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The Sandspur

WINTER PARK, FL

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September 19, 2008

Volume 115 Issue 4



Interested in some extra cash? Take pictures and write stories for **The Sandspur**



Poet laureate Billy Collins' talk rocks Rollins see pages 6-7

Rollins Improv Players karate kick-off for Dance Marathon spirit week see page 10

BRITTANY FORNOF *the sandspur*

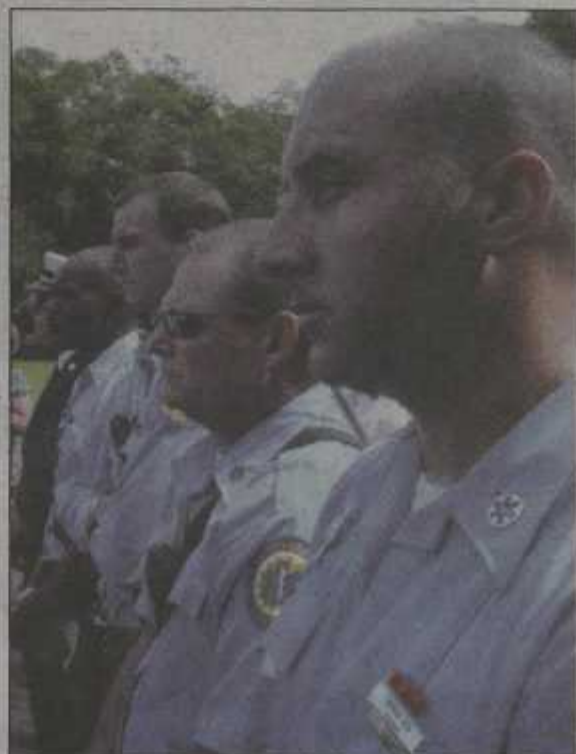
In memory of the tragedy that befell our country in the early morning of September 11th seven years ago, members of the Rollins College community as well as members of the Winter Park community gathered to honor those who lost their lives during this tragedy.

The Pearl Harbor of our generation, September 11th changed the lives of thousand of individuals and families across the nation. It was an act meant to break us but that initially unified us, and seven years from that day, the Rollins College community stood unified once again.

The ceremony, which included a performance by Rollins' Chamber Singers as well as speeches by several prominent members of the Winter Park community, was a heart-touching event at its best.

As Student Government President, Marissa Germain said, "It was a beautiful ceremony, and it was cool to see the members of the Winter Park community come together."

At 10:30 A.M., over 200 guests gathered around the Veteran's Memorial flagpole in front of the Warren Administration building. Fire trucks stood behind the crowd as the uniformed men of Winter Park took their positions in the far left of the crowd. A few chairs were set out for officials, honored guests, and a few reporters, and directly behind them stood a crowd of fraternity



IN MEMORY: Above left: a procession of vehicles from each branch of emergency response agencies surrounded the site of the memorial. Below left: President Lewis Duncan addresses the attendees with a moving invocation. Right: Local paramedics solemnly pay their respects to the fallen.

JUSTIN BRAUN / the sandspur

Rollins honors heroes of 9/11

brothers waiting to pay their respects. The rest of the crowd was made up of Rollins' faculty and staff as well as a few other community members.

All stood in resolute respect as the flag was carried out and as Student Government President, Marissa Germain, led the Pledge of Allegiance. Photographers mingled through the crowd catching the melancholy faces and swollen eyes of the crowd as the words of our country reverberated through the air. Within moments of the pledge

ending, the Rollins Chamber Singers, led by Rollins' professor Dr. Sinclair, began singing "Even When God Is Silent," a most appropriate song that silenced every audience member.

The ceremony continued with a prayer by the Dean of Knowles Memorial Chapel, Dean Powers, and with speeches by several honored guests including President Duncan, alumnus Tony Wilner (member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors), alumnus Manny Papir (Mayor Rudolph

Giuliani's Deputy Chief of Staff during the 9/11 attacks), and David Strong (Mayor of the City of Winter Park.)

The speeches were touching. Just like the rest of America, each person had a different story to tell regarding what the September 11th attacks had meant to them. The impact of this historical day can still be felt today just as it was seven years ago.

■ See Heroes of 9/11, page 2

Meanderers mugged

STEVE SCHWARTZ
JENNIFER STULL
the sandspur

The town of Winter Park is generally seen by Rollins students as a safe place. A place to feel secure and comfortable while going about day-to-day activities. Unfortunately, about two weeks ago an incident occurred that may have the Winter Park community re-evaluating their levels of comfort and safety.

Two Rollins students were walking back to campus late on a Wednesday night when they became lost and flagged down a car for directions. The car was said to have been an older model, standard four door vehicle. When the car stopped, an African American man stepped out. According to an anonymous victim, he looked "cracked out" and "nervous," and started waving a gun at the students. The assailant proceeded to shoot one shot into the air and then stole over one-thousand dollars and an iPhone from the students.

The attacker also became very hostile, taking his gun and hitting the female victim over the head with it. According to the Campus Security report, she sustained minor injuries, but no one was badly hurt. The attacker then went back to his car and drove away, leaving the students abandoned on a back road off Fairbanks Ave.

The victims of the robbery were not available for further comment.

However, Ken Miller, director of Campus Security, shared his thoughts on the situation by saying, "We sent out the Campus Security alert in order to inform the students, but since it was so serious we want students to also know they need to be safe. However, since this occurred off campus, I can't disclose information."

For students in similar situations, Miller advised, "Walk with large groups. Also, try and stay on Fairbanks and don't carry around large amounts of money if you don't have to. Being smart is important in these situations. Do not get a false sense of safety or comfort. Winter Park is still a part of Orlando where crime is prevalent. Ten to fifteen years ago, the major crime dealt with carjacking and now it has moved to armed robbery.

■ See Students swindled, page 2

Ripples affect hungry homeless

AMANDA HAMPTON
the sandspur

On Saturday, September 13, at 7 o'clock in the morning, most people were still lying in bed recovering from the previous night. But 23 students were awake, ready, gathered in front of Mills Lawn, and eager for their early-morning destination which awaited them only a few minutes away in downtown Orlando. Fifteen of these students hopped on the J.U.M.P. bus and headed downtown to join the other volunteers who were also participating in The Ripple Effect (also called Help for the Homeless).

Every Saturday morning, volunteers come together to feed the homeless community in central Florida. The Ripple Effect program has been very successful in its efforts, feeding

anywhere from 100 to 300 homeless people each week. While more people usually come to be fed towards the end of each month due to depleted funds, on Saturday, over 100 homeless people were outside waiting to be fed in a fenced-in park area designated for exactly that. Because there were three large tables filled with various types of foods and a large support group of volunteers, feeding such a large number of people was not very difficult to accomplish. Saturday's participants set up those large tables filled with food as well as some items of clothing. Once everything was set up, each person received a plastic bag which could be filled with any of the various food items available at the time. The Ripple Effect organizers were proud that there was enough food to last each individual for

4 or 5 days. The first table had foods ranging from sliced bread to bags of popcorn. At another table, hot meals were served to each individual who wanted one. One table had Shepherd's pie, cookies, juice, and bottled water ready for anyone who wanted some. The family that runs the program was able to cook the hot meal that was served with the help of a local church. One exceptional aspect of The Ripple Effect is that everyone is allowed to get back in line until all the food is gone.

Most of the Rollins students who volunteered last Saturday were participating in the program for the first time. With so many new faces, there were more than enough volunteers to help feed the homeless, whereas there are usually only a handful of people who are brave enough to risk waking up so early in the

morning. The Ripple Effect is so successful as a result of a small group of dedicated volunteers who gather and cook food to serve each week. One volunteer commented that "It is always so rewarding to get up and serve these people, knowing that you are having such a profound effect on their lives. It's definitely worth getting up for." The volunteers are definitely committed to helping others within their communities.

The Ripple Effect gets its roots from personal experiences: one of the program's operators was actually homeless once and is now a successful contractor. The Ripple Effect was set in motion as a way to help those who are currently in similar situations to the one he was in not too long ago.

■ See Ripple Effects, page 2

9/11 Heroes

Continued from page 1

Certainly, the hustle and bustle of everyday life can sometimes cause us to not feel the weight of this tragedy as much as we once did, but the fact remains that the memory of what happened seven years ago is still carried along with us today.

As Mayor Strong stated in his speech, "Truly, all gave some and some gave all." And it is in memory of those who gave and those lost and those who were lost that we choose to stand united even today.

The evidence of this unity could be witnessed around the flagpole this past Thursday morning. Winter Park officials, Rollins alumni, fraternity brothers, local policemen and firefighters, and Rollins staff alike gathered to pay their respects to those who will never be forgotten.

As the ceremony concluded with "Taps" playing in the background and sniffles could be heard in the crowd, the Winter Park community took one more moment to gaze into the beauty of the flag and into the faces of those before them before leaving to continue their day, but never to forget.

As junior Scott Marchfield said, "It showed the country has not forgotten. You would expect this time of ceremony in New York or in Washington, D.C, but not in a small city 1000 miles from ground-zero. This really makes me proud to be an American."

The memorial, which features authentic touchstones from the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and the site in Shanksville, Pennsylvania, can be seen at the Veteran's Memorial flagpole in front of the Warren Administration building.



