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ROLLINS COLLEGE ■ WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

The Sandspur

THE OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER IN FLORIDA

FEBRUARY 6, 2004

FOUNDED IN 1894

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Baseball Preview

It may only be February, but that won't stop the baseball team. Spring sports are just around the corner, and we've got the season covered.

page 11

Secrets of Starbucks

Gourmet coffee is considered a staple drink of many college students, but what the baristas are not telling you might make you think twice about that morning pick-me-up you've come to love.

page 9

Tars, Sailors, or Scalawags?



Jared uncovers the truth behind Rollins' early history. It's a high-seas adventure as always on the Humor page!

page 5

The Bird Flu

■ A new mutating strain of the flu virus could present new global health concerns.

by Erika Batey

staff reporter

One year after the SARS outbreak, a new virus is sweeping across parts of Asia and is threatening to set off serious global health consequences. Bird flu is a deadly and infectious disease usually found in chickens and turkeys, and is caused by type A strains of the flu virus.

This particular virus subtype is H5N1 and is of particular concern. It has the ability to mutate rapidly and can cause severe disease or death in humans who are exposed to infected birds.

The first confirmed outbreak was in South Korea around mid December. One month later Vietnam confirmed a first human death due to bird flu. Around the same time, Japan, Taiwan, Laos, Thailand, Cambodia, Indonesia, and Pakistan all confirmed cases. Thailand and Vietnam have been hit hardest. There have been at least ten deaths already in the two countries.

Less than a week ago, China stated that the virus had struck three of its provinces. The World Health Organization (WHO) has called China to adopt heightened surveillance and quarantine measures.

The virus is spread between birds mostly through live bird markets. It is then passed to humans who come in direct contact with the birds. However, there is a fear that the virus has the ability to exchange

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Getting With The Technology Trend

■ Rollins professors and students continue to embrace advances in technology.

by Heather Williams

staff reporter

Remember back in high school when primarily all of one's daily homework and class work was done by hand? Pens, pencils, and paper were staples in our lives, and the cramping that hands endured after taking a test or writing an essay was never a pleasant result. Here at Rollins, those horrible memories never need to be repeated thanks to an innovative technological program called Blackboard. Blackboard is best defined as an interactive virtual learning environment that provides tools with which to supplement the classroom

environment. It was not created to replace the classroom learning process, but instead to enrich the classroom experience by enabling students to engage themselves when outside of class.

Rollins has seen a great increase in Blackboard usage by faculty over the past few years. Blackboard was originated in Fall of 2001 and started with about 13 faculty utilizing its assets in 20 courses. As word of its accessibility spread, 68 faculty were using it in 126 courses in the Fall of 2002. These numbers took an even greater jump when it was recorded that as of Fall 2003, 90 Rollins professors were using Blackboard in 169 of their courses.

While 90 professors may not seem like an extreme increase when looking at the change from 2002, one must consider that Rollins employs only 149 Arts and

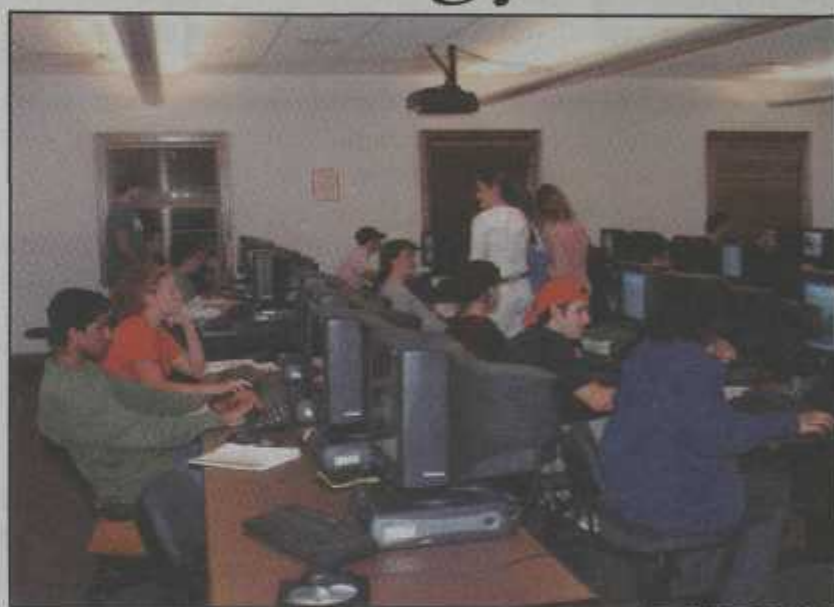


photo / MARK BARTSCH

COMPUTER GENIUSES: Rollins students use Blackboard to access course material and announcements for classes.

