into things where the end user doesn't even know or care it's there. They're just reaping the benefits."

— MCT Campus



Lawrence K. Ho, Los Angeles Times / MCT

A selection of hemp organic cotton scarf and shirts are displayed.



# ‘Back-Up Plan’ is same old stuff

By Andrea Fuguet

afuguet@valenciavoices.com

Finding Mr. Perfect is no easy task, there is the courting, the dating, and sadly the awaited disappointment.

In the latest chick flick “The Back-up Plan,” waiting is no longer an option.

Tired of looking for the right guy to fall in love with, Zoe, played by Jennifer Lopez, decides to take matters in her own hands.

Middle-aged, single and bitter, she decides to be artificially inseminated thinking she doesn’t need a man to complete her.

Zoe gets the surprise of her life when she meets her prince charming on the very same day she gets pregnant.

Now is up to Zoe to hide her baby news and woo this guy before is too late. Getting predictable? Maybe just a bit.

The only twist this movie has is the fact Jennifer Lopez character does everything backward.

Getting pregnant before meeting the guy of her dreams and getting together before realizing he’s right for her or not.

Her latest film has kept the same flavor her old ones have, “The Back-up Plan,” is no different from “Maid in Manhattan” and “The Wedding Planner.”

Woman meets man, they fall in love, here comes the trouble.

Granted that the plot from this film is a bit more ingenious than the rest and has some sort of potential in comedy, but only Jennifer Lopez could pull it off and get it on the big screen.

This is the sort of film that is made for TV, to be in ABC family or something.

Given the economy and the price of movie tickets, I rather spend the money in another movie that I would be fully satisfied.

What saved this movie is the fact that the plot is one that many of us girls can identify with but what killed it was how cliché it was from the very beginning.

Its okay J’lo you’ll get it next time.



Warner Bros / MCT Campus

Columbus Short, from left, Chris Evans, Oscar Jaenada and Idris Elba star in “The Losers.”

## Comics have made “The Losers” winners

By Rick Bentley

McClatchy Newspapers

SAN FRANCISCO — Actor Jeffrey Dean Morgan feels the most original film stories are those inspired by comic books and graphic novels.

“There’s this ebb and flow in Hollywood and you get the same scripts over and over. Every romantic comedy reads the same way,” Morgan says during an interview at WonderCon, the comic book and pop culture convention. “But in the world of graphic novels, there is some originality there. There’s some great characters there.”

Morgan’s latest film, “The Losers,” is based on the comic book series of the same name. His previous work in the genre was as The Comedian in

“Watchman.”

He’s not the only one benefitting from the comic book-inspired movie boom. His “Losers” co-star Chris Evans, who played the Human Torch in all of the “Fantastic Four” films, has been cast as Captain America in the big screen version of the comic book. And fellow “Losers” actor Idris Elba is in the movie that’s based on the Marvel Comics “Thor.”

Zoe Saldana, who makes her comic book-inspired debut with “The Losers,” knows the action-film world through starring roles in “Star Trek” and “Avatar.” She says movies based on comic books give actors a chance to expand their craft and “be more creative.”

“The Losers” tells the story of an elite Special Forces unit sent to the Bolivian jungle on a mis-

sion, only to be double-crossed. The comic book was published by Vertigo from 2003-2006.

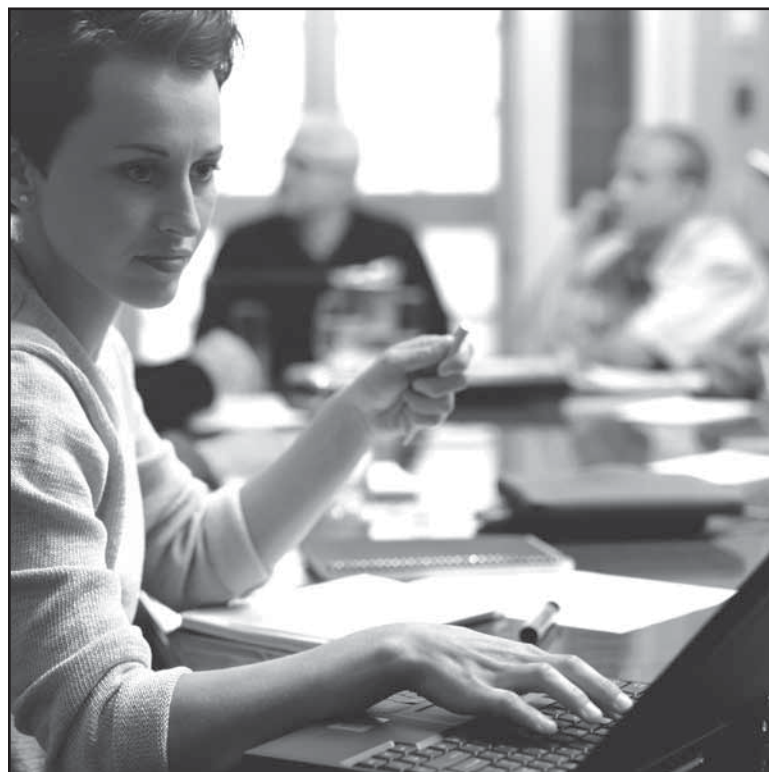
Actors often seek as much background material as they can find to use in developing their characters. In the case of “The Losers,” there were 32 issues of the comic available for study.