All Campus Events presents

Dive-In Movie

ZAC CHENAILE / the sandspur

CADDYSHACK: All Campus Events hosted a Dive-In movie showing of Caddyshack last Tuesday, serving free Jeremiah's Italian Ice and cookie cake. Top left: One student decided to try her own version of Caddyshack by dropping a Baby Ruth into the pool. Little did we all know that the candy bar would sink and not float as shown in the movie. Top right and bottom left: For once the Alford Swimming Pool was open late, despite unfounded noise complaints the event proved to be a success.



Wednesday 9/24 (8pm, Dave's) ACE Goldfish Creations

Rollins After Dark

Friday 9/26 (10pm-1am, Dave's) presented by ACE & Greek Life with hypnotist Dale K, bingo and \$1 breakfast

Students swindled

Continued from page 1

It is also important to know that there are people outside of the 'Rollins Bubble' that have different socio-economic statuses and don't have the same ability to make a living as we do, and therefore must go to different lengths to provide for themselves."

Unfortunately, this robbery will not be an isolated incident. Crime happens all the time in Winter Park, whether it is with a Rollins student or not. We all need to take precautions in order to make sure we all stay safe. Stick to the main roads, and stay in large groups. Be aware of your surroundings, and stay cautious. Winter Park is a safe area, but even safe areas can have their threats.

Ripple Effects

Continued from page 1

One first-time volunteer, Rollins student Katie Schwartz related her experience at The Ripple Effect: "The whole experience was really eye-opening. As a student living in Winter Park, Florida, you sometimes forget that there are so many people out there who need our help. I think we all have this stereotype of the homeless, and we forget that they are real people with real stories. Many of them are highly educated veterans or college graduates. It's really not their fault, but, rather, the current economic situation." For such a rewarding experience, getting up early in the morning doesn't seem like such a daunting task after all.

CORRECTIONS:

411 on "Reduce, Reuse, Recycle" In last Friday's issue of the Sandspur, an article on Rollins' new recycling procedures was incorrectly attributed to reporter Lindsey Hirsch. The article was written by Amanda Hampton

How to: Avoid the Freshman 15 In last Friday's issue of the Sandspur, an article on how Rollins students can avoid gaining unwanted weight during their first year at college was incorrectly attributed to reporter Jenn Zyski. The article was written by Jenn Stull

Rollins ultimate athletes Several pictures accompanying last Friday's article on Ultimate Disc were incorrectly captioned. Two of the photos were courtesy of Tyler Schimmelfing

Alcohol issues cause a buzz In the lead story of last Friday's Sandspur incorrectly reported that the Director of Security was Steve Miller. The actual Director of Security is Ken Miller

It's the end of the world as we know it?

G. KEITH EVANS
the sandspur

If you woke up on the morning of September 10th, you can rest secure in the knowledge that something went right in the overnight test of the massive Large Hadron Collider.

If you're not quite sure what a Large Hadron Collider is or what it has to do with you waking up last Wednesday morning, you're probably not alone. Many people simply gloss over when terms like "particle accelerator" and "atom smashing" start getting thrown around. Hardcore science, it seems, has not yet taken its place in mainstream popular culture.

The Large Hadron Collider—or LHC for short—has managed to garner a lot more public attention lately than any other science project since the Space Shuttle. This is not because it's cool or even highly visible (the entire project is buried deep underground in Europe), but because of what it has the potential to do. The LHC, according to some scientists, has the unique potential to bring about a swift and efficient end to the Earth and all its inhabitants.

Certainly, this device has earned its place on the evening news.

The end of the world is not the intention of the LHC, of course. The device is actually the summation of more than a decade of planning and building and nearly \$7 billion in international funding. The organization overseeing the massive project, the European Organization for Nuclear Research (CERN), holds that the LHC will be able to effectively create and test novel scientific conditions and theories. Together with its network of distributed computing power, scientists hope to use the LHC to emulate conditions that may have existed one billionth of a second after the "Big Bang" that is theorized to have created the known universe.

How can a device buried somewhere in Europe achieve such feats? By using LHC's almost 17 miles of particle accelerators buried beneath the French border with Switzerland, scientists will be able to accelerate a particle of matter to just under the speed of light before smashing it into another particle of matter traveling just as fast in the opposite direction. These collisions should generate the data needed to move science

ahead at an unprecedented rate.

Some scientists, though, have expressed concern about the LHC. The collision of matter particles at the speeds made possible by the LHC is well into the realm of scientific unknowns. The possibility does exist, according to opponents, for small black holes to form as a result of LHC activity. These black holes could, in theory, cause the Earth to implode upon itself, bringing about an end to anything existing on the planet.

CERN corrects this fear by asserting that any black holes formed by the LHC would be too tiny to generate any measurable effect on the Earth. In addition, the test conducted on September 10 served only to accelerate a particle around the full 17-mile loop of the LHC, not to perform any actual collisions. The test successfully completed without any complications, according to Lyn Evans of CERN. "Things can go wrong at any time, but luckily this morning everything went smoothly."

The first collision to take place inside the LHC is slated for October 21, 2008. Additional LHC testing is planned to ensure the collision goes as smoothly as the initial acceleration.

ROC-in' Ginnie Springs

ALEXIS
OBERNAUER
the sandspur

Sleepy members of the Rollins Outdoor Club, gathered outside of Lyman Hall before the crack of 10:00 a.m. on Sunday to embark on a day-long excursion to Ginnie Springs. Almost thirty students made the two hour trek to High Springs, Florida to enjoy the seven separate springs, 200 wooded acres, and gorgeous, albeit a bit murky, Santa Fe River. After the long and generally uneventful drive, the club members arrived safely and in good spirits; and the festivities began just after noon. After breaking a sweat from highly competitive games of ultimate disc, beach volleyball and football, ROC members donned their inner tubes and floaties and set off for an hour-long raft ride in the chilly 72 degree water. Once back on land, everyone feasted on a delicious lunch of barbecued picnic food. Then when the clouds opened up and brought some late afternoon rain showers, not all ROCers took refuge under the relative safety of the large wooden pavilion.

A separate group of scuba divers, led by the experienced Chase Waldeck, broke off and explored many of the cavernous underwater passageways that Ginnie Springs has to offer. Even though the water was not its usual crystal clear and visibility was significantly restricted, the lucky divers were able to explore unique underwater geological features with their goggles,

wetsuits, and air tanks. Ginnie Springs is known primarily for Ginnie Cavern, a 100 by 15 foot cave that lies at the bottom of a deep basin near the mouth of the Santa Fe River. Interestingly enough, Ginnie Cavern is one of only a handful of sites that experts consider safe enough for divers lacking formal cave and cavern experience. This allowed a few more ROC divers to take advantage of Ginnie Springs' chief attraction. For more information about High Springs, Florida's favorite campground and dive resort, visit www.ginnesprings.com.

If you love tubing and diving, or even if you have never passed a swim test, the Rollins Outdoor Club offers trips to a variety of nearby sites nearly almost every weekend. This semester, the club has already gone on day outings to tube at Wekiva Springs and they have co-sponsored trips to feed the homeless on Saturday mornings with J.U.M.P. Upcoming events include a dive trip to Blue Grotto in Williston, Florida and a beach clean-up. Both events are occurring on Saturday, September 20. More information on those and other future gatherings will be provided at Rollins Outdoor Club meetings, which are held every Tuesday night at 8:01 PM in Lyman Hall.

First year student and first year ROC member Caitlin Sayles nicely summarized last Sunday's event by describing it as "an exciting trip that everyone seemed to enjoy." She also said it was "definitely well worth the two hour drive" to get there.

Viva Italiano!

PETER TRAVIS
the sandspur

When browsing through the Rollins course book, it is easy to see how extensive the list of offerings is for a small liberal arts college. However, at the moment, the curriculum is lacking what is considered a staple at many other institutions: Italian. Rollins College does not currently offer any courses in Italian language and has not for about five years. But this gap in the foreign language curriculum is about to be filled once again. Italian language courses will be offered as soon as next fall.

The resurrection of the Italian program would probably not have been possible without the initiative of first year student Christian Keibel. With only four weeks of college under his belt, Keibel has already made it his mission to bring Italian back to Rollins. "As soon as I found out that Rollins didn't offer Italian, I knew I wanted to change that," Keibel said. His first step toward his goal took the form of a campus-wide email to gauge how much interest students had in taking a language course in Italian. The response was tremendous. Within twenty-four hours, Keibel had received over one hundred responses from students showing interest in a possible Italian course

offering.

Next, Keibel created a petition in order to get signatures to present to the Foreign Language Department. He tabled his cause in the Campus Center last week and received one hundred and thirty five signatures from students supporting the cause within two hours. The successful petition asserted that Italian courses would help "to better equip its students for study abroad and to further its efforts to develop global citizens." On Tuesday, Keibel took the petition to the Foreign Language Department head, Dr. Alberto Prieto-Calixto.

Keibel's proposal was received well by both parties. Dr. Prieto-Calixto was excited to see the interest that Keibel had documented, and agreed to begin the search for staff that can teach Italian in order to add Italian to the course offerings by next fall. Prieto-Calixto was not completely surprised by the proposal, since Italian has been

offered in the past.

"It's one of those courses that comes and goes considering the interest of the students," said Prieto-Calixto.

It is possible, he thinks, that Italian courses could be offered up to the 300 level, but the continuance of the upper level courses will ultimately depend on the interest of the students.