Sciences faculty. In this situation, over half of the Rollins faculty has worked to incorporate technology into their classrooms. That fact alone is an outstanding indicator of the way that Rollins is changing and reforming as a whole. When looking at the size of enrollment and the lasting tenure of its faculty,

the progress Rollins has seen in a technological sense shows a remarkable improvement. These figures alone are evidence of the increase in technology here on the Rollins campus.

To further assess the faculty usage of Blackboard, a survey was taken in Fall of

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Chi Psi Brothers Lend A Helping Hand

■ The brothers of Rollins fraternity Chi Psi made a monetary donation to help the needy.

by Jessica Estes

staff reporter

Last month the Chi Psi fraternity here at Rollins made a generous donation to the Conductive Education Center of Orlando (CECO). This local non-profit organization provides a unique educational environment for children with motor disabilities. Before the establishment of this facility in 2001, parents of children with motor disabilities, such as cerebral palsy, did not have many options when it came to educating their children. Many times parents were told that attempting any for-



photo / ROLLINS PR

GIVE A LITTLE: Chi Psi President Jason Vargas and Vice President Alex Gify pose with members of CECO.

mal education would be unsuccessful, and they should just accept their current situations. However for some parents, that answer was not good enough.

Joe and Vicky Raymond, both Rollins alumni, were

dissatisfied with the educational opportunities available to their son Joseph, who has cerebral palsy. After some exhaustive research they found a program, Conductive Education, that offered some real hope for

families of disabled children. Joe and Vicky Raymond founded the Conductive Education Centers of Florida, based on a 50-year old program initially developed in Hungary and now practiced around the world. "The original plan was to create a class for my son and five other children, but after seeing the impact that it made on all of the children's lives, we couldn't help but try to reach out to others so they could benefit as well," said Joe.

The Chi Psi donation of \$1,000 greatly benefited the organization by funding improvements to their new campus and helping reduce the school's tuition costs.

Chi Psi President Jason Vargas said his fraternity chose the organization because of its location, its

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Chi Psi A Blackboard Without Chalk Gives

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

goals, and its association with Rollins. "We wanted to keep it in the Rollins family," he said.

Professor of Political Science Don Davison, who is on the CECO board, encouraged the donation. He explained that, "as a board member, we very much appreciate the generosity that Jason and his fraternity have given to CECO. As a faculty member, this has been a perfect way for our students to practice part of Rollins' mission to educate students for civic responsibility and service to the community. It's a great example of our mission statement in action."

If you are interested in donating to the Conductive Education Center of Orlando, or are looking for possible volunteer opportunities, consult their website at www.cecfl.org.

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CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

2003 to indicate the reform that had been made. This survey, completed by approximately one-third of faculty who use Blackboard, resulted in some productive findings. A whopping 46 percent of faculty uses between four and seven of the tools available in the Blackboard program. The top five programs used were Course Materials (77 percent), Announcements (63 percent), Course Information (63 percent), Faculty Information (47 percent), and Assignments (42 percent). These figures show the primary facets of Blackboard that are most beneficial to the faculty and their satisfaction based on recurring usage.

Jill Gorman, Visiting Assistant Professor of Religion, is an avid user of Blackboard in her classes. Her main reason for using Blackboard is because she had "used a similar version of Blackboard in the past and really enjoyed the Discussion Board the most." In her opinion, the Discussion Board serves two main purposes. She says it "attempts to get students to

