

ACES

A large, stylized yellow feather with a black quill is positioned horizontally across the word 'ACES'. The feather has a soft gradient and detailed barbs, while the quill is a solid black with a fine, spiky texture at the base.

Philadelphia • 2010



HEADLINE CONTEST

14th National Conference

University of Florida prepares for zombie attack

OCTOBER 7, 2009

By **Amy Paige Condon**

Staff Writer

The typical contents of a hurricane kit—flashlight, batteries, canned foods, matches, candles and bottled water—won't help much if flesh-eating zombies are on the loose.

Long- and short-range firearms, chainsaws, baseball bats and explosives are more on the order, according to a University of Florida disaster preparedness plan.

Disaster Preparedness Simulation Exercise #5 (DR5), which was posted on the university's e-Learning Support Services Web site alongside other plans for hurricanes and pandemics explores what staff and students should do in case of an outbreak of "Zombie Behavior Spectrum Disorder," or ZBSD, a broad, though not medical, profile of behavioral patterns indicative of the brain-chomping "life impaired."

“Hurt Locker” provides explosive reminder of Iraq War

NOVEMBER 10, 2009



By [Amy Paige Condon](#)

The Vietnam War played out in people’s homes on their television screens as the news brought the conflict half a world away into America’s living rooms. The acclaimed films about it: “Coming Home,” “Apocalypse Now,” “Platoon” began arriving well after the Fall of Saigon in 1975, dealing primarily with the war’s physical, mental and political ramifications.

The emperor designs the clothes

NOVEMBER 3, 2009



By [Amy Paige Condon](#)

About one-third of the way through "Valentino: The Last Emperor," the viewer realizes this 96-minute documentary about the fashion icon Valentino Garavani is a love story.

The prosecution rests

Hall retiring after 33 years in Norwalk office of the state's attorney

By John Nickerson
STAFF WRITER

what I do," said Hall, the courthouse's supervisory assistant state's attorney.

boss, State's Attorney David Cohen. "More than most supervisors, Bob has a sense of humor."

GPS does bang-up job of directing drivers

**ZEZ
SAYS**



**Jerry
Zezima**

If my wife and I wanted to have an impact on the people around us, we would teach a crash course in driver's education. That's because we have been in three crashes caused by people who

ny Positioning System.

The third mishap occurred two weeks later, when an older man rear-ended my wife's car at a red light, damaging her brand-new bumper, which she got as a result of the previous accident. His GPS apparently stood for Geezer Positioning System.

I don't know where the drivers are worse, on Long Island, N.Y., where my wife and I live and where all three accidents occurred, or in our hometown of Stamford, where you take your life in your hands every time you get behind the wheel.

But I do know this: Every-

There was one driver in particular who convinced him that auto body repair could be lucrative. The driver's name: Bobby Lombardi.

"I totaled a cop car when I was 17," he said. "I was driving a van for a printing company. There was a misty rain, and this lady in a station wagon with kids in the back cut me off. I remember thinking, 'I can hit this lady or hit the cop car.' The cop had gotten out of his car to write a ticket, so I said to myself, 'I'll hit the cop car.' I hit it so hard that it slid and hit the car he was writing a ticket for. I jumped out of the van and said,

women putting on makeup. It's ridiculous."

But the biggest causes of accidents, according to Lombardi, are GPS devices.

"They're worse than anything," he said, adding that he once got into an argument with his GPS. "It could speak different languages. I was looking for a place in Massapequa. The GPS said, 'Do you want to speak Italian?' I said, 'No! I want Massapequa!' It said, 'No comprendo.' I was actually talking with my hands to this thing, like a real Italian. I was yelling at it. Finally, I shut it off, went to a gas station and

Adding fuel to fire debate



BOB LUCKEY/STAFF PHOTOGRAPHER

First Lt. Keith Kelley, of the Springdale Fire Co., stands in front of a Springdale firetruck at the Springdale station. The department is in a dispute with the city of Stamford over who should pay the company's diesel fuel bill.