Keibel was thrilled that his proposal was accepted, and is planning on enrolling in one of the Italian classes since he intends to study abroad in Italy during his sophomore year. It is important to note that the Italian program will be no different than any other foreign language at Rollins. Thus, in order to fulfill one's "F" general education requirement with Italian, a student is required to complete a 200 level course. The department will take its time while searching for staff for the Italian program, but the language will definitely be in the books for the fall semester of next year.

The truth and nothing but the truth from IAVA

ANNABELLE
KEMPSTER
the sandspur

The Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (IAVA) is America's first and largest nonprofit, non-partisan Iraq/Afghanistan Veterans advocacy group. They are working to raise awareness about the issues affecting our troops at home and abroad, from the perspective of the soldiers who have served. This program is being coordinated by Sharon Riegsecker, a senior. Many are unaware of the issues that afflict our soldiers on a daily basis, and there is no better way to inform people of these issues. These soldiers have experienced first-hand what it's like to serve in the United States military.

"The IAVA Iraq War Stories lecture program and panel discussion brings a fresh and honest discussion about the war in Iraq, and what it really means to support our troops," said Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, the new director here at Rollins for the Office of Multicultural Affairs.

She continued, "The panel features a non-partisan group of war veterans who discuss the issues central to the current conflicts, having experienced them first-hand, including the administration's prosecution of the war, its plan for securing the peace, and the psychological and financial concerns of veterans who have come back, followed by an extensive question and answer session."

Many of the soldiers who lead these panel discussions are

college students themselves, and are therefore more likely to relate to other college students in a way that they can best understand. Whether the subject is the role of private contractors in military operations, the lack of body armor for troops, the closing of V.A. Hospitals, or the effects of the back-door draft, the men and women who have served and who have returned to civilian life have a uniquely-informed perspective.

This event is scheduled to take place in the Bush Auditorium on October 7th at 7:00 p.m., and would be very beneficial to anyone interested in learning a little more about our troops, especially to get caught up on the issues pertaining to the soldiers and their daily activities. Even with knowledge of the issues these soldiers face, nothing beats talking to someone who has been there. The IAVA College Tour is a good way to show support for our troops, and to educate ourselves a little further in terms of what our soldiers are really doing and being faced with.

The Diversity Committee, the Office of Multicultural Affairs and many other departments around campus strongly support this program and its unique way of allowing us to get as near to the actual experience as we can, through a very real first-hand description and conversation with the soldiers.

So whether students want to support the soldiers or learn about the issues they face, this event is one that proves to be worthwhile.

Beware plastic scam

JENNIFER STULL
the sandspur

Congratulations, you are one small swipe away from owning every material object you have ever wanted. Yes, only one swipe from being the envy of everyone on campus. Or you could be one swipe away from piles of debt that you will never pay off. Why get sucked into the credit card scam? What could cause a student to sign up for a credit card he or she knows they can't pay off?

Credit card companies use gimmicks and schemes to allure young college students into signing up for a credit card and then attack with fees and penalties. According to Sarah Byrnes of a national nonprofit, Americans for Fairness in Lending (AFFIL), "With the opening of the college gates comes the annual flurry of credit card companies descending on campuses and unsuspecting students. Quick easy credit is promised along with free T-shirts, pizza, and even MP3 players—attractive lures that seem to put expensive textbooks, dorm furnishings, and Friday night dinners out with friends in much easier reach." Byrnes adds, "Even those who think they'll get the free gift and then cut up the card may be in for an unpleasant surprise. Once a student gives the required information to the company,

they're 'in the system,' and will need a magnifying glass and a law degree to understand the terms of the credit card contract."

Students are also tempted by credit card companies' promises of instant approval and extremely high starting limits. Freshman Katie Jones says, "In the mail I would always get stuff saying that I was instantly approved for a \$2000 credit line, no questions asked, which is really tempting to a student who needs cash... So, while it would be nice for me to accept those offers from the credit card companies, students should know that it's really just going to get them into trouble [with debt] in the end."

What can a student do in order to avoid these consequences and still have the ability to use a credit card? The best thing to do is simply be informed. According to AFFIL, "Credit card contracts are packed with fine print tricks and traps to increase the likelihood of paying fees and penalties. You will be hard pressed to find a credit card without these terms – at least until our government outlaws them – but if you're informed and cautious, you have a better chance of steering clear of the traps and saving money."

Some of the main points they say students should be

advised of when using a credit card are, "Fees and More Fees – On any given month, you might pay a late payment fee, over limit fee, cash advance fee, balance transfer fee, foreign exchange fee, bill payment fee, Western Union fee, and whatever else your lender can devise. Not to mention monthly and annual fees." Plus, "Teaser Rates That Don't Stick – An introductory 0% interest rate can jump to 30% with a late payment or if you go over limit. Don't bank on keeping that 0% rate for the entire promotional period." Finally, AFFIL advises to watch out for "Tricky Interest Calculations – For some cards, you can pay interest on purchases from previous cycles. This is known as double cycle billing. Look for a card that uses the "Average Daily Balance" interest calculation method."

So, while that Lamborghini with the leather interior would be a nice accessory for the school year, it is not worth falling victim to the greedy hands of the credit card companies. Spend wisely and the credit card will be nothing more than a handy tool in your wallet.

For more information on avoiding credit card problems visit: <http://www.affil.org/uploads/Sy/Hd/SyHd950I38QEscDngawpg/Credit-Card-Tricks-and-Traps.pdf>.

Committee to decide on curriculum reform

PETER TRAVIS
the sandspur

Many Rollins students may spend their entire four years of college without ever hearing of the Curriculum Review and Renewal Committee. However, it is very possible that this committee of faculty, staff, and students will be making big news in the academic realm of Rollins College. On September 5th, faculty and staff from all departments attended an Organization Colloquium in the Galloway Room of the Mills building. The meeting was held by the CRRC, a committee that was created in the fall of 2007 by the Academic Affairs Committee to assess the curriculum at Rollins College and propose any beneficial changes for the future. At the Colloquium, the members of the CRRC gave a presentation of their exciting new proposal for Rollins' curriculum.

The committee's message was simple: the current system for general education requirements has much room for improvement. Summarizing the problem with the current "Gen. Ed." requirement system, committee member Rachel Simmons said that students' Gen. Ed. classes are "disconnected courses that don't overlap in any meaningful way." Thus, the CRRC is

proposing a completely new system for general education requirements. Instead of having an assortment of letters to fulfill in four years, the committee is proposing what they are calling the "Rollins Plan." The Rollins Plans are "multiple themed tracks that students can choose to work through their Gen. Ed. Requirements," in the words of committee member Carol Lauer. These "tracks" include a variety of courses that are tied together by a common theme. Possible themes for different Rollins Plans, or RP's, could be anything from "Reproduction" to "Florida: a Global Laboratory."

Students would take one course in their RP each semester starting in the spring of their first year, and ending in the fall of their senior year. There would be somewhere around five or six RP's for students to choose from each year. No specific RP's have been decided upon, and one of the functions of the Colloquium was to hand out RP design sheets to the faculty. The committee is encouraging the faculty to come up with ideas for RP's as long as they fulfill certain requirements. First, the RP has to be interdepartmental. The way this is judged is by a list of "learning outcomes," or certain skills and abilities that the faculty feels are necessary for

a liberal arts education. These learning outcomes include skills such as quantitative literacy, civic engagement, and the expressive arts. In order to have an RP put into the curriculum, the designer has to confirm that each learning outcome will be taught in at least two of the RP's courses.

After the presentation of the Rollins Plan at the Colloquium, the committee opened the floor for questions and comments. Main concerns that were voiced from some faculty members stressed the possibility of limiting the students' interests and possible unhappiness if students don't like the RP they signed up for. However, the committee made it very clear that this is a work in progress, and they are very flexible to change. One goal, at least, will remain constant: RP's are designed to excite the student about their general education requirements and possibly get them talking about them outside of class. "We think it would be a good idea if students would have more common education experiences," committee chairman Tom Cook told the faculty. The committee will be proposing the Rollins Plan officially during a faculty meeting on September 23rd. If the plan is passed, two pilot RP's could be in effect as early as 2009.

The Blob invades campus

STEPHANIE ELLENBURG
the sandspur

Those that are new to the Rollins College community are probably unaware that there is a radio station located on campus. WPRK - 91.5 fm, "The Best in Basement Radio", is based in Mills Memorial Center at Mills Lawn. The radio station is a student organization that not only represents Rollins College, but branches throughout the Orlando area. Radio waves are also known to reach out as far as the Apopka and Clermont districts. The WPRK fan base includes a variety of people in Central Florida who enjoy musical genres ranging from rock, rap, and oldies to classical, opera, and Broadway musicals. Being a college operated radio station gives WPRK the opportunity to play music that may not be heard on a regular basis. It is a unique establishment and has been entertaining since 1952.

The radio station made its debut on December 10, 1952, and presented President Dwight D. Eisenhower as one of the first voices heard over the radio channel. During that time the original frequency was 88.1 and only played classical music. Luckily, today WPRK has over eighty DJ's that host at different times during the day, and specialize in different mixtures of music. There are also a wide range of interviews that are held on WPRK air with people from the Central Florida neighborhood, and up and coming artists. A rapper on the rise, Joe Budden even took time to come into the station this

past August. Students might recognize his song "Pump it Up" from the popular movie *2 Fast 2 Furious*. Along with various types of music and interviews with interesting people, the radio station is also in charge of an annual marathon event. This marathon is basically one week within each year that the WPRK team gets together to promote that station, along with raising money for station improvements.