Morgan wasn’t as ardent with sticking to the comic with “The Losers” as he was with “Watchmen.”

“(“Watchmen”) was so iconic it needed to be exactly so close to the comic book or people would have ripped us a new one,” Morgan says. “(“The Losers”) was a great foundation to jump off. The director allowed us to take what we got from the comics and bring to our performance what we thought about those characters.”

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# Why ‘Kick-Ass’ failed (and did it really?)

By Steven Zeitchik  
Los Angeles Times

It seems a little wrong for us to evaluate the disappointing \$19.8-million take of “Kick-Ass” this weekend when we (and many others) were, prior to its release, touting a possible runaway success.

But quarterbacks wake up on Monday too, and so it seems only right to take a look at what went wrong with Matthew Vaughn’s stylishly bloody kid-superhero picture, based on Mark Millar’s equally stylish and smart graphic novel.

Here are a number of misconceptions held by us (and others) that were disproved this weekend (to go along with our belief that this movie could well pick up a little momentum and perform nicely in the coming weeks).

**Many young people in this country are ready to embrace the shocking.**

Tolerance for violence in youth-oriented movies has been growing for years, and even movies aimed at young people that land an R rating can become hits (“Borat” comes to mind).

So apart from the 16-and-under crowd that couldn’t (officially) get in, and we all knew about that problem before, the envelope-pushing of

“Kick-Ass” wasn’t going to deter any film-goers.

But it turns out that large swaths of the country may not crave the shock-worthy, at least not the overt kind. Package those shocks in innocuous wrapping, like a mustachioed Eastern European man and a harmlessly funny title, and you’re fine. But put them front-and-center and you’re in trouble.

All we needed to know about Middle America’s discomfort with the film came when we saw a theater marquee in western North Carolina, where we’re writing this; the theater wouldn’t even use the second word of the title, preferring dashes instead.

That’s never a good indicator.

**The mainstream is tired of the straight superhero story and wants something that subverts the form.**

No matter how some try to categorize it, “Kick-Ass” isn’t really a movie about superheroes. The character has as many powers as a house rabbit. The person who saves everyone is an 11-year-old in a purple wig. The characters in the film are, for one of the first time in movie history, just as slyly knowing of the tropes and conventions of superhero films as those watching it. “Kick-Ass” isn’t so much a superhero movie as it is a post-superhero movie. In the era of “The

Dark Knight” and Robert Downey Jr.’s “Iron Man,” this is what we want, right?

Not exactly. Sure, “Dark Knight” raised the levels of darkness and complexity.

And Downey in “Iron Man” makes self-effacing jokes about invincibility and freakish powers.

But those films are ultimately still superhero movies. They improve the genre; they don’t subvert it.

And parts of the American audience, for whatever reason, don’t want subversion when it comes to superhero movies.

The only other big commercial film that really tried this before? “Watchmen.” Exactly.

**Controversy will sell tickets.**

That’s true, but only if the right people object. They didn’t here. Parents groups weren’t debating “Kick-Ass” before the film was released—critics were. And if critics matter less at the box office when recommending a movie, they matter less when objecting to it. That said, Lionsgate should have seized on the unrest. See how the CW turns the protestations over “Gossip Girl” to its marketing advantage by incorporating them into its campaigns? That could have worked nicely here too.

-MCT Campus



Dan Smith, Courtesy of Lionsgate / MCT Campus

Aaron Johnson as the eponymous “Kick-Ass”, left, and Chloe Moretz as “Hit Girl.”



# Comedy Central censors controversial cartoon

## South Park muzzled by network due to threats from Muslim extremists

By Scott Collins and Matea Gold  
Los Angeles Times

LOS ANGELES - In its 200 shows, the irreverent animated program "South Park" has mercilessly satirized Christianity, Buddhism, Scientology, the blind and disabled, gay people, Hollywood celebrities and politicians of all persuasions, weathering the resulting protests and threats of boycotts.

But this week, after an ominous threat from a radical Muslim Web site, the network that airs the program bleeped out all references to the Prophet Muhammad in the second of two episodes set to feature the holy figure dressed in a bear costume. The incident provides the latest example that media conglomerates are still struggling to balance free speech with safety concerns and religious sensitivities, six years after Dutch filmmaker Theo van Gogh was slain for making a film critical of Islamic society.