Springdale department says city should pay diesel bill; officials say it's not in the budget

By Jeff Morganteen
STAFF WRITER
STAMFORD — The Springdale

William Callion, director of public safety, said the city gave the fire department more than \$22,000 in

out on many calls anyway? The fact that the city sent you over \$22,000 is indubitable."

is one of several within the city's fire service. For more than a decade, the city and some of its rel-

Some still like it hot

Tony Curtis attracts more than 200 fans to Stamford event

By Robin Watson
STAFF WRITER

STAMFORD — Those piercing blue eyes. That un-

Memories of Marilyn Monroe and the Classic American Movie," which he co-wrote with Mark A. Vieira.

er's helmet, DVDs and photos, for more than four hours.

Curtis, who lives in Nevada with his wife, is visiting

Although the actor was not officially on a traditional book tour, Adam Birnbaum, director of film programming

New lease on 'Life of Christ'

Church's stained-glass window restored

By Devon Lash
STAFF WRITER

STAMFORD — On Sunday, the parishioners at St. John's Episcopal Church saw its two-story stained-glass depiction of the life of Christ for the first time in all its glory.

"People said, 'Wow, I never realized how beautiful it is,' " parishioner Garry Higgins said. "And Sunday was a beautiful day — the sun was shining through the back of the window. ... It was brilliant."

This week marks the completion of



Bidders gather around trustees auctioning foreclosed homes on the steps of the Nueces County Courthouse in December. In Texas, the process for auctioning foreclosed property is a sometimes chaotic system that features multiple auctions at the same time, bewildered first-timers, and hours waiting for a lone auctioneer with a rare deal to show up. The auctions occur on the first Tuesday of each month.

Going once, going twice, going to be confused



Critics of state's foreclosure auction process call for more accountability, while lenders say the system protects homebuyers

BY DAN KELLEY
Caller-Times

The house on the 1200 block of Arnold was appraised at \$40,000, and when it was foreclosed in 2004, the minimum bid was \$8,029.

On paper, at least, it was the type of property that normally would draw the interest of many a sophisticated buyer.

Yet there were no apparent bidders. Public records show the house sold for the minimum bid — to the lender, Will Brinson of San Antonio, who doubled as the auctioneer. He says he can't remember whether anyone showed up.

In Texas, some properties can be sold at auction without anyone present. It is a sometimes chaotic system that features multiple

auctions at the same time, bewildered first-timers, and hours waiting for a lone auctioneer with a rare deal to show up.

Brinson followed the law. He had loaned a homeowner several thousand dollars to pay back taxes. When the homeowner didn't pay, he foreclosed, posting a notice at the Nueces County Courthouse stating the property would be sold at 1 p.m. on Oct. 5, 2004.

Brinson, like other lenders, didn't have to show up at 1 p.m. He had about three hours to get there under Texas law. According to public records, the house sold at 3:45 p.m. — 15 minutes before deadline.

Other states require the approval of

Please see **AUCTION 10A**

FAITH AND FORGIVENESS

Once near death, now closer to God



■ Priest stabbed
in May recovers
in body, mind

JAIME POWELL

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SINTON – Kicked, beaten and stabbed nearly 20 times. Last rites twice in a single day. Still, Father Shaji Varghese harbors no anger

Nature's 4-letter words: Wind, hail, rain

Violent storm destroys home, topples big rigs

BY ELAINE MARSILIO

Caller-Times

Winds of up to 70 mph whipped through the Coastal Bend on Thursday afternoon, demolishing a Skidmore home under construction, tipping over two tractor-trailers near George West and pelting



Storm clouds move out over Corpus Christi Bay on Thursday after dropping heavy rains on the city. Golf ball-sized hail was reported near George West.

Todd Yates/Caller-Times

Disorder in the court brings no objections

■ District judges: Renovations are worth the hassle

MARY ANN CAVAZOS

cavazosm@caller.com / 886-3623

Courtrooms need makeovers, too.

cracking paneling. Gone is the old carpeting matted down with grime after years of wear.

Instead courtroom visitors are greeted with the sight of new carpeting, wallpaper, paneling and fresh laminate on table-tops.

The lights in the court-

Never shake a baby — even on an iPhone

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CUPERTINO, Calif. — Apple Inc. is apologizing for allowing a 99-cent iPhone game called “Baby Shaker” that let a player quiet a virtual crying infant by shaking the de-

Sikalosoft, which has not commented.