This year the marathon's theme is "The Blob". The importance of this 1958 classic movie theme the WPRK team is hoping to spread through the Orlando area during the marathon week. This all begins Monday October 6th with a movie on Mills Lawn featuring none other than, "The Blob." The marathon, aka "The Blob," will soon move to downtown Orlando at the Bar-B-Q Bar and Will's Pub on Tuesday night. Wednesday shows "The Blob" at Tatame Lounge in Winter Park where DJ Stranger spins live at 10pm. Then "The Blob" moves back downtown Orlando at Crooked Bayou and Backbooth where music and special events will be held, followed by the weekend full of fun, music, film screenings, and garage sales on campus.

With a talented student director staff and creative DJ hosts, it is no surprise that WPRK will make this year's marathon a successful and fun filled event. Remember, watch out for "The Blob!"

For the full listing of marathon events, artists, and more, visit myspace.com/wprk or wprkfm.com/formusicplaying on the radio each and every day.

Dance Marathon sponsors CMN spirit week

ERIK KEEVAN
the sandspur

Spirit Week, for those of you who don't know, is the Dance Marathon Committee's way of raising awareness for Dance Marathon, which will be held on November 15th to support the Children's Miracle Network. Every day had a special theme and event in which the entire school could participate and interact.

Tuesday, the first actual day of Spirit Week, found a giant, inflatable obstacle course displayed on Mills Lawn. The name of the game: the Super Hero Challenge Course. Contestants pitted their strength and wits against this bouncy obstacle course as they navigated over and through this shaped balloon. After all the hard work and effort (it really does take a superhero to run an obstacle course in Florida) the winner was awarded a free cape, as well as the loyalty and respect of their fellow superheroes.

Wacky Tacky Wednesday brought students to Dave's Downunder for the Wacky

Dance, a favorite event of Steve Urkel and Weird Al. Here, students could show off their wacky and tacky dance moves alongside other students, grooving to the beat. Once you've danced wacky with someone, what else is there to do?

Thursday called students to arms to defend their favorite sword wielding anti-heroes. Pirates vs. Ninjas Thursday pitted students in defense of the swash-buckling pirate against those who supported the stealthy ninja. From 11:30 am until 2:00 pm, eye patches and headbands were given away to allow students to show their support. Many heartfelt arguments arose about who would actually win. The discussion was settled by a panel of Professors in an open debate. This day of good spirited disagreement was closed with a Pirates vs. Ninjas improv show courtesy of the Rollins Improv Players.

Rockin' DM Spirit Friday was the last day of Spirit Week and featured an appearance by the CMN children themselves. A picnic from 5 until 7 allowed the children to interact with the college students who would be

supporting them the day of the marathon. Picnic games were played while children-friendly music could be heard in the background. What a wonderful way to wrap up Spirit Week and start the weekend.

For those of you who are unsure what the Dance Marathon is, here is a brief overview. The Dance Marathon has nothing to do with dancing, or at least dancing for an extended period of time, or 26 miles. Instead, the Dance Marathon is a party where people sign up to stay awake for 12 hours. Since the event starts at 2:00 p.m. on November 15th, that means you will have to stay awake until 2:00 am the next day. The day is filled with music, games, and even a little bit of dancing, if you are so inclined. Proceeds are donated to those less fortunate, courtesy of the CMN. So participate in the Dance Marathon yourself. Seriously, you're college students; you were going to stay up anyway. You can at least do it for a good cause.

And for the sake of argument, Pirates would definitely win. Assuming they



NEHAL BELLANI / the sandspur
Blasting Off: Patrick McKelvey and Alex Winfree play around while participating in Tuesday's Super Hero Day.



NEHAL BELLANI / the sandspur
All in a day's work: Dance Marathon Spirit Week participants take a break in front of the Mills Building after another successful event.



Time to vote

LINDSEY HIRSCH
the sandspur

Democracy is a concept that requires action. In our present society, this action is delivered by the means of voting. As United States citizens, we take for granted the privilege of the right to vote; you may be unaware, but there are people in other countries around the world who are not as fortunate as we are and who just do not have this privilege. Some of them fight and die for the opportunity to voice their opinions.

So what are you doing to be politically active in this election? Sitting in your dorm room cruising Facebook or iChating with your friends from home? However, are you registered to vote? There are an estimated fifteen million students attending college this fall; of those fifteen million, it is supposed that only half or more may be registered to vote.

Florida has a voice, Rollins! In case you do not remember the 2000 election between George W. Bush and Al Gore, in which a recount was demanded, Florida played a significant role in the outcome of that presidential election and will also be an important player in this election. With roughly twenty-five electoral votes, you can be sure that we are going to be heard.

A lot of students are uneducated in the issues that are hot topics in this current presidential election. Therefore, those who are registered to vote will cast their ballot mainly on their own personal judgment, on the charisma and personality of a certain candidate without even knowing what that candidate may stand for. It is not too late to register

to vote! The Florida Division of Elections declares that one must be registered to vote twenty-nine days before an election in order to actually vote. The closing date for this presidential race to the White House is Monday, October 6th, 2008. That leaves you with about half of a month, Rollins students!

About once a week, there are members from the Obama campaign on campus who set up at a table outside the Cornell Campus Center and register Rollins students to vote. If you are a college student away from home and are not registered in the voting district here in Winter Park, request an absentee ballot so your voice can be heard, or change your voter's registration to this district; if you wish to change your voting address to Rollins, just allow for a ten day turnover process.

A poll conducted between September 1st and September 7th, 2008 by the Gallup organization illustrates that 60% of young people favor Barack Obama over John McCain's 32%. If you are not pleased with this poll, then be a patriot by invoking your democratic privilege to vote. Your choice does count.

With a woman and an African American having battled it out for the Democratic nomination in the primaries, and a woman running as the Vice Presidential candidate for the Republican Party, it is no question that no matter what, this election season will go down in the history books that your children may one day read. So ditch your political apathy so you can be a part of this exciting era in our nation's history. Register to vote...I dare you.

The Sandspur
*The Oldest College
Newspaper in Florida
Founded in 1894*

September 19, 2008

Volume 115 Issue 4

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Where do you fit into the Sandspur?

At the Sandspur, we are constantly looking for more voices, be they involved in editing, writing, or photography. This year we are adding a new Staff Reporter position. Staff Reporters will attend weekly assignment meetings and write articles to be published in the Sandspur.

What do you get for contributing to the Sandspur?

Other than seeing your name and work in print, you will be paid as a correspondent for the Sandspur.

How will I get my written articles into the Sandspur?

Articles for the Sandspur are typically 500-700 words in length and must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the corresponding issue's publication. Submissions will be e-mailed to editor@thesandspur.org.

Where is the Sandspur?

The Sandspur office is located on the 2nd floor of the Mills building, two floors above the post office.

How can I get involved with the Sandspur?

Article assignment meetings are held every Thursday at 5:00 P.M. in the Sandspur Office. Any questions can be e-mailed to editor@thesandspur.org, and respective editors can be reached at their Rollins e-mail addresses (first initial, last name@rollins.edu).

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OCE hosts Coastal Cleanup

STEPHANIE ELLENBURG
the sandspur

On September 15th, 2007, about 170 Rollins College students and faculty spent their Saturday at Canaveral National Seashore at Playa Linda. This nationally protected coastline is near Cocoa Beach, where the Kennedy Space Center's shuttle launches can be viewed. Playa Linda is also a popular nesting area for sea turtles and a home to many other marine animals.

The reason behind the volunteer participation was in celebration of International Coastal Cleanup Day. Since 1986, this day has been the single most volunteered event internationally and was created by a staff member of The Ocean Conservancy. This organization helps collect data of debris washed up on shore and within coastal waters. They then calculate the amount of garbage that is being dumped in our local oceans in hopes to prevent further littering.

Their mission is found at www.oceanconservancy.org and states, "Through research, education, and science-based

advocacy, Ocean Conservancy informs, inspires, and empowers people to speak and act on behalf of the oceans."

This year, on September 20th, The Office of Community Engagement is coordinating Rollins' 3rd Annual International Coastal Cleanup Day at Cherie Down Park in Cape Canaveral. This annual has recently been a focus of Rollins College involvement, starting about two years ago. Rollins College professor Dr. Fiona Harper is extremely passionate about preventing littering and harm to the environment. She was a leader in getting her students involved in this project along with Dr. Kathryn Sutherland. Biology professors, students and other staff members spent an hour and a half on September 15th, 2007, cleaning the shoreline and coming across some peculiar items. One student found some Carnival cruise ship balloons, several others found pieces of plastic all over the shore, and the most interesting item was the long fluorescent light bulb dug up from the sand. Where is all this debris coming from? Most garbage falls off boats, litterbugs

within the area, and as for the balloons: what goes up must come down. Unfortunately, it is the marine wildlife that suffer from our human actions.

It takes five years for a cigarette butt to decompose. It also takes about 18 years for styrofoam, 50 years for aluminum, 550 years for plastic, and one million years for glass. However, plastic is the most destructive out of all these pieces of trash. Plastic bags are mistaken for jellyfish that are eaten by sea turtles. Eight ringed soda holders are often caught on the necks of animals. Many birds think small pieces of plastic are fish and end up feeding it to their young. We are the future, and anything we do can affect our environment down the road.