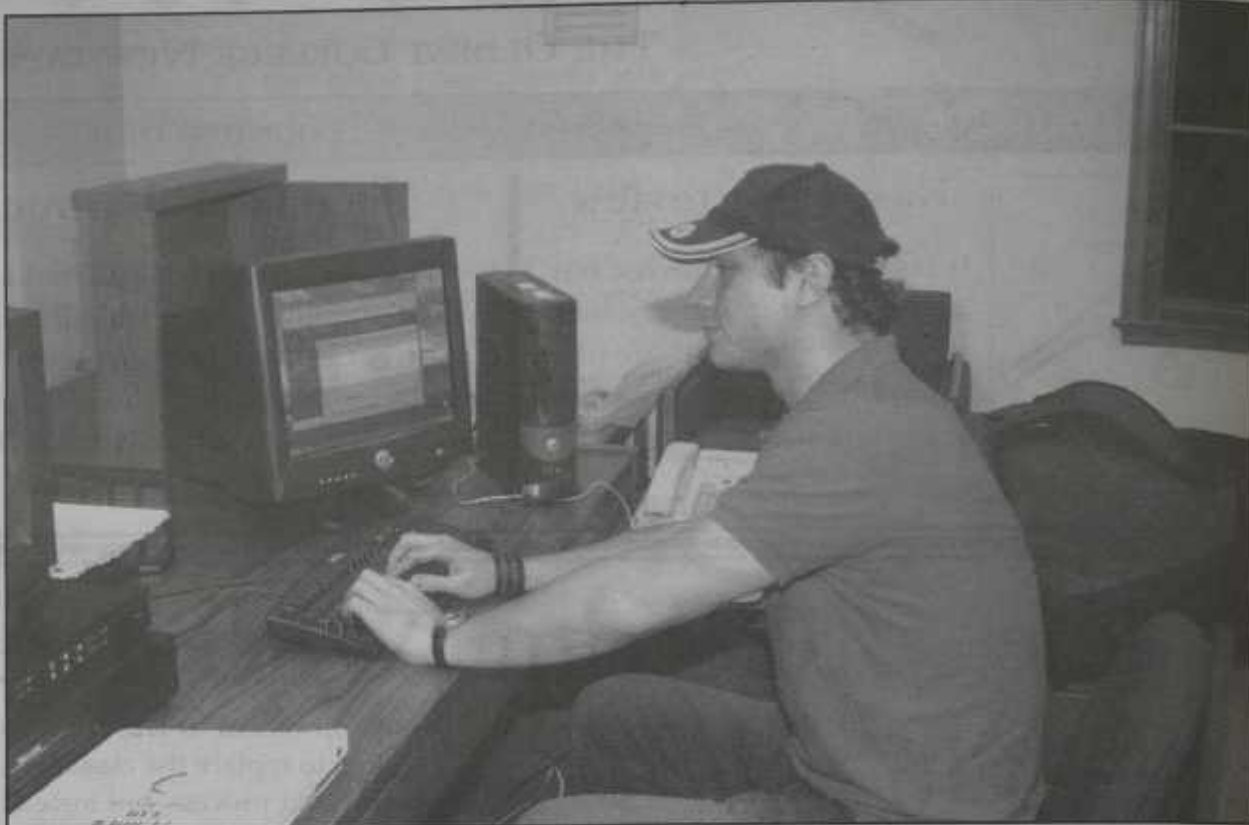


photo / MARK BARTSCH

ALL IN A NIGHT'S WORK: Student Information Technology staff member David Pilo Mansion, '07, mans the help desk at the Olin Library 24-hour lab.

think about class outside of class, and students can be engaged in a conversation in a way they might not have felt comfortable in class."

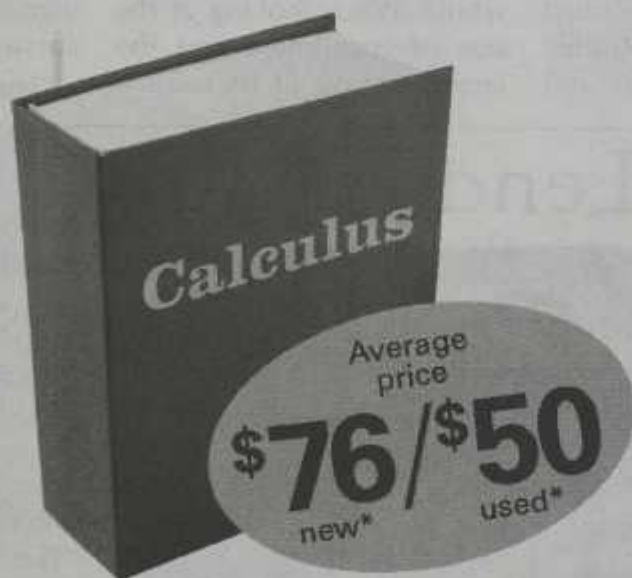
For the students, Professor Gorman felt that Blackboard served to "help students keep up on their grades and try to touch on (what they read or post on Blackboard) in their class discussions. Overall, it makes the learning process

more engaging." From a teacher's perspective, Professor Gorman felt that there was an increase in the faculty usage simply because of the availability Blackboard provides.

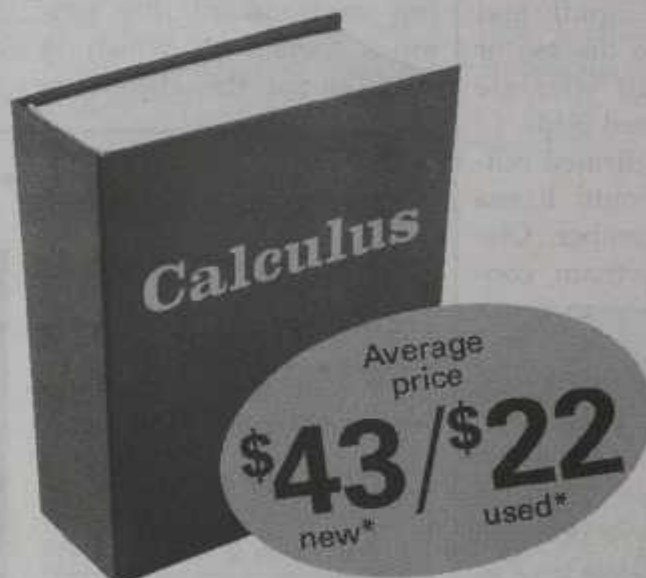
She loves that she can "scan an article and it is immediately accessible to the student. Students can turn papers in through the Digital Drop Box. Useful websites are able to provide

