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The Sandspur

The Oldest College Newspaper in Florida • Founded 1894

April 12, 2002

Rollins College Winter Park, Florida

Vol. 108, No. 16

Rollins College Listed "Best of"

Leo Coleman

The Sandspur

Featured in the new issue of Florida Leader Magazine is the list of 2002's "Best of Florida Schools". The magazine gives credit to all public, private, and community colleges in Florida for programs and institutions that are especially good or unique. Out of all the schools in the entire state of Florida, Rollins was mentioned for having the Best Dive-In Movie, Best Toilet Paper (not

what you wipe your butt with), Best Gender Awareness Program—the Clothesline Project for Sexual Assault Awareness Week, Best-Looking Campus, and Best Student Government.

This is the third year in a row that Rollins has won for Best Student Government. No other school has ever won three times, so to do it consecutively is a big deal. Stewart Parker and Andrew Merkin, the SGA President and Vice President, were very proud of the honor.

"We were excited coming into the year, but we knew that we couldn't be in that mind frame if we were to focus on what was important," said Andrew.

"We weren't going to just build off of what we did last year. We had to be open, creative and try new things, like our fundraiser for 9/11 victims. But also continue with events that have become traditions here at Rollins, like the Women's Football Game," said Stewart.

For next year, the SGA is cur-

rently negotiating to be awarded student representation on the Board of Trustees. Stewart said the results can go either way, but their reputation is gaining them a lot of respect and trust.

The SGA has established a Student Course Evaluation Survey for students to evaluate their classes for criteria such as the amount of work required, overall difficulty, and quality of teacher performance. If you are not sure you want to take a certain class, go to the SGA office,

or to the Rollins website next year, and see what people who have already taken the course had to say about it.

The hard work of the SGA, students, and faculty, has brought attention and esteem to our school from people all over Florida. And there is no doubt we will all work hard to maintain our reputation. To see the current issue of Florida Leader and the article about Rollins, go to www.floridaleader.com.

Israeli Folk Dancers

Leo Coleman

The Sandspur

An Israeli folk dance troupe performed the other night for a delighted audience in the Down Under.

They changed several times into costumes elaborately decorated with frills and all sorts of spectacular colors. The dancing was unlike anything I have ever seen before: a mix between Irish folk, square dancing, tango, and trip hop. Their legs seemed to move wildly in every direction independent of their bodies while

each step was somehow perfectly placed and deliberate. Most of the music was familiar, something you would hear at a bar mitzvah (hava ni-gela), but they moved along to it with such grace that a new dimension of life came to the music that I had never noticed before. The audience could tell the dancers were enjoying themselves by the broad smiles on their faces. It seemed that they must all have danced together for years and that they are great friends. The audience responded to the overwhelming energy of the show by clapping

along with the beat of the music and applauding enthusiastically whenever a dance was finished. The entire program gave everyone who was there an authentic taste of Israeli culture.

After the show was over and the dancers were dressed in their street clothes, I was able to sit down with them for a few minutes, smoke cigarettes, and talk.

There were nine dancers ranging in age from 17 to 24. They were all very tan from lying on the beach all the past week in Miami. The day they performed they had been to Disney World, and after the performance at Rollins they would visit other locations in northern Florida before going home to Israel. For most of the people in the group, this trip was their first time in America; they were all having fun going to different places and dancing. Their unanimous opinion about our country was that the people were friendly, but the cities were a little intimidating and scary compared to the small villages they had grown up in where everybody knows each other. They all spoke English, a few better than others. I was lucky enough to learn a little Hebrew from them. Do you know that Shalom means peace, but it is also a word people use casually to acknowledge almost any statement?

I didn't want to bring it up, but couldn't help expressing my sympathy for to them for what is going on in Israel. It turned out that most of them were currently serving in the military. In Israel it is the law that citizens join the military when they turn 18. One girl who was 17 was going to be joining in just a few weeks. They all were very patriotic, but at the same time had a great sense of



Congratulations to Kappa Kappa Gamma for winning the Lip Sync concert sponsored by SGA. Photo taken by Heather Gennaccaro
Story on page 2

humor, despite the grim allusion to war. I was impressed and interested by the fact that these were people our age, fighting for what they believed in.

When it was time for the group to go, I told them again

how much I enjoyed their performance and wished them safety and good luck. I came away from the whole experience with a new appreciation of Israel's culture and its people.

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WHAT'S INSIDE...