The expansion of International Coastal Cleanup Day spans 100 different countries all over the world. In September 2002, 2.8 million pounds of trash were retrieved from the coastlines of the United States within three hours. In just a few hours there was a great impact already being made to prevent hazardous threats to the environment. It is amazing

what a little help can produce.

The Office of Community Engagement will be providing buses, drinks and snacks for 100 students this year. The buses will be leaving at 8:30am from the Alford Sports Parking Lot on Saturday, September 20th and will be returning to campus by 1:15pm. All participants need to take the bus because of liability purposes and parking fees. For those interested in participating in the International Coastal Clean-Up this year, there is a sign up sheet in the Office of Community Engagement: Room 104 of Chase Hall. Also, there was an e-mail that went out weeks ago promoting this volunteer event and informing students that there is a financial investment required for every signed up participant. Individuals who sign up are committed to attending; if they do not let the Office of Community Engagement know at least 48 hours in advance that they can no longer attend, they will be charged a \$20 no-show fee.

Participation is on a first come, first served basis. For more information, please e-mail Annie Howe at mhowe@rollins.edu.

Literary legend, Poet Laureate

MADMEN

by Billy Collins

They say you can jinx a poem
if you talk about it before it is
done.
If you let it out too early, they
warn,
your poem will fly away,
and this time they are absolutely
right.

Take the night I mentioned to you
I wanted to write about the madmen,
as the newspapers so blithely call
them,
who attack art, not in reviews,
but with breadknives and hammers
in the quiet museums of Prague and
Amsterdam.

Actually, they are the real artists,
you said, spinning the ice in your
glass.

The screwdriver is their brush.
The real vandals are the restorers,
you went on, slowly turning me upside-
down,
the ones in the white doctor's smocks
who close the wound in the landscape,
and thus ruin the true art of the mad.

I watched my poem fly down to the front
of the bar and hover there
until the next customer walked in—
then I watched it fly out the open door
into the night
and sail away, I could only imagine,
over the dark tenements of the city.

All I had wished to say
was that art was also short,
as a razor can teach with a slash or
two,
that it only seems long compared to
life,
but that night, I drove home alone
with nothing swinging in the cage of
my heart
except the faint hope that I might
catch a glimpse of the thing
in the fan of my headlights,
maybe perched on a road sign or a
street lamp,
poor unwritten bird, its wings folded,
staring down at me with tiny
illuminated eyes.

courtesy of poetryfoundation.org



ALAN NORDSTROM
contributing writer

Billy Collins, in person or in
poem, makes you feel welcome
and comfortable.

His persona is amiable and
easy going, with a quick smile
and often a twinkle in his eye.
One gets the sense that he will
soon start you chuckling at his
wit. His demeanor is unassum-
ing; that of a regular fellow con-
tent to be quiet while others talk
and he politely listens. His char-
isma is low voltage, but charisma
nonetheless; not scintillating, but
charming.

If Billy Collins were a sales-
man, you'd buy, feeling that he'd
simply helped you choose for
yourself.

He is, in fact, a salesman, sell-
ing his poetry. Each poem acts as a
clever bid for one's attention, and,
ultimately, affection. One won-
ders just why his little poems are
so beguiling. What has he done

that's like the Whitman's choco-
late sampler, keeping us nibbling
on one and then another?

It was matters like this that
Billy Collins chatted about on
Sept. 11 to a dotting audience of
200 in the Bush Auditorium.

The two-term U.S. Poet Lau-
reate (2001-2003), and now an
inaugural fellow at Rollins' new
Winter Park Institute, spoke about
how a good poet aims to capture
"the love of strangers." The po-
et's well-crafted persona, he said,
wins over readers, enticing them
genially into the "little room" of
each poem.

Good poets are not self-ab-
sorbed. They court our caring.

Collins likens his poems to
the optometrist's eye chart, with
the big E at the top that most ev-
eryone can read. By the end of the
poem, though, he hopes to have
his readers squinting, subtly lead-
ing us to realize something more
challenging or different about a
poem.

First he wins you, then he
spins you to a place where "lan-
guage is better than reality."



ERIK KEEVAN / the sandspur
CHUCKLES: President Lewis Duncan introduced Poet Laureate Billy
Collins Thursday, Sept. 11 in the Tiedtke Concert Hall as the first visiting
scholar from the Winter Park Institute.

A REFRESHING TAKE: W
tion entitled Ballistics Thu

PATRICK T.
REARDON
mct campus

Americans, unlike
cousins across the Atlan
new to poet laureates.

The British have ha
for 333 years—since John
was named to the post
And, because appointee
tionally served for life, the
been only 19, including
Wordsworth, Alfred Lord
son and Ted Hughes. In
Andrew Motion to the
1999, Prime Minister To
changed that policy, limi
term to 10 years.

By contrast, the Unite
has had a poet laureate,
ed by the Librarian of C
only since 1986 when the
ipient of the honor was
Penn Warren. (During
vious half century, there
lower-profile post of co
in poetry to the Library
gress, and 30 poets, in
Robert Frost, Gwendolyn
James Dickey and Warren
in the job.)

Most U.S. poet
have served only a year
gest tenure was Robert

Billy Collins, lectures leaders



ERIK KEEVAN / the sandspur

Rollins College's inaugural visiting scholar Poet Laureate Billy Collins read selected poems from his latest collection. Collins will appear again in November with poet/songwriter Paul Simon.



ERIK KEEVAN / the sandspur

WELCOME FOR BILLY: Executive Director of Winter Park Institute Gail Sinclair introduces the Winter Park Institute's inaugural visiting scholar, Billy Collins, Thursday, Sept 11 at the Tiedtke Concert Hall.

ars. Billy Collins, who
ointed to the post in
took up his duties in
is the 11th in the job. He
ive an annual stipend of

ke his British counter-
llins won't be expected
poetry to mark major

national events. As U.S. poet laureate, he has only the barest minimum of specific duties, such as giving an annual speech (canceled last month because of security fears in Washington, D.C.) and determining grants to some young poets, so that, like his predecessors, he's free to promote

poetry in his own way.

Pinsky, for example, initiated his Favorite Poem Project under which poetry lovers across the nation shared with each other the poems they love.

Collins is focusing on bringing poetry to high schools for the fun of it.

BALLISTICS

by Billy Collins

When I came across the stop-action photograph of a bullet that had just passed through a book-- the pages bulging with the force--

I forgot all about the marvels of photography and began to wonder which book the photographer had selected for the shot.

Many novels sprang to mind including those of Raymond Chandler where an extra bullet would hardly be noticed.

Non-fiction offered too many choices-- a history of Scottish lighthouses, a biography of Joan of Arc and so forth.

Or it could be an anthology of medieval literature, the bullet having just beheaded Sir Gawain and pierced the motley band of pilgrims.

But later, as I was drifting off to sleep, I realized that the executed book was a recent book of poems written

by someone of whom I was not fond and that the bullet must have passed through his writing with little resistance

and then through the author's photograph, through the beard, the round glasses, and the special poet's hat he likes to wear.

courtesy of poetryfoundatin.org

"...pleasure, of course, is a slippery word... our pleasures ultimately belong to us, not to the pleasure's source."

-Billy Collins

Police arrest RNC protesters

ANNABELLE KEMPSTER
the sandspur

On Monday September 8, thousands of peaceful protesters marched from Minnesota's state capital to the site of the Republican National Convention. As this massive peace march came to an end, however, certain groups began to cause chaos.

"Turned-over garbage cans escalated to broken storefront windows, vandalized police cars and the setting of a fire." Reported WYNC news earlier on the occurrence.

Dozens of marchers in their 20s chanting "f--- the police!" attempted to cross a bridge leading to the convention center, despite police blockades. It was complete chaos as law-enforcement did its best to try to control the situation, not knowing where to turn to first. Using everything from pepper spray, tear gas, and percussion grenades, police attempted desperately to disperse the crowd.

Minnesota State Public Safety Commissioner Michael Campion stated that "the objective was to contain the protesters and keep them from reaching the convention hall."

"The first night and the last night of the convention were expected to be big for trouble, and they were."

The word trouble explains little in the events that took place; innocent bystanders were at times mistaken for protesters and were sprayed and shoved onto the pavement.

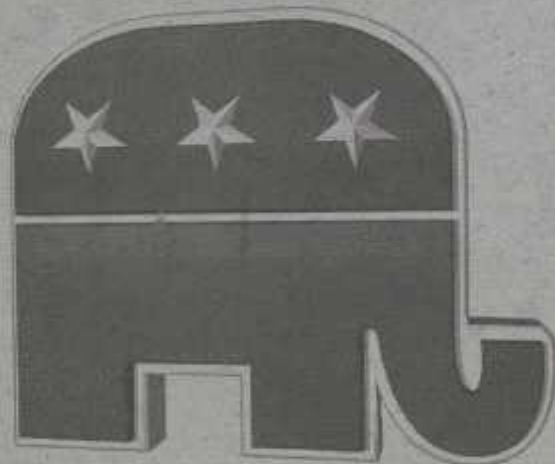
"As a line of police clad in riot gear and walking with bicycles approached a woman who refused to get out of their way, several sprayed her with a liquid. She covered her eyes with one hand and raised two fingers of the other in the shape of a peace sign", reported CNN news.