helpful subject matter and more interaction." Overall, Professor Gorman's thoughts on why an increase in technology is beneficial to the Rollins campus are cohesive to the reasons why so many faculty are catching on to this new trend of a Virtual Learning Environment. "It opens up new worlds to students that they might not be exposed to in a classroom setting."

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New Flu Outbreak Is For The Birds

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
genes with a human flu virus if a person is simultaneously affected with both. Its ability to mutate rapidly could then result in humans serving as a "mixing vessel" for a new subtype of the flu virus. This could begin a human flu pandemic with possible widespread deadly consequences.

The symptoms of bird flu mimic other human respiratory diseases, making it difficult to distinguish it from other types of flu.

Symptoms include fever, sore throat, cough, and in some cases pneumonia.

So far there is no definite evidence that the virus has been passed between humans.

The reported human cases have been from contact with birds. However, investigations are currently being conducted on two Vietnamese sisters who died from bird flu in January.

Evidence is being released that they may have contracted the flu from their

brother.

The World Health Organization is currently investigating the case to determine the cause of the girl's infection.

The World Health Organization, international governments, and authorities are working to contain the disease. They are stamping out the infection where it starts by killing millions of infected birds across areas of Asia.

They are also educating people, especially poultry farmers, about sanitary measures.

Britain has already begun work on developing a vaccine to combat the spread of bird flu. Their aim is to prevent a SARS-like epidemic.

Dr. Alan Hay of the World Health Organization stated, "Our main concern is that it will acquire the ability to spread widely throughout that particular region. Once it does that there will be little to stop it spreading to the rest of the world."

The United States has

also joined the international community to contain the flu.

The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) is working closely with the World Health Organization. Director Dr. Julie Gerberding commented, "We're taking this very seriously and doing everything that we can do to make sure that we're offering the best possible support for the World Health Organization and others who are combating the problem in Asia."

The World Health Organization and officials agree that the threat is serious. If preventative measures are not taken and efforts are not made to stop the spread of the disease it has the potential to spread globally and possibly become more deadly than SARS.

For more information visit the Center for Disease Control and Prevention website, www.cdc.gov

Avian Influenza Infections In Humans

Confirmed instances of avian influenza viruses infecting humans since 1997 include:

1997: In Hong Kong, avian influenza A (H5N1) infected both chickens and humans. This was the first time an avian influenza virus had ever been found to transmit directly from birds to humans. During this outbreak, 18 people were hospitalized and 6 of them died. Authorities killed about 1.5 million chickens to remove the source of the virus. Scientists determined that the virus spread primarily from birds to humans, though rare person-to-person infection was noted.

1999: In Hong Kong, cases of avian influenza A H9N2 were confirmed in 2 children. Both patients recovered. The evidence suggested that poultry was the source of infection and the main mode of transmission was from bird to human. However, the possibility of person-to-person transmission remained open. Several additional human H9N2 infections were reported from mainland China in 1998-99.

2003: Two cases of avian influenza A (H5N1) infection occurred among members of a Hong Kong family that had traveled to China. One person recovered, the other died. How or where these 2 family members were infected was not determined. Another family member died of a respiratory illness in China, but no testing was done. No additional cases were reported.

2003: Avian influenza A (H7N7) infections among poultry workers and their families were confirmed in the Netherlands during an outbreak of avian flu among poultry. More than 80 cases of H7N7 illness were reported, and 1 patient died (a veterinarian who had visited an affected farm). There was evidence of some human-to-human transmission.

2003: H9N2 infection was confirmed in a child in Hong Kong. The child was hospitalized but recovered.

Source: Quark Research Group

Winter With The Writers

■ Rollins' Winter With the Writers program brings four authors to campus.

by **Brittany Lee**

news editor



This semester, Rollins' Winter With the Writers program is bringing four eminent writers to campus during the month of February.

This Festival of the Literary Arts is dedicated to encouraging the pursuit of knowledge in the field of liberal arts by bringing authors of prominence and intrigue to address the Rollins College community.