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Lip Synch

Leo Coleman

The Sandspur

If you didn't make it to the Lip Synch contest the other night you missed a really fun show. All the fraternities, sororities, and a few other organizations put together some very elaborate and creative dance numbers. Everyone who participated in the event should be given credit for getting up there in front of lots of people and performing. The enthusiastic applause the crowd gave each routine was well deserved.

First, the Black Student Union did a Michael Jackson montage complete with dancing corpses and hot female back-up dancers. Michael was obviously the star, exhibiting some impressive moves and grabbing his crotch with a gloved hand. You'd think he was the real thing except, as the MC said, he was too black.

The MC was a funny comedian

who had been on tour with the Def Comedy Jam. He introduced all the acts and livened up the show between performances. Some of the things he said were shocking, like when he said campus safety was probably rolling around drunker than the students.

The girls from Alpha Omicron Pi were next up. They had eclectic group of dancers singing along to songs like "You Shook Me", "I'm Not A Player", and finished up with some Britney Spears.

ATO received honorable mention, along with a \$100 dollar prize, for their routine as another bunch of Michael Jackson impersonators singing "Smooth Criminal" and also appearing as some really ugly "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun". These guys interacted with the crowd well, and really got everyone pumped up and into their thing.

Kappa Delta, who also was given an honorable mention, did

a sexy rendition of Moulin Rouge. The girls' costumes were vibrant and the whole performance was well put together, creating the appropriate effect: sexy.

The contestants from the International Students' Society hailed from the Philippines, Sweden, Spain, and Minneapolis. There weren't many of them, but the ones who were there put on a great show with pink hair.

Chi Omega got second place for their dance, which started off with girls in togas singing "Hooked on a Feeling", then a line-kicking legs doing "Love Shack". They appeared at the end in some sexy outfits - short skirts, high boots, fishnet stockings, and very nice legs. "I Love Rock and Roll" completed their performance and featured the entire sorority dancing and singing together.

NCM placed third overall. They were next doing a musical number to the song "Gee, Officer

Krupke". All of them were wearing ties and beat up old shirts, falling into almost perfect coordination in their routine. A Hollywood choreographer could not have done a better job than these girls did.

The Rollins Players received an honorable mention for their Michael Jackson impression. He was chasing a pretty girl around the stage and showing off his moves. The quick fluid movements and cooperation of everyone on stage made this one of the most entertaining entries in the Lip Synch contest.

The boys from TKE probably would have benefited from a little more preparation in their rendition of "Buttercup", the song from the Three Amigos. But they deserve credit for getting up there and just having fun.

Chi Psi was probably the funniest out of anyone there.

These hideously ugly women took center stage. One in particular had big muscles and bigger breasts, he ran around encouraging the audience to join in the fun. In closing all the boys pranced around, proclaiming enthusiastically, "It's Raining Men".

The Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority was last to perform. They ended up taking first place in the contest for their bright costumes, great dancing, and overwhelming energy. You could tell that they were all having a good time on stage, and it had probably been a good time in the hours it must have taken for the sisters to rehearse their interpretation of the song from "Footloose". When it was announced that they had won, all the girls crowded on stage and jumped up and down, cheering and radiating excitement.

Campus Calendar

Music at Midday - Student

Performances, April 4th, 11th, 18th, 25th, 12:30pm,
Music Building, Rogers Room

Senior Recital, Sunday, April 7th,
4:00pm - Jennifer Clarkson

Senior Recital, Sunday, April 7th,
7:30pm - Brenda Bernard

2 O'Clock Jazz Ensemble Concert,
Tuesday, April 9th, 7:30pm

Etiquette Dinner - Career Services,
Tuesday, April 9th, 6:00-8:00pm

Senior Recital, Wednesday, April 10th,
7:30pm - Jessamine Ellis

Senior Recital, Thursday, April 11th,
7:30pm - Kelley McGhie

Mozart Festival - Choral &
Instrumental, Friday, April 12th,
8:00pm

Senior Recital, Saturday, April 13th,
4:00pm - Susane Narry

Rollins College Choir and Orchestra,
Sunday, April 14th, 4:00pm

Greek Week, April 15th-19th

Senior Recital, Tuesday, April 16th,
7:30pm in Chapel - Felix Hell

Percussion Ensemble, Wednesday,
April 17th

Visiting Author Series - Molly Giles,
April 18th 4:00pm-5:30pm, Bush 108

Molly Giles - Public Presentation,
April 18th 8:00pm, Galloway Room

Dr. Paniotis - Original Composition
Concert, April 20th, 7:30pm

Composition Recital - Student
Compositions, April 21st, 7:30pm

Play - Moon Over Buffalo, April 19th-
27th, Annie Russell Theater

Play - Prelude to a Kiss, April 25th-
28th, Fred Stone Theater

Leadership Banquet, Tuesday, April
23rd, 6:30pm, Dave's Down Under

Bach Festival Choral Concert - The
Power and the Gloria, Chapel,
April 27th, 8:00pm and April 28th,
4:00pm