Several attempts were made by these protesters to get closer to the convention center, which was blocked off by the interstate highway and monitored by police on horses, motorcycles, and bicycles. Few of these attempts were successful at gaining any ground toward the center, while most ended with protesters on the ground with their hands behind their heads.

All in all, at least 200 anti-war protesters were subject to arrest at the interstate overpass alone, even after the dispersal of the crowd.

Despite police interference, these protest groups believe their acts to be successful.

"Some of them plan to denounce police brutality at a press conference this morning where they will discuss plans for continuing protests", reports WNYC news, but that remains to be seen.



Environmental and Energy Legislation

ALEXIS OBENAUER
the sandspur

To the eco-unaware, all of the talk about off-shore drilling and energy

policies may just seem like a bunch of hoopla, however, to the environmentally conscious, the legislation being passed in Congress this week is monumental. Senators will convene this Friday at an energy summit in attempt to facilitate discussion that will lead to the formation of comprehensive plans aiming to lower gas prices and reduce the dependence on overseas energy sources.

Experts from all arenas will

speak to the senators in attempt to assist the highly partisan body in resolving their grievances and drafting a compromise bill by the September 26th deadline. Keeping in accordance with historical norms, the Republicans are pushing a "drill baby drill" approach with emphasis on increased nuclear power development, whereas the Democrats are pulling for the "tax baby tax" ideology which focuses on improved environmental regulations.

The current offshore drilling legislation has been largely unchanged for the past fifty years, and in light of the current reliance on

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Opening will take place October 9.

overseas fossil fuels, many politicians are demanding more drilling off America's coasts. House speaker Nancy Pelosi purported the bill would protect consumers and increase taxing on Big Oil. However, because the oil industry has already spent over \$100 million in lobbying this year, many senators are reluctant to follow the Democrats plan in fear of alienating large corporate interests.

Furthermore, environmentalists too are concerned because of the implications that go along with allocating more funds to fossil fuels at the expense of taking them away from clean energy solutions. In a campaign to push for repowering America and developing 100% renewable energy, Al Gore is encouraging senators to renew the tax incentives for wind and solar investments

and protect the 100,000 jobs that are in conjunction with these developing technologies. To the chagrin of environmental advocacy groups, the bill's primary focus is actually to loosen coastal drilling restrictions on both the Atlantic and Pacific sides.

Democrats that had been previously adamantly opposed to coastal drilling are beginning to change their minds due to the rising gas prices. The new bill allows the federal governments to lease drilling rights 50-100 miles off a states' coastline as long as the state passes a law explicitly allowing it. Formerly, the federal government could only lease rights over 100 miles off of a state's coastline. However, because 80% of known oil reserves lay within the aforementioned 100 miles, the government would prefer to have access to those well-researched locations.

Impacted locations include

waters off of California, Virginia, South Carolina, the Gulf Bank in New England, and the area the size of New Hampshire in the Gulf Coast. Also, an area off of Florida's west coast causing controversy because regardless of the fact that disputed area has a substantial oil reserve, it also is home to millions of dollars of tourism that would be impacted negatively if one version of the bill were to be passed.

The partisan surrounding this issue is deep, and to many critics seems as though reaching compromise by the deadline is impossible. The coming weeks leading up to the election will be chalk full of promises from both candidates to improve America's environmental energy policies, and if sweet change does not occur soon the future direction of this country's energy crisis will not be a one.

War tarnished by murder and dishonesty

HOPE KRAHEK
the sandspur

On August 22nd, the United States military launched an air-raid on Azizbad, Afghanistan. In a triumphant return, the military gallantly announced that thirty to thirty-five dangerous, red threat level militants were killed. The U.S. dubbed the attack, as Borat would say, a "great success." The military also stated there were only five or seven Afghan civilian casualties.

Many gruesome cell phone videos, freshly dug graves and distraught villagers later, the U.S. agreed to reinvestigate the attack. It was later reported, in stark difference to the superflu-

ous five deaths, that ninety-six civilians had been killed in the August 22nd air-raid. Among the dead were many women and some very young children.

Initially, the United States military announced the cell phone videos as fraudulent heresy. The military claimed the images were propagated by the Taliban in order to paint Americans in a bad light. Perhaps the videos contain some bad lighting, but they clearly depict the lack of discretion emanating throughout this so called "War on Terror."

Yes, the babies choked by dust, buried under piles of rubble from their own houses may

have one day shared extremist viewpoints. They may have involuntarily helped a member of the Taliban, but perhaps they may not have. Perhaps the dead

It was later reported, in stark difference to the superfluous five deaths, that ninety-six civilians had been killed in the August 22nd air-raid.

children would have been apt to vie for more peaceful solutions, including negotiations via words, not bullets and bombs.

This air-raid is a grotesquely accurate representation of the "War on Terror." The American strategy consists of brutal murder followed by a tainted inves-

tigation of the results. The war is based on incorrect, immediate assumptions of hidden evils instantaneously paired with absurdly violent actions.

Supposed Taliban supporters are thrown in prison with little more guilt than simply being alive, and horribly tortured for information they don't have and crimes they didn't commit. Whole villages, towns, and countries ravaged because someone told someone else a Taliban member drank water somewhere over there.

What is this war based on, why are we there, what are we doing, and why can't we talk about it? If another country, theoretically, were to come to America and kill 10,000 to 37,000 civilians in five years

(as the US has done in Iraq), would we really not question that country's authority and rationale? What would happen if that country (like the US), really had no good, clear reason?

The most ironic part of this conundrum is that the United States is not benefiting – not even a little, tiny, micrometer – from participating in this conflict. Our country is in a recession; troops are lamenting overseas, and dying or coming home and committing suicide; and our people are divided, with some parties still feeling a need to insult others instead of helping to unite our country and the world. We certainly would not accept this behavior from anyone else; how can we accept it of ourselves?

Palin changes stance on project

G. KEITH EVANS
the sandspur

With less than two months remaining until Americans select their next president, attacks between presidential contenders are heating up. As the McCain camp scrambled to retaliate against Obama's now infamous "lipstick on a pig" comment, the Democratic contender began calling out the Republicans on some statements of their own.

Republican vice presidential contender Sarah Palin has apparently worked her override of a nearly \$400 million transportation project into her platform against government budgets and pork-barrel spending. The project, originally intended to link the small Alaskan town of Ketchikan to the island that

sports the town's airport, quickly polarized political observers. Supporters called it a "Bridge to the Future" while opponents gave it the somewhat more enduring "Bridge to Nowhere" title.

Palin, apparently, was of the former group. In her 2006 run for Alaska governorship, she vocally supported the project despite its hefty price tag. When she was questioned about the cost, she said, "I'm not going to stand in the way of progress that our congressional delegation – in the position of strength that they have right now – they're making those efforts for the state of Alaska to build up our infrastructure. I would not get in the way of progress." She even went as far as to tell Ketchikan residents she "felt their pain" when poli-

ticians referred to their community as "nowhere."

That stance appears to be in stark contrast to her currently advertised stance. "I told the Congress," she said in her nomination acceptance speech, "thanks but no thanks for that bridge to nowhere." Did Palin

Did Palin "flip-flop"?

"flip-flop," as the Republican propaganda so prevalently accused John Kerry of doing in the last presidential race? Or did she just outright lie?

Perhaps another tactic was at play. When Palin cancelled the project as governor, most of the \$398 million in federal funds earmarked for the bridge were redirected to other projects in Alaska. Meanwhile, according

to an August report in the Boston Herald, Alaskans are using remaining federal dollars to build a road on Graniva Island. Although this road was slated to service the Ketchikan Bridge, it now simply links Ketchikan airport to an empty beach. Federal funds for this road, it seems, would have had to be returned had this road not been built. Palin appears to have left this detail out of her acceptance speech.

Political miscues such as the "Bridge to Nowhere" debacle and the McCain rampage in response to the "lipstick on a pig" comment garnered a response from Obama last week. "What their campaign has done is the same game that has made people sick and tired of politics in this country." Obama went on to elaborate that the entire

response to the pig lipstick issue was little more than a ruse. "This whole thing about lipstick, nobody actually believes that these folks are offended," he said. "Oh, we're shocked. Everybody knows it's cynical, everybody knows it's insincere."

He may just be onto something. After the 2000 and 2004 presidential races relied heavily on such tactics, many Americans reported feeling disappointed in the entire political process. Perhaps 2008 is time for change, not just a new approach in the White House, but a new view of politics in general. Maybe, if Obama gets his way, real change—a change in the way presidential campaigns are waged—may take place before the next president is ever elected.

How to get a "W" in Peer Mentoring

DANNY TRAVIS
the sandspur

I used to be a peer mentor. I was under the impression that I was a pretty damn good one. I made sure my mentees were prepared academically, appropriately acclimated to college life and experiencing an ample amount of safe fun. This is my opinion, as this is an opinions article. Many people, peer mentors and first year students, may share this opinion, but not the people that matter.

I bring this issue to the opinions page of the Sandspur not to stir the pot, not to fling shit and not to hurt any feelings but because this is not the first time in recent years that a student has had the courage to speak out against the Rollins Explorations program. Last Spring The Sandspur published the article "How to get an 'A' in Peer Mentoring" by Evan Mascagni. Evan's grievance was

much different and somewhat milder than mine.