The game asked players to see how long they could endure a baby’s cries and then shake the phone to stop the wailing.

End of an era in Seminole

JAI-ALAI FLING LASTED DECADES

ORLANDO JAI-ALAI



RED HUBER/ORLANDO SENTINEL

Francisco Borriaga, 68, a 1962-63 champion jai-alai player who now works with amateur players, gets on the court Friday at Orlando Jai-Alai in Fern Park. The facility is to close Dec. 27. The absolute best day for Orlando Jai-Alai came in 1985, when people came from across the state to wager for more than \$1M.

By **Rachael Jackson** | SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

The jai-alai fronton gleamed, a social oasis in unsophisticated Central Florida. Female spectators donned mink coats, and men wore suits. Francisco Elorriaga, a fresh transplant from Spain, tied a banana-shaped basket to his wrist and stepped onto the jai-alai court to thunderous applause.

Heeeere, lizard, lizard: It's reptile amnesty day

By **Eloísa Ruano González**

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Tears slithered down a few faces as pet owners surrendered their exotic snakes — some longer than 10 feet and weighing hundreds of pounds — for adoption Saturday.

Owners weren't eager to turn over their pets to state wildlife officials and reptile handlers during Nonnative Pet Amnesty Day at Gatorland, but they thought the timing and public sentiment were right.

The reptiles had been part of their families for years, and some snakes even had their own bedrooms. But the pet owners said they had no choice as state and wildlife officials tighten permitting regulations and consider a ban on exotic reptiles.

With the fear of snakes spreading since early July, when a 2-year-old Sumter County girl was killed by her family's python, Sean Watson of Deltona worried about the well-being of his roughly 14-foot Burmese python, Marisa, which he often placed in his front yard for neighbors to pet.

"With the public fear, she's not worth having as a pet ... she's more a liability than she



A green basilisk was turned in Saturday at Gatorland. Find more photos at OrlandoSentinel.com.

is a pet," Watson, 39, said. He said his 5-year-old snake was gentle and never escaped her cage in the garage.

The amnesty day, which began in 2006, allows people to legally get rid of their exotic animal without releasing them into the wild.

The event at Gatorland focused on reptiles that wildlife officials deemed a concern for Florida's ecosystem. Among them are anacondas, pythons and Nile monitor lizards.

Saturday Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission officials collected 46 reptiles, including 12 Burmese pythons. Among the strangest "donations" were six emperor

scorpions.

The largest snake was Speed Bump, a 250-pound Burmese python, which officials had to pick up at a home north of Apopka — near where wildlife officials collected a 400-pound python, Delilah, last month.

Marisa came in second. Both were adopted by Gatorland — one of nearly a dozen organizations ready to adopt reptiles dropped off Saturday.

Many owners said they volunteered to bring in their pets because they were concerned a disgruntled neighbor would turn them in. Fines are hefty and misdemeanor charges are possible if the snakes escape.

Pythons didn't require a permit until 2006. The license costs \$100. It has to be renewed each year for another \$100.

Since news of the Sumter County attack, fish and wildlife officials have noticed an uptick in reports.

"With all the media coverage about pythons, folks have been calling. Folks have decided they don't want them," Game and Fish official Jennifer Tinnell said.

Not everyone who dropped off a snake was without a permit. Shawn Nessel of Sarasota wanted to downsize his snake collection, so he brought in an albino and a green python that



PHOTOS BY RICARDO RAMÍREZ BUXEDA/ORTLANDO SENTINEL

Gatorland zookeeper Michael Brown (left) and Tim Williams take out Marisa, a 13-foot albino Burmese python turned in during Saturday's amnesty event to bring in "reptiles of concern."

were about 9 feet each. Both snakes had permits and had been tagged with microchips.

Nessel said the state should have required permits years ago on pythons, which have put a squeeze on wildlife in the Everglades. They've been known to kill bobcats and endangered wood storks.

"A lot of people are inexperienced in what they're getting

themselves into. They [wildlife officials] should qualify people before they can get one," Nessel, 32, said.