TPJ Center All Nighter, April 28th

Academic Awards Convocation, April
29th, 3:00pm

Sports Banquet, Alford Sports Center,
6:00pm

May - Asian American Heritage Month

Senior Art Show, May 3rd, Cornell Fine
Arts Museum

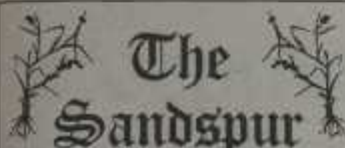


The SIFE chapter at the Crummer Graduate School of Business strives to find new and exciting ways to engage ourselves in the principles of free enterprise. Our objectives are:

- To teach others an understanding of how market economies work by using creative, innovative, and effective strategies
- To inform others how businesses operate, how to identify a market need, and how to best meet that need
- To teach others the skills and motivation needed to succeed in a global market

If you are interested in learning more about how you can become a part of SIFE, please contact Stephanie Demchik at sdemchik@rollins.edu

STUDENTS IN FREE ENTERPRISE



The Oldest College Newspaper
in Florida
• Founded 1894 •

April 12, 2002
Volume 108, Number 16

Established in 1894 with the following editorial:
"Unassuming yet almighty, sharp and pointed, well rounded yet many-sided, assiduously tenacious, victorious in single combat and therefore without a peer, wonderfully attractive and extensive in circulation; all these will be found upon investigation to be among the extraordinary qualities of *The Sandspur*."

Ruth Curlet Ford
The Sandspur, Volume 1,
Number 1, December 20, 1894

Editorial

Elyssa Rokicki
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The Sandspur, in its 107th year of publication, is published weekly on Thursdays and maintains a circulation of 1,500.

The Editorial Board of *The Sandspur*, extends an invitation to our readers to submit signed letters and articles to *The Sandspur*. In order for a letter to be considered for publication, it must include the name and telephone number of the author. With just Cause, names will be withheld by request of author.

All letters and articles which are submitted must bear the handwritten signature of the author. In considering a submission for publication, *The Sandspur* reserves the right to edit all letters and articles for length, grammar, style, and libel.

Submit all letters and articles to *The Sandspur*, Campus Box 2742, or bring them to our office on the third floor of the Mills Memorial Center. All submissions must include a printed copy with a saved copy on disk (saved as a TEXT document: Courier 12), and must be received in *The Sandspur* offices no later than 5:00 p.m. on the Friday prior to publication.

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Letter from the Editor

New elections for the upcoming year came to a close and submissions of leadership awards are due soon. The year is coming to an end. Seniors are approaching graduation and finals are about to begin too soon. All this means that Fox Day is coming!

Last year Dr. Bornstein surprised us by having Fox Day earlier than usual on April 4th.

What will she do this year? Each student hopes it is on a certain day and some just hope the day is a sunny day. Whenever it is, it will be a day long waited for. Everyone has worked very hard this year and things are coming to a close. Fox Day will be a good break from reality for a bit.

Now is the time to start planning ahead and prepare for your

finals or make that list of goals that your organization plans to accomplish. Your upcoming year will be less stressful if you do it now!

The Sandspur has not had elections yet for the staff next year. We do not have elections. Instead, if you are interested in joining our staff you may pick up an application in the Dean's

office in the Mills Building from our advisor, Toni Holbrook. We encourage anyone who is interested to fill out the application. We are looking for people who are reliable and eager.

I hope everyone enjoys their Fox Day!

Sincerely,

Elyssa Rokicki
Editor-in-Chief

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

I am a commuter grad student (2 miles).

I disagree totally with attitudes in your letter of 29 March '02. The removal of the spaces behind the KKG house looks lots better. The lakeshore behind the Olin should be bereft of car parking. There is lots of bicycle and motorcycle parking. The parking structure is great. There is no need for more street parking, but a 5 level parking structure would hold all of the ugly vehicles spoiling our aesthetics and let us go back to a nonparked campus. There might be a need for residents to park off-campus and freshmen residents leave their cars home. This is the 21st century, and education, not parking, is where it's at.

Jon Ramer, BA Holt '99
jramer@rollins.edu

To Whom It May Concern:

Hello. I'm writing to you in hopes that you could help the whole Rollins College community. If I am sending this letter to the wrong person, my apologies, could you please forward it to someone who can help us?