Evan received a C in the RCC 300 course and gave the reasons as to why he thought this was unjust. I have been removed from the program and stripped of my peer mentor position. Six credit hours have been withdrawn from my schedule, putting my status as a full time student in jeopardy.

Mr. Mascagni started his piece with a few words of wisdom, "As a peer mentor during the 2005-2006 school year, I offer the following advice to those who have been selected as peer mentors for the 2008-2009 term: don't be yourself. The Rollins Explorations staff is not interested in unique personalities to help welcome the new freshman class next year, but rather, they want students who they can mold into the 'Ideal Rollins College Student'."

I have a picture in my head of the "Ideal Rollins College Student" and he looks like a pretty huge douche bag, someone who I would never

want to hang out with, and the embodiment of a scary concept.

Now for the reasons I was fired. Apparently I used all of my three strikes. The first strike was my cracking a semi successful joke at an alcohol education module. The moderators of the module had their feelings hurt so badly that they felt the need to notify the upper administration of Rollins College. I was sentenced to write an apology letter and I happily obliged, somewhat amused with my ability to cause such a problem with a one line quip about an incorrect graph. If every peer mentor who made a joke at or about a module was fired, we'd have very few left.

My second strike came when Explorations found out through word of mouth that I was partying with my mentees. Of course I am going to see my mentees out on the town. Rollins sure as hell doesn't want us drinking on campus, so our choices are limited when destining downtown for a few well deserved libations. Yes I saw some of my mentees out

partying, and yes I socialized with them. I explained myself and made the vow to tweak my social behavior so these situations would not be construed in the future. If every peer mentor was fired for socializing with their mentees in a situation where alcohol was involved, our ranks could easily be halved.

My third strike came when I was documented for an alleged alcohol violation. Watching the double header Monday night game, people were filtering in and out of our room in Sutton and socializing. Yes, I was drinking but I'm 21, and yes there were certain individuals in the room that were underage. This breach in policy landed me a documentation, a documentation that circulated over all kinds of desks the next morning. Whether or not I am guilty has yet to be decided. Explorations wanted me axed immediately. My RCC professor saw the ridiculousness of the situation and assumed the position of my advocate in an attempt to save my ass. He

knew my commitment level better than anyone, the last thing he wanted was for my work and the relationships I forged with my mentees to go out the window and sailing into meaninglessness. If every peer mentor who has not followed the alcohol policy to the letter was fired, we would have even fewer left.

I feel as if I was fired for not maintaining a perfect image. My demeanor was one that the Explorations program found unfit to represent their pristine and lustrous image. I was a blemish on their face that needed to be removed in order to appease the powers that be.

I apologize for the fact that I disappointed my RCC professor and all of my mentees. We had great times and could have had even greater times with our class and RCC events. I'll let Mr. Mascagni have the last word, "Bottom line – the whole system is biased, fake, and overall ridiculous."

RIP tears it up ninja style

AMANDA DRUM
the sandspur

In a highly anticipated and advertised wake, the Rollins Improv Players (RIP) made Dave's roar with laughter and applause during the Pirates vs. Ninjas Show on Friday, September 12th. The program consisted of short skit-like games where audience members could interact with the players, suggesting themes and scenarios for the members to follow. With games like "Should Have Said" and "Story, Story, Die," combined with volunteer material such as squirrels and flying tambourines, the evening was one of the best nights at Rollins so far.

Improvisational shows just have one catch. In addition to the audience's help, whatever happens during each show is entirely made up on the spot, similar to the responses of the RIP members in the following interview:

Who came up with the idea for the Pirates vs. Ninjas show?

Elizabeth Weissstein: "The

Pirates vs. Ninjas show was brought to the troupe's attention by the Dance Marathon coordinators. Emily Killian, I believe, was the specific point person who worked with us and Joseph Bromfield was the member of the troupe who brought it up in class. It was their theme and we were happy to play along."

How did the members of the Players pick sides?

Jonathan Keebler: "Dr. David Charles assigned which teams we would be on. He tried to balance those with more improv experience and those with less on each team."

Did you make up new improv games for the show exclusively, or did you use older ones?

Travis Ray: "This is an older kind of show called a 'RIP Tag' where we just play short form games, much like in 'Who's Line is it Anyway?' To my knowledge, they aren't games that RIP has invented, but there are ones that seem to be played more than others: 'Should Have Said' is one which comes to mind."

What did you expect for a turnout? Were you or were you

not surprised by the number of people that attended the event?

Jonathan: "We were all thrilled at the turnout. We've really got to thank Dance Marathon for that one. When we do shows outside of the Fred Stone Theater, it is often much more difficult to get a good turnout, but Dance Marathon really stepped up and got out some great publicity for this show."

I understand that you are doing a show during the Dance Marathon as well on November 15th. Any thoughts or hints to what the show might contain?

Travis: "It will be a similar format, but we will probably play some different games, although there are only so many games we know... so there will be some of the same games. But that doesn't necessarily mean much because it's different every time!"

Elizabeth: "It will be similar to the show that we did for Spirit Week Pirates vs. Ninjas, in that it will be high energy, short form improv. However, one never knows what an improv show may contain. That's what makes improv so much fun to watch



PHOTO COURTESY OF RIP

CHUCKLES: The pirates and ninjas Players perform for a full house in Dave's Down Under.

over and over. But I can say that we are excited to perform, and we hope that everyone will come out to support both RIP and Dance Marathon."

Why did you personally want to join the Rollins Improv Players?

Jonathan: "I love the complete abandonment of improvising. It is pure expression and

pure fun. Being able to share in that experience and then sharing that experience with others is what drew me to improvisation and to Rollins Improv Players."

Can't get enough of the Players? Join the Facebook group "Rollins Improv Players...The Everyone Version" for updates on future shows and events.

US intelligence has new tool for spies: Facebook

LINDSEY HIRSCH
the sandspur

Apparently, the addiction has spread. Facebook has inspired the government; United States Intelligence agencies such as the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and the National Security Agency have become part of the cultural phenomenon that is Facebook. Well, not exactly Facebook. They are using a networking site named "A-Space," which will allow U.S. spies and analysts to create connections and share information.

Instead of sending each other bumper stickers or writing on each other's walls about the latest gossip, the users of A-Space

will more likely share information about the most up-to-date Al Qaeda movements or heavy nuclear activity in North Korea.

Currently, A-Space is just a bunch of raw material for personnel to sift through, which is being referred to as "Intelligencepedia." However, in the future the creators of the program hope to generate social networking (as in adding secret friends that no one else will be able to find out about), intelligence blogs, secure e-mailing, and a way to mark certain words to a piece of intelligence that would recommend related materials, similar to what Amazon does for books.

Michael Wertheimer, assistant deputy director of national intelligence for analysis believes that this is going to give the

agents and analysts for the first time a chance to think out loud, in public amongst their peers, under the protection of an A-Space umbrella.

Presently, the intelligence agencies are very disconnected, and have strong firewalls that protect their information from being shared. With the readily available A-Space information, it will be unfathomably easier for intelligence agencies to work together and collaborate to avoid a future nation-wide crisis or to bring down terrorists. Therefore, A-Space is being regarded as a significant aspect of "analytic transformation."

But really, how safe can a web-based program actually be? With extremely top-secret, classified, skull and crossbones material, it hardly seems appropriate for this information to be so widely broadcasted and readily available to the public knowledge; this seems as if it would be a counter-intelligence nightmare: the essence of a hacker's dream job or the perfect opportunity for double-agents.

But, of course, these problems have already been brought up. In order to view anything on A-Space, a person must

Sandspur spotlight sound: The Subways



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE SUBWAYS.NET

KATE HASTINGS
the sandspur

was a very successful split from that image, incorporating more rock and roll, garage band feel to it.

I'm most impressed with how seamlessly Charlotte Cooper's voice, the only female in the band, blended in with the alternative rock feel. Overall "All or Nothing" was an entertaining, well-written follow-up album to their debut. I would even give it two thumbs up, four stars, whatever you want to say

The first time I heard The Subways, I'm ashamed to admit, was on The O.C. soundtrack. They struck me then as just another British pop band, riding off of the waves of similar earlier bands like Oasis. However, their new CD, "All or Nothing,"

have the appropriate security clearance and a reason to be examining that specific information. Intelligence in this program will be grouped into compartments. Personnel will not be able to view intelligence that is not pertinent to their case, or in their specific compartment. For example, if an analyst was working on a case that had to do with naval maneuvers by Russia in the Black Sea, that same ana-

lyst would not be able to access any information in the Taliban compartment.

A-Space has been subjected to testing for several months now, and will be officially released on September 22nd. Trends will also be closely monitored on A-Space; the directors of the program will be watching carefully for anything suspicious among the personnel. Even the spies are being spied on.

Profile edit Friends * Inbox * Home account privacy login

Spy Man
is serving her country.
Updated just a moment ago edit

Networks:	Washington, DC
Sex:	Female
Relationship Status:	Engaged
Birthday:	December 1
Hometown:	Red Bank, TN
Political Views:	Republican Party
Religious Views:	God is awesome!