Watson, who did extensive research before he adopted Marisa, was glad to hear Gatorland will become her new home. Marisa, whom he use to shower with when she was only a baby and measuring just 6 feet, helped him edu-

cate children in the neighborhood on proper animal care.

"I'm glad I won't see her destroyed. Her purpose will be served [educating]. I know she'll live a good life," he said.

The next amnesty day is Nov. 7 at Busch Gardens in Tampa.

Eloísa Ruano González can be reached at egonzalez@orlando-sentinel.com or 407-650-6673.

Sneezy? Grumpy? If you visit Disney, use new sanitizers

By Jason Garcia

SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

With the global H1N1 pandemic showing no sign of abating, Walt Disney World has stepped up efforts to prevent it and other viruses from spreading within its theme parks

than 60 bulk sanitizer dispensers at Disney World and Disneyland in Anaheim, Calif.

The dispensers and safety tips are the most visible steps taken by any of Orlando's major theme parks since the outbreak of the H1N1 virus, or swine flu, in April. They appeared as Disney World

New life for vacant stores

Strip malls get saved — by churches

By Mary Shanklin | SENTINEL STAFF WRITER

Never the most popular commercial tenants because of their Sunday-only customer traffic, churches are now the darlings of shopping-center landlords stuck with empty movie theaters and big-box retail stores.

"There are 250 Circuit City stores that have gone dark," said Matthew D. Messier, who specializes in

are more options for churches now."

The International Council of Shopping Centers has no data to support the trend but said it's apparent throughout the country.

"Vacancy rates are high, and they need to fill those spaces," said Erin Hershkowitz, a spokeswoman for the industry group. "If it's a big box, like a Circuit City, that's a perfect venue for a church."

During boom times, commercial landlords

Nevada is checking under the mattress for cash

A lawmaker wants to legalize brothels in Reno and Las Vegas.

ASHLEY POWERS
REPORTING FROM LAS VEGAS

In revenue-strapped Nevada, where foreclosed homes dot suburban streets and poker tables sit empty, it's come to this: A state legislator wants to talk about legalizing — and taxing — prostitution in Reno and Las Vegas.

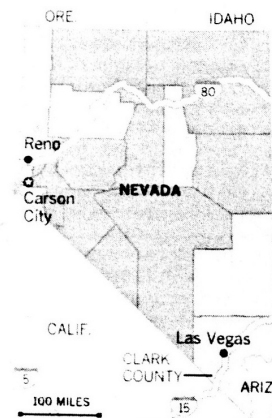
"It's almost de facto legal. It's running unregulated," said state Sen. Bob Coffin, a Democrat who chairs the Senate Taxation Committee. He also said legalization would better protect sex workers.

Coffin, a Las Vegas insurance broker and book dealer, said he's also willing to discuss taxes on Nevada's legal brothels, strip clubs and escort services, which are heavily promoted along Las Vegas Boule-

Brothel status

Prostitution is legal in 10 of Nevada's counties. Six counties and independent Carson City, the state capital, prohibit it.

Legal Illegal



Sources: Nevada Brothel Association, ESRI, TeleAtlas. Graphics reporting by TOM REINKEN

PAUL DUGINSKI Los Angeles Times

vard.

Further government regulation of the sex industry would be likely to draw ire from social conservatives, casino executives, feminists and suburbanites who prefer not to think about the bordellos down the road. It also would test Nevadans' tolerance for brothels, a Wild West throwback unique to their state and legally confined to counties with fewer than 400,000 residents.

"I think it's an appalling way for a state to make money," said Melissa Farley, executive director of the nonprofit Prostitution Research and Education group in San Francisco. "Once there's an awareness of what prostitution does to women, it makes no sense to allow it, to tax it, to decriminalize it or mainstream it."

Though experts said legalizing prostitution in Nevada's urban centers was unlikely, rural brothels have asked at least twice to pay state taxes. Some owners believe prostitution is less likely to be outlawed if it

contributes to state coffers.

"What are we going to say? That we don't want your tax dollars?" asked David Damore, associate professor of political science at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas. "How do you look a gift horse in the mouth when we're hurting so badly?"

Coffin's initiative comes as Nevada's economy is foundering. Compared with the same month in 2007, November gaming revenue was down almost 15% statewide. Taxable sales in October were down 6.2%.