I am a resident of Holt Hall. As you might know, through the preceding months a sickness has spread throughout the dorms at Rollins College. This sickness seems to first affect the predisposed, but eventually victimizes all.

It's the same illness that many upperclassmen have experienced, and the lucky ones seem to have built immunity. No, I'm not talking about a flu, cough, or fever. I'm referring to the far more serious illness, a psychosomatic illness called Apathy.

When Americans are asked to construct images of college life it becomes apparent that there is a major dichotomy in the perspective of college lifestyles. Most first-year college students believe that college is about partying away

from the consequences invoked by their parents. Not everyone comes to college to party, but overwhelmingly that is what students are taught to think of as college life. Haven't we all seen *Animal House*? The second half to the American philosophy of higher education believes that college is about self-growth, interpersonal learning, knowledge, wisdom, and becoming scholarly. The list of improvements goes on indefinitely. Does this sound familiar? It's probably what parents, or our TV mothers and fathers told us.

Abraham Lincoln's famous speech stated that, "A house divided against itself cannot stand," and this, 144 years later, is yet rocking the foundations of Rollins College. The dichotomy of college life exists not only in our mentality, but also is apparent in our actions. The successful college student is capable of maintaining a balance of both, if he or she so chooses. One lifestyle can be attained independent of the other. The choice is initially up to all of us which of the three paths we will chose. Colleges, from the renowned to the obscure, all encourage and promote the mature interpretation of college.

This is not the case at Rollins College, however, where neither is effectively encouraged. Apathy weighs heavily upon this institution; in its wake it leaves confusion, ambiguity, and ultimately, desolation.

What type of society allows unjust, cruel and unusual torture? Surely not the United States, our constitution forbids it. If such heinous acts were to occur, our media and politicians would badger the action to its demise. What about our elitist microcosm of the United States? If unjust, cruel and unusual torture existed at Rollins, what would be here to stop it? You might say we have the Code of Students' Rights and Responsibilities and other like documents. Campus Safety might come to the rescue, if their golf carts can take them there

and they are not too busy writing parking tickets. The faculty and staff of this college are also here to help, during 9-5 and office hours. Let me ask of you once more, do you know your rights and responsibilities? Do you even care? The majority of students at Rollins College don't know the Code of Students' Rights and Responsibilities. In reality there is little reason for them to care about the Code. It is an arbitrary document produced by an aloof administration, and rarely enforced - at least to the knowledge of the student body. Punitive actions by authority on this campus, if action is really ever taken seriously, could very well be an open violation to the very rights they gave us, who is to know without knowledge of the document we are judged from?

You many wonder what evidence I have that such a dichotomy, apathy, and injustice exist at Rollins College. All I ask is that you open your myopic eyes and take a look around. Ask yourself these questions and maybe then the justification will be evident. Is that someone's vomit in the water fountain, on the floor? Do I want to know what that stuff is on the walls of the elevator? Its 3AM, why are people running and shouting in the hallway? Why is my underage neighbor intoxicated? Why do I hear and feel his music in my room? I'm not slamming my door, why do my walls shake? Why is that girl being sexually assaulted? Why don't students let the professor teach respectfully? Why can't I practice my religion? Why do I have to get up at 1AM because someone pulled the fire alarm? Why do I have to pay for a mirror that I didn't break in a drunken rage? Why am I not allowed to study in my room? Why must I suffer the reality of someone else's powerful deflections? Surely there are rules and regulations at this college. Maybe someone will make a facetious attempt to reconcile the problem, but eventually most people just give in or leave.

Going against the spoken majority is too hard; most people succumb to the wild college lifestyle, especially when they have no alternative colleges to seek. Could this be the reason why Rollins College's student body is overwhelmingly Greek? The silent, dedicated 20% or less of this college leaves every year in what's commonly referred to as the "brain drain effect." What remains is a potent and jaded faction of debauched elites that give Rollins College its Rollie Collie attitude. They influence new freshmen every term, thus creating a never-ceasing cycle that worsens as it digresses - refining what retains at Rollins into its present critical state.

I have not chosen to write this letter as a means of bettering my experience at Rollins College. My servitude has ended and I am transferring my hard earned labor elsewhere. The purpose of this letter is not for me, it is for the future students of Rollins College. I have not written this letter to cast aspersions upon the student body of Rollins College, my intentions are far from it. I have written this document with the intent of identifying the root of our infamous "Rollie Collie" attitude. I want to enrage you and the administration to eradicate apathy from this institution. Every step towards order and social consciousness is a change for the better of the world, not just Rollins College. Please take some time and read over your rights and responsibilities as humans, as residents, faculty, staff, administration, and students at this college. This place may look and feel like a country club, but we pay tuition, not membership dues. We are here to have fun; we are here to study. No one should be a prisoner in his or her dorm or college. No one should have to conform from peer pressure. If the administration is afraid to stand up for what is just, then the obligation is on you and I to clean up Rollins College.