The program was started by former director and Writer-in-Residence Philip Deaver, who established it as a leading literary series in

Florida. In the past, participants included famous authors such as the Pulitzer Prize winner Richard Ford and memoirist Mary Karr.

This season promises to be exceptionally exciting because, as program director, award winning author, and Rollins College Irving Bacheller Visiting Professor of Creative Writing Connie May Fowler expressed, "We are hosting some of America's finest contemporary authors."

Our visiting authors are all writers of great importance and innovation in their



field. These authors allow the community to celebrate literature and learn about writers to whom they have never been exposed, but who deserve recognition.

Every Thursday in February marks the visit of

an author. The authors hold Master Classes at 4 p.m. in the Sullivan House then have a reading, discussion, and book signing in the Bush



Auditorium at 8 p.m. Both events are free and open to all that want to attend.

Professors are encouraged to bring their classes, particularly after a reading of the novel that will be discussed. The program gives students a chance to hear directly from the author the purpose and meaning of a novel they have read.

In addition, at the Master Class, students will discuss student manuscripts and hear about writing as a career.

The schedule of authors for the 2004 season is as follows:

Sena Jeter Naslund, author of *Ahab's Wife* and

Four Spirits, on February 5th, Silas House, author of *Clay's Quilt* and *Parchment of Leaves*, on February 12th, Diana Abu-Jaber, author of *Arabian Jazz* and *Crescent*, on February 19th, and finally Kaye Gibbons, author of *Ellen Foster*, *A Curve for Dreams*, *A Virtuous Woman*, *Charms for the Easy*, *Life, Sights Unseen*, and *On the Occasion of My Last Afternoon*, on February 26.

The Winter With the Writers program is sponsored by the Rollins College Department of English and the Thomas P. Johnson



Distinguished Visiting Scholar and Artist Fund.

For more information of the program, write to: winterwiththewriters@rollins.edu.

Photographs are of the visiting authors. They are, from right to left, Silas House, Diana Abu-Jaber, Sena Jeter Naslund, and Kaye Gibbons.

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Springing Into Sisterhood

■ One student shares her experience with spring recruitment.

by **Brittany Lee**

news editor

As soon as I started my freshman year here at Rollins, family members and friends began to ask the infamous question, are you going to join a sorority? My response was generally ambivalent, but as rush approached, I began to really like the idea and decided to at least go through the rush process. Regardless of what sorority I got into or whether I started pledging, rushing would be a great way to meet people and determine whether or not Greek life is for me. So, when rush sign up began, I put my name on the list and waited for the events to start.

On January 26, the first night of rush, we traveled with our groups to every sorority house, six in total, for 25 minute parties. All the girls seemed nervous traveling to the first house, but as the night went on friendly greetings at each house calmed even the most uneasy of rushees. The majority of the time was spent with sisters we were paired with, asking any questions and making introductions.

Though I was initially slightly nervous about conversing with girls I had never met, the time went surprisingly fast and was thoroughly enjoyable. Fellow rushee Cara Michelle said "I realized I knew a lot more of the sisters than I previously thought and it was fun to see all of them at the houses." In addition, the sororities all incorporated community service into the parties that night, ranging from tying ribbons on terrorist victim bracelets to attaching notes on pencils for underprivileged kids.

The activities were simple and not at all time consuming, but they gave us a chance to help out the sorority's causes and to interact with sisters as we completed them. After visiting the last house, exhausted but much calmer and pleased with how the night had gone, I went home and looked forward to the second night of rush.

On Tuesday, we gathered in our same groups and went through an identical process. On this night, the

dress code was stepped up to nice pants or skirts and dress shoes, causing most of us intense pain by the end of the night from walking rapidly across campus in heels. The houses performed songs, gave house tours, and allowed time to simply talk and get to know members. It was nice going in and recognizing girls from the night before, but also great to continue meeting new ones. For me, the night seemed to go even quicker than the last and soon we were all seated in the Bush auditorium faced with a sheet of paper, called a preference card, which allowed us to choose our top four sororities along with a fifth alternate. The following day, schedules were passed out in the auditorium from 12 to 2 p.m. based on our preference cards and invitation lists from the sororities.

Talking to friends, it seemed that most that day were pleased with where they were invited back, but there was without a doubt disappointment from those that, for whatever reason, were not invited back to a top choice. One girl, upon being cut from a top choice, expressed disappointment at first but then concluded that it was simply not the right chapter for her.

Wednesday night we attended up to four 35 minute parties, depending on how many invitations we received that matched those on our preference card. This night, the parties were again themed and consisted of mainly the same activities with the addition of skits in the majority of houses.

The night was a lot of fun; it was one of the most enjoyable because I felt that I knew a lot more of the girls at this point.