In lieu of raising taxes, Republican Gov. Jim Gibbons has proposed, among other things, slashing funding for higher education and cutting the pay of teachers and state workers. Democrats, who control the Legislature, have roundly drubbed those ideas.

In that context, Coffin said, it would be irresponsible not to look at Nevada's sex industry as a possible revenue source.

"When you're talking about cutting funding for the mentally ill and increasing class

sizes for little kids ... and someone tells me they don't want to tax prostitution, I'm going to call them a hypocrite to their face," Coffin said.

Coffin, who has yet to put in a bill draft request, isn't afraid of provoking debate and riling members of his own party, said Eric Herzik, chairman of the political science department at the University of Nevada at Reno. And when the state's part-time Legislature convenes next month, he said, Coffin's suggestions might fare better than previous attempts.

"If everything is on the table — and both sides say it is — then why not talk about expanding prostitution?" Herzik said. "I can't imagine the Neon Bunny Ranch on the Strip, though I'm sure it would make money."

In 1991, Mustang Ranch owner Joe Conforte attended a legislative hearing on a so-called bedroom tax. Lawmakers were unmoved, and Conforte later fled the country to dodge paying federal taxes.

In 2003, the brothel industry tried again but was exempted from a live-entertainment tax, which an industry lobbyist said deprives the state of about \$2 million annually. That same year, Las Vegas Mayor Oscar Goodman suggested that opening Amsterdam-like bordellos downtown could help redevelopment efforts.

This time around, some brothels are on shakier financial ground and might not be as receptive to a state tax, said Geoff Arnold, president of the Nevada Brothel Assn. and owner of bordellos in Wells and Battle Mountain. Though he too is wary, he said he would support legalizing prostitution in Reno and Las Vegas.

"From the standpoint of the industry, legal and regulated is always better than illegal and unregulated," he said. "It would hurt me financially because I have an exclusive. But overall it would be better for everyone."

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COLUMN ONE

They're enacting like little children

A National Assembly
melee that featured a
chain saw has South
Koreans wondering
why violence is part of
their political process.

JOHN M. GLIONNA
REPORTING FROM SEOUL

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

Put Clair Voyant down as a reference

In South Korea, nearly 60% of job seekers turn to fortunetellers for guidance.

JU-MIN PARK
REPORTING FROM SEOUL

Poised to enter a cutthroat job market, college art student Kim Tae-eun showed up for a crucial interview the other day nervous and dressed to

Web portal called Career, nearly 60% had consulted a fortuneteller or were planning to do so.

The biggest reason: The gloomy prospects of a severely depressed job market call for extraordinary measures, they say.

Seoul has hundreds of fortunetelling cafes. During the 1997 Asian financial crisis, the industry was reportedly among the few that flourished, and this recession seems to be no different.

Doik Woon, son, chairman of the

change further.”

These crystal balls don't just focus on the job market. South Koreans visit fortunetellers before getting married, changing residences or starting a new job.

They seek out places known as *saju* cafes, where a gaggle of fortunetellers can hang their shingles, charging \$10 to \$15 for up to a half-hour session.

In Korean culture, a person's life is anchored by four pillars — one each for birth, marriage, death and time

COLUMN ONE

Nice work if you can avoid it

The 'funemployed' — jobless, mostly single folks in their 20s and 30s — are opting to hit the beach instead of punch the clock.

COLUMN ONE

O'Malley, O'Mara . . . O'Bama?

A minuscule village in Ireland is busting its buttons with pride over its ancestral link to the leader of the free world.

HENRY CHU
REPORTING FROM
MONEYGALL, IRELAND

Until recently, Moneygall's most famous son wasn't even human. It was a horse, Papillon, who streaked to the title as a long shot in a nail-biter at Britain's prestigious Grand National race in 2000.

But for months now, the



JAMES BAER For The Times

FAVORITE SON: A restaurant in Moneygall, Ireland, plays up the ties to Barack Obama.

COLUMN ONE

In the
world
of tag,
he's *it*

Street artist Mister
Cartoon has found his
scrawl space: movie
billboards, custom
cars, video games. He
gives them all 'cred.'