Sincerely,
Steven Leopoldo
Rollins College

Advice From a Moron

Jeff Danis

Special to *The Sandspur*

Reflecting back on my four years at Rollins College, I realize that I've learned a great deal. I've blossomed intellectually and feel much smarter. In addition to my newfound academic knowledge, Rollins has helped me with a different kind of learning. This college has taught me a lot, and in this article I hope to share some of my non-academic findings.

In my time at Rollins I've learned:

1. Crossing the street from the parking garage to campus can be life threatening. While on that median, suck in your gut cause a car's side mirror can hit you. Also practice your foot speed and agility at the gym because you'll need it to jive and juke your way across the street. Playing the game Frogger for Atari (the one where a frog tries to cross a busy street) will also help.
2. Fox Day is judgment day. On this day, one's true physique is tested. Walking around the beach, I feel like a deer caught in the headlights. I've been working out extra hard this

year, so I may bare it all in a leopard skin Speedo.

3. Stealing from Beans is an art form. I will not incriminate myself and discuss my techniques or special moves, but I may publish a small pamphlet after I graduate to aid underclassmen.
4. No matter how much money I put on my R-card, Beans will find a way to nickel and dime me down to nothing. Give me a million dollars, and it will be gone in a semester. I don't know how it happens, but it does. Sodexo Marriott is working on world domination.
5. Teachers party just as hard as students for spring break. Last year, I stayed on campus for break and wandered into the Olin Library. Shocked and amazed, I watched professors taking keg stands, smoking cigarettes, and having the time of their lives. The scene reminded me of Mardi Gras—just that out of control.
6. To carefully walk around campus: there are way too many potholes, tree stumps, and other debris to trip over. I hate stumbling and the panic

that ensues. Checking to see if anyone saw me, I move my head around in every direction like one of those bobbling head dolls.

7. No matter which way I turn my head, squint my eyes, or just look at it in general, some of the art on campus looks like it was taken from a junkyard. No offense, I'm sure it cost about a zillion dollars, but why not just go to a junkyard and grab some pieces off an old Buick and jam it into the ground?
8. The Rollins rumor mill spins around endlessly like the windmill at your local mini-golf course. Don't try to hide anything because your story will be told. If you were that guy who played Dungeons and Dragons in high school, admit it because someone knows. Did anyone else hear about the invasion of the killer squirrels on campus?
9. The fountain outside of the mailroom is shooting out vodka. I'm serious. On a dare one time, I drank it and paid the price. I went to class that day slurring my words; you

think Rollins wouldn't put the best vodka in that fountain?

10. The bookstore must be mafia run. Buying a book for \$800 and trading it in for \$1, seems

fair to you right? I haven't felt so violated since that brief prison stay back in 1994. The Gambino crime family couldn't arrange a better racket.

Happy?
Sad?
Excited?
Angry?
Frustrated?

Write about it
for the 'Spur!

We'll take your word
for it every week!

Submit stories or articles of 500-750 words to *The Sandspur* offices, Mills Building, Student Media, level three. Articles must be typed, must show an author's name, and should be submitted as both printed copy and as an electronic file (save to a disk that we will return). Articles received by Friday, 5 p.m., will be considered for publication the following week.

WORD ON

By James Meniates

National Holidays. Who makes these things up anyway? Of course there are the obvious ones, like any national dead famous person day, but what about the more obscure ones. Like National Flashlight Day on December 21st (really), or National Oatmeal Muffin Day on the 19th (seriously.) Well Rollins, if you could have your own national holiday, what would it be? *The Word* wants to know...



"Children's Day. We have a Mother's Day and a Father's Day, what about Children's day? Children's day should be everyday."

Justin Garrone - 03



"National Naked day. Where nudity is legal and encouraged by all for one day."

Ryan Burke - 05

"National Musician's Day. That's good, I'm a music major, I can do that."

Brian Panarello - 05



"National Sleep Day."

Adelia Birdsong - 03



Perceptions Revealed: Nothing Speaks Louder Than Words

Anonymous

Special to The Sandspur

You know, you never really hear the word nigger anymore. People used to use that word all the time, and then, suddenly it disappeared from the American vocabulary. POOF! GONE! What's up with that? I mean, it's just a word, right?