Once again, we gathered in the auditorium after all the parties and filled out another preference card, this time with our top three choices. Now the decision was getting harder, and some girls took longer agonizing over choices. The next day we received schedules for the final night of parties, and there were again mixed responses, smiles and excitement from those that received bids to their choices and some disappointment from those that did not get invited to everywhere they wanted.

The final night was a more somber occasion as each house gave speeches commemorating their good

times and the seniors gave sorrowful goodbyes. The parties were each 45 minutes long and we could attend up to three depending on the number of invitations received. The atmosphere was notably changed because we knew the girls better and instead of spending the majority of the time on introductions conversations flowed easily. At the completion of the night we went again to the auditorium and this time were told to list our top three choices in order of most desired. Some girls lingered unsure while others quickly filled out and turned in their lists. The room was overwhelmed with tension and nervousness, but as more turned in the slips a sense of relief took over. The process was done and waiting the only thing left to do.

We received calls from 2 to 4 p.m. to let us know whether we had received a bid or not. Throughout my hall, girls screamed with happiness. Many had "succeeded," or put down only one choice, so the message of a bid told them for sure they were accepted to their choice.

That night we were actually given the bids, after standing outside in great anticipation for over a half



photo / KAPPA DELTA

SISTERS FOREVER: Some of the sisters of Kappa Delta showing their love of sorority life.

hour. I immediately accepted my bid and walked through the auditorium, greeted with excited shouting and welcoming. From there, all new members ran, or walked briskly to their new houses and the welcoming continued.

For me, the rush process was a great experience because I met so many people and the more I learned about Greek life the more I wanted to be a part of it. Talking to fellow rushees, many felt the same way. Amanda Beck, '07, said "The rush experience is very intense but all the girls at each sorority did an excellent job of making everyone feel welcome and that their

presence was appreciated." Even girls that were not accepted to their top choice and dropped out of rush found the experience rewarding. One girl in this position said, "Though I didn't end up joining a sorority, I met a ton of people and had fun during the process." Overall, rush week was really amazing and though stressful and time consuming it was worth every moment all the same. For anyone even considering becoming a part of Greek life, give rush a try and you will be rewarded with new friendships and an appreciation of all that goes into sorority life. So, don't rule it out, see for yourself!



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Rollins Ho!

■ The dirty secrets and scandals only the humor people will write about.

by **Jared Parkinson**
asst. humor editor

Listen up Rollins College students, we have all been led astray. There is a horrible conspiracy and cover up that has been going on since the school was "founded". The older administration and the higher ups on the board of directors of this fine institution have been hiding this secret for way too long. What is it you may ask? Well, I'm going to tell you.

After reading this article, you too will know the horrible truth that was covered up in this community. Many people think that Rollins was founded in 1885 when Alonzo Rollins, Chicago businessman, gave a hefty donation to help fulfill Lucy Cross's vision of a college in Central Florida. This is what they want you to believe!

In fact Rollins was not started in 1885, but in 1825 when a bunch of pirates

blood. From some intense research from the information contained in this folder and some other backbreaking research in the Central Florida Archives I came up with these little known facts about Rollins.

Pinehurst: This was actually the campus brothel. It was owned by a red haired lady who was the basis for a character in the "Pirates of The Caribbean" ride at Disney World.

This is where all the pirates-in-training went when they wanted an "ol' roll in the hay."

The ATO house: This was the boarding house for the pirating instructors.

If you ask any of the brothers they'll tell that sometimes when they clean up under the deck after parties, they occasionally find an old rum bottle with a XXX on it.

The Rose Garden: This was actually the burial ground of all the pirates who either died of scurvy (sometimes they had to stay out on Lake Virginia for months at a time) or had gotten killed in knife fights during pep rallies.



walked in from the Cocoa beach coast and decided that Lake Virginia would be a perfect place to practice their pirating exercises in a safe haven.

Haven't you ever wondered where our mascot came from? It is a doctored image of the old pirate mascot that used to roam this campus, swilling rum and cursing.

If you go up to the very top of the chapel, which was once known as the "Crow's Nest," and you lift the second tile in from the back wall, you will find the documentation that proves this dark demented past.

This folder contains documents, pictures, and even students' names from the old pirate school signed in



photo / ROBERT WALKER

AND THE WINNER IS: During a private ceremony held this past Monday in Orlando Hall distinguished Professor Dr. Alan Nordstrom accepted the first ever Sandspur golden plunger award. The award was issued to Dr. Nordstrom by Sandspur humor editor Eddie Huang. The Golden Plunger was awarded in recognition of Dr. Nordstrom's knowledge of the location of King Tut's throne as discussed in last week's issue.