CHRIS LEE

TWO WINGS AND A PRAYER

All 155 on board survive as jet loses power, lands in Hudson River



JANIS KRUMS

AWAITING RESCUE: Evacuees of US Airways Flight 1549 huddle on the aircraft as a flotilla races to their aid. The photo was taken by a passenger on one of the approaching vessels, who posted the image online from his camera phone, commenting, "There's a plane in the Hudson. I'm on the ferry going to pick up the people. Crazy!"

COLUMN ONE

Nice work if you can avoid it

The 'funemployed' — jobless, mostly single folks in their 20s and 30s — are opting to hit the beach instead of punch the clock.

KIMI YOSHINO

REVIEW

The tie that binds them

Players from 1968's Harvard-Yale classic, with its 29-29 final score, reminisce in a winning documentary.

KENNETH TURAN
TIMES FILM CRITIC

It takes a lot of confidence for a film to give away its ending in its title, which is just what "Harvard Beats Yale 29-29" does. This is a documentary that knows it's got the goods, and does it ever.

A look at the legendary Nov. 23, 1968, game, "Harvard Beats Yale" is both an irresistible human story and as fine a documentary on football as "Hoop Dreams" was on

basketball. At a time when salary disputes and drug scandals show sports at its worst, this low-key epic demonstrates why what's been called "the toy department of our culture" has the powerful appeal it does.

As director, producer, interviewer, cameraman and editor of what is essentially a one-man production, veteran documentarian Kevin Rafferty has followed the simplest possible game plan. He's intercut a broadcast video of that game with interviews he's done with close to 50 of the surviving players.

That might not work with any game, but the 1968 Harvard-Yale contest was anything but ordinary. Played against the background of the turbulent 1960s, it featured the first meeting of unde-

feated Harvard and Yale teams since 1909. Heavily favored Yale was the No. 16 team in the nation (hard as that is to believe today), with Brian Dowling at quarterback and future NFL all-pro Calvin Hill in the backfield.

The structure is especially effective because if the passing of 40 years does nothing else, it lends perspective to passions and memories. The unmatched candor and insight of these former players recounting what was not only the game of their careers but possibly the experience of their lives is wonderful.

That passing of time has also brushed some of the players against celebrity. Harvard offensive guard Tommy Lee Jones has become an Oscar-winning actor, Brian Dowling has become the "B.D." in

'Harvard Beats Yale 29-29'

MPAA rating: Unrated

Running time: 1 hour, 45 minutes

Playing: At Landmark's Nuart, 11272 Santa Monica Blvd., West L.A., (310) 281-8223

Doonesbury (Garry Trudeau went to Yale), and teammate Bob Levin remembers dating a Vassar undergraduate named Meryl Streep.

Though these two schools might sound interchangeable as top-drawer Ivy League institutions, the reality was different. Yale comes across as much more of an elite estab-

lishment (one of the players roomed with George W. Bush for three years), while Harvard seems like a scrappy, working class team, featuring people like safety Pat Conway, who had left school for two years and returned a Marine veteran of the siege of Khe Sanh.

Despite Harvard's celebrated "Boston Strangler" defense, Yale very much expected to win, and was doing just that, leading 29-13 with less than a minute to play. Then followed a comeback for the ages, so unbelievable that the Harvard Crimson ran the headline that gives the film its title, a headline that didn't make sense but couldn't be denied. Kind of like the game itself.

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Group of 20 summit may give Obama 19 headaches

CHRISTI PARSONS
REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

At the heart of President Obama's approach to foreign policy has been a promise to end the "unilateral" strategies

followed the U.S. lead with a minimum of criticism.

"The president and America are going to listen in London, as well as to lead," White House Press Secretary Robert Gibbs said. "Many of the things that we've done over the past

couple of weeks ... demonstrate that America is leading by example. We've taken key steps to restore economic growth in this country, to save and create jobs and to put money back in people's pockets."
[See **Summit**, Page A20]

Pageant rocked on its high heels

Miss California USA organizers say Carrie Prejean hijacked the event to spread her views on marriage.