If you don't know the answer to that question then, (a) you might be racist, which you might want to devote some time to in your next therapy session and (b) you haven't been paying attention to, well, ANYTHING that has happened in this country for the past, oh, few hundred years or so.

The "N word," as it is often referred to now, was once commonly used (mainly by white people) to put black people down and tell them, with a breath and two syllables, that they were innately lesser people because of the color of their skin. It's more than that though. The word was used as a verbal weapon against an entire race of people. It said "they are not human; they are trash; they are worthless; they will never be equal to US – they will always be way, way, way below US."

Nowadays, you'd be out of your moral and social mind, or a member of the Ku Klux Klan, to use this word. (Let it be said here that the author is aware of the acceptable use of this word when it is used only between black people, but that is an issue that she neither understands nor promotes.)

However, I'm sure an ignorant few of us still use the word. If you are one of these poor souls, it suggests not only that you are completely unaware of the meaning behind the initials P.C., but also (and more importantly) that you are insensitive to the negative connotations associated with the word. Or worse: you are familiar with the connotations, and don't care if they offend anyone.

For the sake of this article (and frankly, your souls), I'll assume that this last possibility doesn't apply to you. As a matter of fact, I'll give you the benefit of the doubt and assume that you find the word offensive and inappropriate in all situations and are repulsed when others think it's okay to use it, especially when referring to someone in a negative manner.

So, there, we're all in the

know about the "N word." It is no longer socially acceptable to use it, and we agree that it is an evil, evil word. Good for us. We've learned a big lesson about words that hurt other people and have stood our ground against accepting their use.

Or have we?

Quick quiz: how many times this year did you hear the word "gay" or "faggot?" If you can't remember, and count them on one hand, because the mere use of these words upset you, then you might want to think about why that is.

These words are clearly names that are used to refer to homosexuals, and that many of us have adopted into our vocabulary for what seems a lack of a better way to express our dislike for someone or something.

If this startles you, or if you think that the educated students of Rollins College would not use such insensitive language, you need to start listening to people when they speak. I was outside Beans the other day and I swear within a five-minute period, I heard the words "gay" and "faggot" used at least three times, mostly by male students – and

they weren't asking about the date of the next BGLADD meeting.

The thing is, we use these words all the time to offend other people, even when we are just joking around with our friends. "Gay" and "faggot" are now so commonly used that they have ceased to have exclusive association with homosexuality. No, that's not enough for us. We have made them into words that can mean anything, as long as it's rude or negative.

Not that you need them (I'm sure you have many already), but here are a few examples of uses I have personally heard:

"This assignment is so gay." Translation: this assignment is not worth my time.

"That guy's such a faggot." Translation: I don't like that guy. I find him to be not very cool.

I've even heard these words being used by people making a point of how egregious they find something to be – that actually is egregious. Case in point:

Girl 1: "So then this guy called him the 'N word.'"

Girl 2: "That's so gay! Who even uses that word anymore? He's such a racist!"

I think you get the point.

So why is it that we are so accepting of the use of "gay" and "faggot" as derogatory terms while words like "nigger" are shocking to us? Why do we think they do not carry power with them? Why is it that the verbal discrimination against homosexuals is the last socially acceptable prejudice?

I don't think we should all strive to be perfectly politically correct. That's not the issue here. We don't have to impress people with our ability to not offend anyone, ever. It's about finding out what's inside yourself. What's going on inside you that makes these words acceptable? Did you just not realize it or is there something more?

Too often today we forget that racism still exists, that people still use the "N word" harmfully, and that gays and lesbians, no matter "how far they've come," are still being oppressed in our everyday language (among other ways). It's as if we want to pretend that these issues just don't exist anymore. It's time we admit to ourselves that they do.

I'm not trying to attack anyone. I've been just as guilty of using

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THE STREET

"Puppies. National Puppy Day. Where you save a puppy or something."

Elizabeth Fitzgerald – 04



"Sidewalk Appreciation Day. The official slogan will be 'Don't tread on me.'"

Ryan Slauter – 04



"National Billiards Day."

Mike Schantz – 05



"National Bathing Suit Day. I guess that would only work in warmer climates, but whatever."

John Stielow – 05



Around Campus...



Students gather around the campus center for Student appreciation day. Photo taken by Heather Gennaccaro



Best Buddies enjoyed a Houston Astros game Saturday, April 23. Photo taken by Heather Gennaccaro



In order to help prevent animal abuse, petitions were signed outside Pinehurst during Pinehurst Perks. Photo taken by Heather Gennaccaro

Experience Rollins

Leo Coleman

The Sandspur

The rules for Experience Rollins last weekend were simply stated by a committee at the meeting held the Wednesday before for those who had volunteered to host prospective students: have fun, be responsible, show the kid a good time, tell them how wonderful our school is and encourage them to come here, NO drinking or drugs. There were groans, sighs, and a few mumbled rude remarks.