Not So Deep Thoughts: Musings From The Mind Of Eddie Huang

That's an Official Fully

■ Stop your whining about Janet's floppy dog, you fascist pigs; she had reasons!

by **Eddie Huang**

humor editor

After first apologizing on Monday over Janet's "fully," CBS and NFL commissioner Paul Tagliabue have now justified the performance and rescinded their apologies. Tagliabue said, "Despite offending Republicans, women, children, and Billy Graham, we can not overlook the positive effects the half time show had on America. Today, America is a healthier nation, and it's a direct result of Ms. Jackson's wardrobe malfunction." At first, everyone was dumbfounded, but then former surgeon general Joycelyn Elders stepped to the podium and attempted to make sense of the whole fiasco.

According to an independent study done by the illustrious Elders, masturbation expels toxins and promotes healthy blood circulation. As we all know, the expulsion of toxins and promotion of circulation can help in the prevention of dia-

betes, cancer, and, of course, cooties (see, even the children gained something from the show). After several minutes of grumbling among the journalists, they nominated Joan Rivers to ask one last annoying question: "Joycelyn, what does masturbation have to do with all this mumbo jumbo?"

The folks at CBS then realized they brought on Dr. Elders before they brought on the Nielsen Media Research Representatives. Without a second's hesitation, they threw her in the crowd, where she proceeded to stage dive and bring on Arthur Nielsen to explain what masturbation had to do with the show.

Nielsen claimed that the super secret black boxes

assigned to random American households have hidden cameras installed. After watching hours of footage from the black boxes, Nielsen found that masturbation during this year's halftime show was up 10,000 percent from last year's halftime show that featured Steven Tyler. While 12 angry men in Manhattan masturbated during Tyler's show last year, Janet and her breast prompted approximately 120,000 people across the United States to throw milk shakes. This information, compounded with Dr. Elders' findings about the health factors involved with masturbation, seem to have cleared CBS's and the NFL's good names for now.

Word Of The Week

Fully - n. A random, unexpected, yet nevertheless pleasing nipple that is left exposed and preferably aroused and adorned by silver twirly thangs.

Usage note: positive, flattering, and awe inspiring.

Word of the week provided by
Don King



THE HOT SPOT: WILDSIDE BAR & GRILLE BBQ

Since it is the beginning of the semester, and the deluge of work has not yet begun, now is the opportune time to get out while you can. If you have some free time on your hands and are trying to locate a spot to eat, drink, and be merry, look no further than Wildside Bar and Grille.

Located in the trendy, urban chic area of Thornton Park, Wildside offers delicious barbecue style food at extremely low prices. For a little more than what you would spend at Panera Bread, you can go out to a decent restaurant with style.

The restaurant features both indoor and outdoor atmospheres where you can converse with your friends or have a romantic evening with that special someone. If you come late in the evening, the restaurant has live music, which enhances the already enjoyable tone of the establishment. Sitting outside gives one the chance to participate in the much celebrated activity of people watching.

After you finish eating all your delicious food, make time to take a stroll around the area to take it all in. The neighborhood is a great testament to the forces of gentrification in American urban areas. If you come on a Tuesday, once a month local artisans sell their artwork on the sidewalks of Thornton Park.

If you're looking to get your groove on the weekend, Wildside's is a good place to get fueled up for the partying. The many bars and clubs on Orange Ave are just a hop and skip away. Park in Thornton Park, eat dinner, and then for a nominal fee, hire one of the people who ride the bikes with the chariots behind them to take you to the club of your choice. Any club downtown is less than a mile away.

So grab your wallet along with a date or a friend, and head down to Wildside's. In my opinion it is the best "bang for the buck" in Orlando. In the end, not only will your wallet thank you, but you'll feel a little more urban and sophisticated in the cliché American suburbia in which we live.

BY DAVID GRASSO



GET WILD: This week's Hot Spot is a great place to start off a wild weekend or have a romantic dinner for two.

A New Idol Season

■ After enjoying two hit seasons, Fox's *American Idol* is back with more hopefuls.

by Caitlin Geoghan

managing editor

Well, *American Idol* is back for its third season, and it has gained more support than ever. 57 million viewers tuned in for the new set of auditions taking place all over the nation. This year, the auditioned cities were New York City, Atlanta, Houston, Los Angeles, Hawaii and San Francisco. The first two weeks have given viewers a taste of mostly what Simon, Paula, and Randy are not looking for, with singers so bad one must wonder whether they are truly that disillusioned or just there as a joke. Either way, it certainly provides excellent comedic entertainment to watch the judges react to those who are...let's say slightly less vocally gifted than others.