Mini-Feed
Displaying 4 stories Import | See

Today

- ♥ Spy is listed as engaged. @ 2:11pm Comment
- 🔧 Spy edited Education Info, Hometown, Work Info and Religious Views in her profile, and changed her profile picture. @ 3:09pm Comment
- 👤 Spy joined the Washington, DC network. @ 2:25pm Comment
- 👋 Welcome to Facebook! We're glad you're here. @ 2:12pm

Information

Find your real-world friends is the

Burn After Reading ignites fire

ROXANNA LO
the sandspur

The much anticipated Joel and Ethan Coen production, *Burn After Reading*, from Focus Features, has finally arrived on the big screen and burned the box office as it launched September 12th.

The story unfolds as the memoirs of Osbourne Cox (John Malkovich), a recently fired CIA agent, are copied onto a disk by his wife, Katie (Tilda Swinton), who plans to divorce him. Unfortunately, the disk falls into the hands of two average citizens (Frances McDormand and Brad Pitt) working at a fitness center, who attempt to black-

mail the former agent by sending 'important government information' to Russia.

Katie Cox desires a divorce because of the affair she has been having with Harry Pfarrer (George Clooney), an unfaithful married federal marshal with a fetish for dildos and quality flooring. Pfarrer also meets Linda Litzke (McDormand) through one of his many unpleasant online dating episodes.

Litzke, the lonely employer, believes that plastic surgeries starting with her butt will change her life for the better. Of course, liposuction does not come cheap and after her insurance company

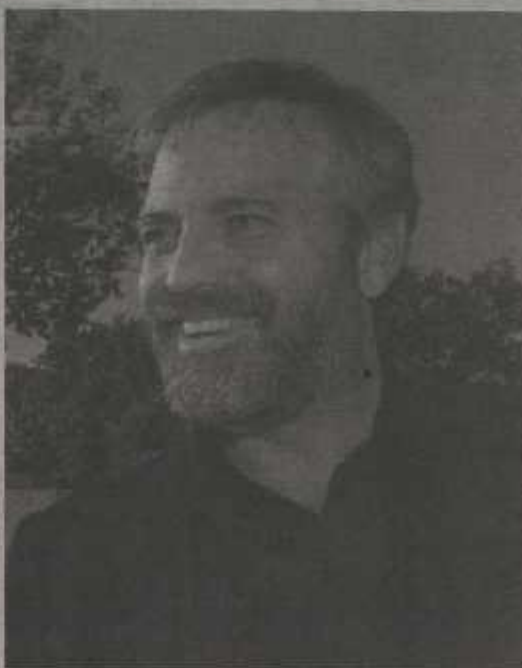


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS
Mmmm: George Clooney is just one of the tasty treats in *Burn After Reading*

rejects them as electives, she feels that this 'top-secret' disk is the answer to her prayers.

I find that the film possesses a random plot and is only successful, if you can even call it that, because of its lethal cast. The movie concludes with a relationship moral: we all have our faults. That is pretty much it. However, many people will love this simply because of Brad Pitt or the Coen brothers. Though it is not terrible and is actually laugh-out-loud funny at times, it is still debatable whether *Burn After Reading* can actually be called 'good.'

To be honest, a Coen comedy without George Clooney is not a complete Coen production. In *Burn*, Clooney plays a sex crazed

ladies' man, rather comparable to his roles in *Intolerable Cruelty* and *Oh Brother*. Although Clooney had an outstanding performance, it is Brad Pitt who steals the show through impersonation. Despite the unusual role, Pitt pushes the limits and excites the audience through little tactics, such as narrowing his eyes as Malkovich launches into a ridiculous tantrum-like lecture.

Burn After Reading is rated R for language, some sexual content and violence. Hey, it is a Coen brothers' movie, of course people get punched, shot and burn to death. Watch at your own risk for it is just over ninety minutes long.

I will leave it to you to watch the film and remember to "report back to me when it makes sense."



Little Life Art

AMANDA DRUM
the sandspur

Cutesy watercolors of rainbows, suns and smiles could be seen at the opening reception of the Little Life Art Show on Tuesday September 16th, painted by children and facilitated by proceeds from the Dance Marathon event. Alongside their fun works of art were more complex pieces collected from students who donated to the event during a collaboration effort that spanned several weeks of advertising.

Kelly McNoldy, one of the event curators, described the works. Kelly said, "I enjoy the pieces. Most were painted by children who benefitted

from the Children's Miracle Network (CMN), and they painted everything during the Little Life Picnic on Friday [Sept. 12]. There are also works from Rollins students, and I think that they convey the theme of the show nicely."

Last year was the Dance Marathon's inaugural year at Rollins College. With 150 participants the event raised over \$36,000 for local charities and children's hospitals. Rollins College proceeds go to the Arnold Palmer Children's Hospital of Orlando and the Shands Children's Hospital at the University of Florida. Kelly said, "They approached me last semester about doing the art show for Dance Marathon."

Jessica Dillon, a member of the executive board of Dance Marathon, was also present at the event. She was at the heart of the event last year and helped plan and organize its first opening. How did Dance Marathon first get started at Rollins?

Dillon said, "I worked in the office of community engagement. A couple of students that worked in the office heard of the program by staff on campus and talked to interested students. I was one of them." And the rest, as they say, is history.

All pieces were for sale at the Little Life Art Show, with the earnings benefitting the Dance Marathon event on November 15th. According to the Little Life opening reception advertisement, this event "is a multi-hour event which blends dancing, music, games, food and entertainment into one experience where students raise funds for kids treated at local Children's Miracle Network Hospitals."

The CMN's Dance Marathon was founded in 1991, and since its opening

at Penn State University, it has expanded to over 100 universities and colleges nationwide, as well as several middle and high schools. In 2007 alone, the charity event raised over \$5 million for 170 local children's hospitals, assisting more than 150 million children. The hospitals that belong to the CMN are non-profit, 24-hour care centers with outreach programs that benefit all children.

Sign-ups are still available; for those that signed up before the August 25th deadline, the cost is \$10. For anyone else wishing to participate, the cost is \$20.



NICK ZAZULIA / the sandspur

Gossip regarding Ghostbusters 3 not yet busted

LINDSEY HIRSCH
the sandspur

Hollywood's film industry may need some of that "ectoplasm" slime, for it seems to be possessed by an evil ghost that cannot decide whether or not making a third *Ghostbusters* movie is the real deal. Avid *Ghostbusters* fans continue to linger with faint optimism over the idea of a third motion picture.

Every few months now for the past few years, rumors sur-

face about a "new generation" of *Ghostbusters* and a third film. Titles for these rumored films have ranged from everything from "Ghostbusters III: Hell-bent" to "Ghostbusters in Hell."

Responsibility for these rumors about the infamous slime squad and ghost chasing team are essentially to be placed with Dan Akroyd. Apparently, Mr. Akroyd will sit down any chance he gets to talk about the prospect of a third movie which he has already scripted. Akroyd continuously states that the only

two barriers hindering this project from becoming a reality are that the studios do not see the film as economically feasible and the fact that Bill Murray is unsure of whether or not he wants to commit.

However, to put these rumors to rest, on September 4th, 2008, news was announced that should have provoked an adrenaline rush into the heart of every *Ghostbusters* fan. Writers of the American version of "The Office," Lee Eisenberg and Gene Stupnitsky, signed on to write a script for the third *Ghostbusters*

film by Columbia Pictures. The plan is to somehow bring together the film's original cast: Dan Akroyd, Bill Murray, Harold Ramis, and Ernie Hudson. Harold Ramis, who also co-wrote the original *Ghostbusters*, has commented that "...the concept is that the old *Ghostbusters* would appear in the film in some mentor capacity. Not much else to say at this point."

Recently, there has even been significant chatter about bringing in new comedic actors such as Seth Rogen or Michael Cera, to play the role of the "new

generation" of *Ghostbusters*. It is not certain yet whether or not the original cast will actually be included until the script is finalized; however, it is a fair argument to claim that it would make no sense to film a *Ghostbusters* movie without at least some of the original cast playing major roles in the film.

Imagine new actors riding in style in the Ectomobile or sporting proton-packs on the big screen. It will be interesting to find out how these new actors will survive in the professional world of ghost chasing.

SEPTEMBER



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 FORUM Presents: Take a Stand 2008 7:00-9:00 p.m.	3	4 Sigma Gamma Rho Voter Registration Drive 11:30 a.m.-2:00 p.m.	5	6
		9 Billy Collins Event Tiedtke Concert Hall 7:00 p.m.	10	11 Billy Collins Event Bush Auditorium 7:00 p.m.	12	13
	15	16	17 Women's Soccer vs. Flagler College 7:00	18	19 Men's Soccer vs. Flori- da Southern 7:00	20 Women's Soccer vs. Robert Morris Museum 2:00
	21	22 Bela Fleck Presentation Tiedtke Concert Hall 7:00 p.m.	23 Bela Fleck Open Rehearsal Tiedtke Concert Hall 12:30-1:45 p.m. Bela Fleck Concert Tiedtke Concert Hall 7:30 p.m.	24 Volleyball vs. Florida Southern 7:00	25 Rollins Brand Town Hall Presentation Bush Science Center 12:30-1:45 p.m.	26 College Republicans hosts Presidential Debates Bush Auditorium 9:00 p.m. Rollins After Dark Dave's Down Under 10:00
	28	29	30	Global Peace Film Festival		
	"Doubt, A Parable"			Solar Energy Workshop Winter Garden City Hall 9:00-11:00 a.m.		

Rollins College

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