Experience Rollins is a great program where high school students interested in coming here next year are able to stay for a night on campus with someone who goes to the school and get a feel for college life. Most of the people currently attending Rollins participated in the program. An anonymous freshman said, "Experience Rollins was totally awesome. I got so drunk I woke up in the back seat of a car and didn't even know where I was." Whoever said this obviously broke the rules when he came here, but if history has taught us anything it's that breaking rules is, for some people, "totally awesome."

Prospective students arrived on a beautiful Sunday afternoon with their parents and took tours around the campus and through some of the buildings. In the evening parents left and kids were brought to the sports center where they were sorted by name

tag color to meet with their hosts, who were waiting impatiently upstairs. I asked some of them what they expected a night on a college campus to be like and they said, "I saw somebody mooning people from upstairs when I came into the [sports center]. I take that as a good sign." Said another, "Yo, I just want to party. Do you know where I can get some pot?" I wasn't able to help the kid out, although I did make sure to remind him that his Rollins Experience would be completely drug-free.

Once they had met, hosts took their guests back to their rooms so everyone could shower, change, settle in and get ready for the night of fun that lay ahead.

There was a pool party at nine o'clock where food was served, music was played, and all students, both prospective and current, got a chance to mingle and get to know each other. There was a hint of excitement in the relaxed atmosphere. I asked someone at random whom I didn't recognize what he thought of the school so far, "Hey man, I'm just here checking out the sweet pretty little high school girls. My God they're incredible." Apparently he was a 24-year-old Rollins graduate who goes by the cryptic name "Slayer." This incident goes to show that these events attract the occasional scumbags too.

After the pool party it was time for the real party. In any of

the fraternity houses you could find good old college fun, good people having a good time drinking beer with "no pressure attached." Unfortunately, not all prospective students were up for getting down. I ran into one wandering around campus late at night who told me, "My host ditched me so he could go drink at one of those stupid parties. Now I don't know where he is, I can't get into the room, and I don't even know if he's coming back. I just want to go home." It's too bad some people are so irresponsible. I offered the kid good luck. The parties were dying down and that is how the night ended.

The next morning everyone woke up bright, early, and hung over to blue skies and a shining sun. Visitors were invited to attend classes and get a feel for the academic side of the college, then wander around at their own leisure to get a last look at the campus before their parents came to pick them up. Standing on Mills Lawn while everybody was getting ready to go, I asked a kid named Zack Morris (no joke) if he planned on coming to Rollins next year. "This place has everything I want, hot girls, nice weather, cool parties, and all the people I talked to said if I take easy classes I won't have to do much work. I'm definitely coming here."

Louder Than Words

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these words as anyone, but I was lucky to be taught that the use of these words means more than I once thought. I realized that I had issues of not accepting homosexuals as people, and that even if I could not come to terms with my own homophobia, that I was unconcerned for those people I was stepping all over with insensitivity.

We need to do ourselves and our community a favor and take a

minute to reexamine our words every now and then and start questioning what we normally accept without thought. And since this idea is applicable to so

many areas of life, we get the added bonus of practicing what will be a useful skill for the rest of our lives: open-mindedness.

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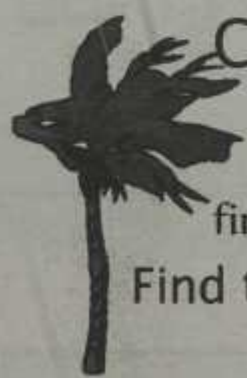
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FREE INQUIRY SOCIETY The Free Inquiry Society of Central Florida was created in 1996 to provide a forum to discuss philosophy, religion and other topics of interest to free-thinking individuals. Monthly meetings open to all. More information: 407-262-1915.

PART TIME AFTER SCHOOL CARE EMPLOYEE WANTED: St. Margaret Mary Plus (after school care program) is looking for an energetic person who loves playing sports and games with children ages 5 to 12. North Park Avenue, Winter Park. We need help Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. \$7/hr. Call Jean Canfield from 3:00pm-6:00pm, Monday-Friday, 407-644-6929.