Comedy Central declined to comment on the latest incident. But "South Park" creators Trey Parker and Matt Stone clearly disagreed with their bosses' handling of the situation. A statement posted on their Web site said that executives "made a determination to alter the episode" without their approval and that the usual wrap-up speech from one character didn't mention Muhammad "but it got bleeped too."

The network may have thought it had no choice after revolutionmuslim.com, the Web site of a fringe group, delivered a grim warning about last week's episode, which depicted Muhammad dressed as a bear.

"We have to warn Matt and Trey that what they are doing is stupid and they will probably wind up like Theo van Gogh for airing this show," the posting

said. A photo of van Gogh's body lying in the street was included with the original posting, which has been unavailable to some Web users since news of the item broke earlier this week. "This is not a threat, but a warning of the reality of what will likely happen to them."

Experts say that in trying to forestall such threats, media companies may be setting dangerous precedents - a possibility underscored by the fact that "South Park" has stirred up a free-speech issue that, while dormant for years, has now exploded anew.

Eugene Volokh, a law professor at the University of California, Los Angeles, said that although he sympathizes with the predicament faced by Comedy Central, the network has potentially empowered other extremists by how it has chosen to handle the situation.

"The consequence of this position is that the thugs win and people have more incentive to be thugs," said Volokh, who teaches free speech and religious freedom law. "There are lots of people out there who would very much like to get certain kind of material removed, whether religious or political. The more they see others winning, the more they will be likely to do the same. Behavior that gets rewarded gets repeated."

In 2005, an uproar over Muhammad cartoons in a Danish newspaper rocked Europe and the media industry worldwide, with many newspapers, including the Los Angeles Times, declining to publish the offending materials. That cartoon showed the prophet wearing a bomb as a turban that was about to explode. Many Muslims believe that Islamic teachings forbid showing images of Muhammad.

Revolution Muslim, the extremist group that issued the graphic warning, is a relatively small



Lionel Hahn, Abaca Press / MCT Campus

South Park creators Matt Stone and Trey Parker.

fringe organization based out of New York, said Oren Segal, director of the Anti-Defamation League's Center on Extremism.

The organization, which formed in 2007 and includes about a dozen members, is mostly known for posting inflammatory and often threatening comments on its Web site, including a poem last October during Jewish High Holy Days asking God to kill all Jews. Its members also stage protests in front of New York mosques, advocating a more fundamental form of Islam.

The Federal Bureau of Investigation was aware of the matter, but declined to comment.

The irony is that some of the group's postings could be construed as hate speech and therefore raise their own free-speech issues.

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# Draft-day proves golden

## The winners, losers and last minute draft-day busts

By Bob Glauber  
Newsday

Truth be told, it takes a good three years before you can make a definitive judgment on an NFL draft. So we'll admit that declaring winners and losers the day after the draft ends can be risky business. But here's how we see things shaking out:



Ron Tarver, Philadelphia Inquirer / MCT Campus

Philadelphia Eagles draft pick Nate Allen holds his jersey during a press conference.

### WINNERS

#### Raiders

Can't remember the last time we put the Raiders into the win column after a draft, given Al Davis' spotty record in recent years. But give the man credit: He had what appeared to be a splendid draft by acquiring solid prospects such as Alabama linebacker Rolando McClain in the first round, defensive tackle Lamarr Houston in the second, and tackle Jared Veldheer in the third. Heck, he even got Maryland tackle Bruce Campbell, projected as a potential first-round pick, in the fourth. Not only that, but he pulled off a trade to get Redskins quarterback Jason Campbell, who might unseat JaMarcus Russell, one of the biggest draft-day busts in NFL history.

#### Browns

New football czar Mike Holmgren did a masterful job at staying patient throughout the draft. Even when it seemed he needed to spend a high pick on a quarterback, Holmgren kept selecting into the strength of the draft with cornerback Joe Haden in the first round, and safety T.J. Ward and running back Montarrio Hardesty in the second. Even then, quarterback Colt McCoy was there in the third, and Holmgren got the Texas quarterback. Well done, sir.

#### Panthers

It isn't often you assign a winning grade to a team that doesn't have a first-round pick. But the Panthers, who dealt this year's first-round pick in a bid to move up for Florida State defensive end Everette Brown last year, get the nod. Badly in need of quarterback help after sending Jake Delhomme packing, the Panthers got lucky with Jimmy Clausen falling to them in the second round.



Julian H. Gonzalez, Detroit Free Press / MCT Campus

Detroit Lions general manager Martin Mayhew and Lions president Tom Lewand welcome running back Jahvid Best and defensive lineman Ndamukong Suh to the team.