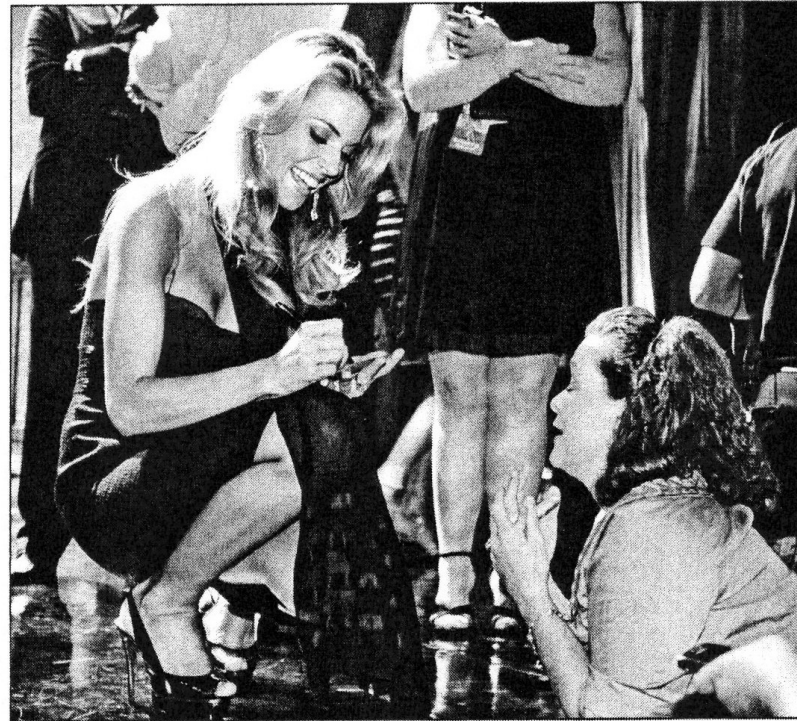
CARLA HALL

Ever since Miss California Carrie Prejean declared on-stage last month at the Miss USA Pageant that she believed gay people should not have the right to marry, she has battled her critics in TV interviews, been championed by groups opposed to same-sex marriage and pretty much eclipsed the woman who beat her to become the reigning Miss USA.

(Does anyone even remember what state the winner was from?)

But that's nothing compared to what Prejean did to the Miss California organization. She hijacked it, the organizers said, for her own message.

"Up to now, we've just been riding along as a passenger on this runaway train," Keith Lew-



MARK HUMPHREY Associated Press

A PRECARIOUS CROWN: Carrie Prejean, here signing autographs in Nashville, injected herself into a culture war.

is, co-executive director of the Miss California USA pageant, said Monday morning at a news conference at the Peninsula Hotel in Beverly Hills. "But that ends today."

And with that, the organiz-

ers labeled her a rogue Miss California and, well, ostracized her. They don't have the authority to dethrone her. That power lies only with Donald Trump, the owner of the Miss

[See **Pageant**, Page A7]

Obama backs off to move ahead

His concession on a public insurance option boosts the chances for his overall healthcare effort.

PETER NICHOLAS
AND JANET HOOK
REPORTING FROM WASHINGTON

By dropping his insistence on a public insurance option, President Obama angered

Thanks, see you earlier, Leno says

GREG BRAXTON

With a touch of emotion in his voice and a bit of dampness in his eyes, Jay Leno on Friday said his final farewell to "The Tonight Show," NBC's top-rated late-night franchise that he hosted for 17 years.

Leno, who will return to the network this fall in a nightly 10

'Tonight' host leaves fine legacy

The franchise is still strong, TV critic Robert Lloyd writes. **CALENDAR, D1**

two minutes, and Leno kept pointing to his watch and imploring the audience to sit

tenure had lasted through four U.S. presidents ("Two of them, Bill Clinton and George Bush — thank you so much for that... Thank you for those two!") and national tragedies such as 9/11. He said one of the most important things he learned from Carson was that "you always have to have the monologue ready... You always want to have jokes. That's

ing, Leno said: "I'm thrilled. When I took this from Johnny, the show was the No. 1 show on late-night television... It's No. 1, which means I get back my security deposit." He also implored viewers to show his successor, Conan O'Brien, who takes over Monday, "as much support as you've shown me the last 17 years."

As had been announced