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Gene Therapy May Control Parkinson's Disease

By Tracy Swartz

Independent Florida Alligator
(U. Florida)

(U-WIRE) GAINESVILLE, Fla. — For actor Michael J. Fox, it began almost 12 years ago with a trembling pinkie. Lying in bed, recuperating from a night of drinking and debauchery, Fox found he couldn't stop twitching. He pumped his left hand into a fist five or six times, then shook it out. He interlocked the fingers of each hand into a steeple and lifted them over and behind his head.

Nothing worked.

He thought it was from the alcohol he guzzled the night before. He thought it was from the horseplay he engaged in. He thought it was from anything but a debilitating disease.

Fox was in Gainesville, Fla., at the time, shooting "Doc Hollywood" with co-star Woody Harrelson, when his life changed.

"That morning — November 13, 1990 — my brain was serving notice: it had initiated divorce from my mind," Fox explains in his new autobiography, "Lucky Man," which hit stores Tuesday.

Confused about the cause of the trembling, he visited doctors at University of Florida, who

concluded he suffered a minor injury to his funny bone. But a correct diagnosis didn't come until 1991. He had Parkinson's disease, a central nervous system disorder present in more than 1 million Americans.

More than 10 years later, UF doctors may be able to help the TV star with research showing gene therapy controls Parkinson's symptoms. "[Fox] would be an interesting case because he does have some therapeutic response to the medicine," said Ronald Mandel, a UF associate neuroscience professor who performed the study. Mandel and Swedish neuroscientist Anders Bjorklund injected two corrective genes into a specific brain region of about 200 rats that had the chemical-induced form of the disease. The gene therapy resulted in a significant restoration of normal limb movement. When the two genes are partnered with a gene-activating agent and induced, they trigger production of a chemical that is converted to dopamine, a drug that helps coordinate limb movement.

Mandel set up videotapes of the rats moving in tall, glass cylinders to monitor the rats. After the onset of the disease, the normally perky rodents were found limping on one front paw and dragging the other. After treatment, though, the rats regained normal function in both front paws.

But the therapy doesn't completely cure the disease. "To cure it, you have to get it in the early part of the disease," Mandel said.

Although he is unsure when the therapy will see human trials, Mandel is targeting patients who are in later stages of the disorder. "We are trying to prolong therapy," he said. "The whole purpose is to reduce side effects."

The experiment was done in Sweden, but the virus that created the rats' disease was developed by Nicholas Muzyczka of UF's Genetic Institute. The next step for Mandel and his crew, though, is primate testing, which may not be in the near future.

"It's a big jump to a larger brain," he said. "They are a lot closer to humans, and showing lack of side effects in them is very important." Parkinson's disease usually occurs in patients between the ages of 65 and 90, although 10 percent of patients develop the illness before 40, as Fox did.

"To get it as young as he did, it's very unusual," Mandel said.



Collegiate Inventors Receive Cash and Recognition

AKRON, OH.—The National Inventors Hall of Fame (NIHF) is seeking entries for the 2002 Collegiate Inventors Competition (CIC).

Sponsored by Hewlett-Packard, Corning, Incorporated, The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company, and the United States Patent and Trademark Office, the Collegiate Inventors Competition is the world's leading program designed solely to recognize and honor student inventors. Since its inception in 1990, the CIC has honored nearly sixty (60) individuals and/or teams for their outstanding contributions to and their innovative work in solving engineering and scientific challenges. Over the past 10 years, the competition has brought distinction and recognition to many of the finest colleges and universities across the nation, including MIT, Stanford, University of California—Berkeley, Georgia Institute of Technology, and the University of Michigan, to name a few.

The Collegiate Inventors Competition awards the top student inventors/inventor teams a \$20,000 cash prize. In addition, student advisors will receive a \$10,000 cash prize. Winners will also receive \$2,000 worth of HP computer

equipment and accessories through www.hpshopping.com.

The program goals are to promote interest in scientific problem solving and technology; to fuel a passion for economic prosperity; and to increase understanding of U.S. patent laws and intellectual property rights.

The CIC program also promotes the working relationship between students and their advisors/mentors.

Entries for the Collegiate Inventors Competition are judged on the originality of the new idea, process or technology, and their potential value and usefulness to society. Entry deadline for the 2002 competition is June 1, 2002. CIC recognition will take place November 14, 2002, in New York City.

Founded in 1973, The National Inventors Hall of Fame is the premier organization in America dedicated to fostering and recognizing creativity and invention. NIHF is best known for its annual induction ceremony — one of the highest profile invention recognition events in the world. To date, NIHF has inducted 168 inventors into the Hall of Fame. And will recognize another class of inventors on September 21, 2002, at their annual Induction ceremonies in Akron, Ohio.

For complete information and applications visit the website at www.invent.org/collegiate.

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