And they added even more depth at the position with Wildcat quarterback Armanti Edwards of Appalachian State and Cincinnati's Tony Pike.

### LOSERS

#### Chargers

OK, we understand the need to replace LaDainian Tomlinson at running back. But with the only one sure-fire back in this year's draft C.J. Spiller already gone, it seemed like a long way to go and a lot to give up for the Chargers to move up from 28 to 12 to get Ryan Matthews of Fresno State. He figures to be a good back, but he'll have to be great to justify that bold move up the board.

#### Jaguars

They pulled off the surprise of the first round, bypassing the big-name defensive linemen for end Tyson Alualu of California. We're not saying

Alualu can't be a good player. But with prominent linemen like Derrick Morgan, Jason Pierre-Paul, Dan Williams and Brandon Graham still on the board, it was a head-scratcher nonetheless. Especially because Jacksonville didn't have a second-round pick.

#### Eagles

We're normally in favor of the Eagles' draft-day moves, especially when they wheel and deal to acquire more picks. Not this time. The Eagles came into the draft with 10 picks, including five in the first 87 selections. But they only wound up with three picks in the first three rounds. Curious strategy, especially when they opted to take four players in the fourth round. At least they did get blue-chip defensive end Brandon Graham in the first.

— MCT Campus





Gary W. Green, Orlando Sentinel / MCT Campus

Jameer Nelson helps the Orlando Magic to a 4-0 sweep of the Charlotte Bobcats in the first round of NBA playoffs.

# Magic possess winning touch

## Even without 'Superman', Magic sweep round one

By Rick Bonnell  
McClatchy Newspapers

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Sometimes the simplest answer is also the most revealing.

"They're better," Charlotte Bobcats coach Larry Brown said, when asked how his team was swept by the Orlando Magic Monday. "They

know how to play playoff basketball and we haven't figured it out yet."

Specifically, they never figured out how to score efficiently when an opponent raises its intensity to playoff temperature. That was evident again in a 99-90 loss resulting in a 4-0 sweep, the only sweep in the NBA's eight first-round series this season.

They had flaws each game but it added up to marvelous defense negated by ineffectual offense.

Even with Orlando Magic superstar center Dwight Howard in constant foul trouble, the Bobcats never ran an effective attack.

"If you would have said he'd

play well under 30 minutes (per game) and we'd sweep, I'd tell you you were crazy," Magic coach Stan Van Gundy said.

What that doesn't factor was the Bobcats missing 12 free throws Monday or shooting just 5-of-19 from 3-point range.

Still Brown praised his team for the consistent effort it delivered in making a first playoff appearance.

"When a coach doesn't have to beg you to play hard, to practice every day, to care about teammates," Brown said, "that's a pretty good thing."

— MCT Campus

# Blackhawks finally prevail

By Chris Kuc  
Chicago Tribune

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — If the Chicago Blackhawks learned anything during their first-round series against the Predators, it's that there won't be any easy paths in their quest for the Stanley Cup.

The Blackhawks put away a driven and pesky Nashville squad with a 5-3 victory in Game 6 of the Western Conference quarterfinals Monday night at Bridgestone Arena.

The Blackhawks won the series 4-2 to set up a rematch with the Vancouver Canucks in the Western Conference semifinals that will start later in the week.

Patrick Sharp had a goal and two assists, Jonathan Toews and Duncan Keith each had a goal and an assist and John Madden closed out the scoring with an empty-net goal. Marian Hossa and Brent Seabrook each added two assists to help Antti Niemi outduel Finnish countryman Pekka Rinne in goal. Jason Arnott scored twice for the Predators.

Keith kicked off a wild and raucous first period with his first goal of the series early



Nuccio DiNuzzo, Chicago Tribune / MCT Campus

Chicago Blackhawks celebrates their victory over the Nashville Predators.

on. The defenseman scored on the Blackhawks' second shot of the game.

Nashville tied it less than two minutes later when Shea Weber's long shot made its way through a maze of bodies and slid past Niemi.

The Blackhawks regained the lead with a fluke goal midway through the period.

Sharp made it 3-1 just over two minutes later when he banged home a puck from the crease after Hossa made a deep rush and sent it to the middle.

As they've done all series, the Predators continued to battle and Arnott scored the next two to even the game at 3-3.

Late in the first, Arnott scored again when he deflected a long Dan Hamhuis shot to tie it. The Blackhawks forged ahead with a power-play score of their own in the closing seconds of the first.

Despite being a seventh seed in the Western Conference while the Blackhawks were No. 2, the gap between the teams wasn't very pronounced.

"The favorites are only favorites by numbers," Blackhawks winger Troy Brouwer said. "It's not that they're a clear-cut better team. There have to be seeds.

— MCT Campus