While much has been said arguing the unnecessary harshness of Simon and, this season, Randy, some of these people just need to be



photo / PAULAJABDUL.COM

JUDGES ARE BACK: Randy, Paula and Simon return for a new season of criticizing and praising.

told in no uncertain terms that they are not talented. For example, one girl in New York City was so convinced of her abilities that she made a bet with Simon that she could sing in a bar without clearing out the place. Who won? Let's just say Simon didn't lose any money. Out of a group of about 20 people, two stayed for the duration of her song. Let's face it people, some "singers" would be hard pressed to carry a tune even with a bucket.

Then again, there's the ever-present people who dis-

agree with the judges and make that very clear. This year Simon ended up with a glass of water in his lap, a gracious gift from an angry contestant who did not get a "You're going to Hollywood" at the end of his audition. There is something to be said for losing gracefully.

So overall, we seem to be in store for another exciting season of *American Idol*. Be sure to consult the Sandspur for all you *American Idol* updates and opinions. Simon Cowell puts it best, "This is about being the best." (www.idolonfox.com).



photo / IDOLONFOX.COM

THE HAPPY HOST: Ever smiling *American Idol* host Ryan Seacrest is a spot of sunshine.

Super Super Bowl Shows



Justin Timberlake exposes Janet Jackson on Sunday, February 1, during the Super Bowl half-time show. He claims that it was a wardrobe glitch; Janet says it was a publicity stunt. Either way, there probably was an afterparty...



"I never thought I'd be a part of the half-time show," P.Diddy said. "It's a privilege." Good thing he had those sunglasses on to protect his eyes from his own bling-bling. How do you like me now J. Lo?

Weighing Life

■ Sean Penn and Naomi Watts star in a powerful and soul-capturing film.

by **Matt Law**

contributing writer

How much does life weigh? The film *21 Grams* may answer that question. They say *21 Grams* is the weight a human loses at the instant of death. That is the weight of five nickels, a chocolate bar, and perhaps, the weight of the human soul. To many people the title may suggest a movie about drugs, but it is not that at all. This film explores love, loss, faith, guilt, coincidence, and redemption. It evokes an array of emotions, both high and low, rarely done by recent Hollywood productions.

The movie, directed by Alejandro Gonzalez Inarritu, follows the lives of three complete strangers. Paul Rivers (Sean Penn) is an ailing mathematician awaiting a heart transplant. Christina Peck (Naomi Watts) is a middle-class



photo / JOELO.COM

WILL THEY MEET?: Sean Penn and Naomi Watts exploring their emotionally and physically charged existences.

housewife, mother of two and recovering party girl. Jack Jordan (Benicio Del Toro) is an ex-convict, born-again Christian who has found faith enough to raise a family. A tragic accident brings these complete strangers together to test their emotional, physical and spiritual limits. In an instant, their lives are changed forever.

The film moves through past and present - not in chronological order - leaving the audience wondering until the end, when questions are finally answered.

The viewer becomes part of the film in trying to guess how the strangers will interact when they meet, or if they will meet at all. The movie depends on withholding information and reveals unexpected connections through this. Although this technique can be confusing, it was pulled off with great success.

The majority of shooting for this film took place in Memphis, Tennessee, although no setting was specified in the movie. Inarritu wanted the setting to reinforce the middle-America feel of his film without specifying a certain part of the country or group of people. Shooting also took place in Albuquerque, New Mexico to give the film desolation and starkness needed in the story. The setting, as much as the characters, is important in giving the film a purposeful ambiguity with a relatable human aspect.

The film premiered at the Venice International Film Festival in 2003, where Penn was honored with the award for best actor, and Del Toro and Watts won the audience award for best actor and actress, respectively.



photo / STRAITSTIME.COM

HOW MUCH DOES LIFE WEIGH: A freak accident brings together a critically ill mathematician and a grieving mother.



Kid Rock said, "I heard they were going to have a little party in Houston. So I thought I'd come down and show my support!" Nice outfit. It's surprising he wasn't arrested, since wearing the flag is a federal offense!



Beyonce started the event off by singing the National Anthem. "The audience was unbelievable!" she said. "Everybody was on their feet. I feel so proud of this country. I'm so blessed!"

Look for more trash talk creations from the entertainment staff.

By **Lara Bueso & Jessica Estes**

WORD ON THE STREET

by **Jessica Combs**

web site editor

With the presidential election on its way, and talk of primaries and caucuses popping up everywhere, here's what some Rollins students have to say about who they want in office, whether they have political backgrounds or not.



"Josh Hartnett because he's so damn good looking"

Melanie Tumlin, '07

"Anthony Santiago because he's really fast."

Jon-o Majhanovich, '07



"OJ Simpson because he's the most innocent of all the past presidents."

Justin Cox, '07

"Aragorn from Lord of the Rings because he's wise, just, and kind to all."

Bryan Poynter, '07



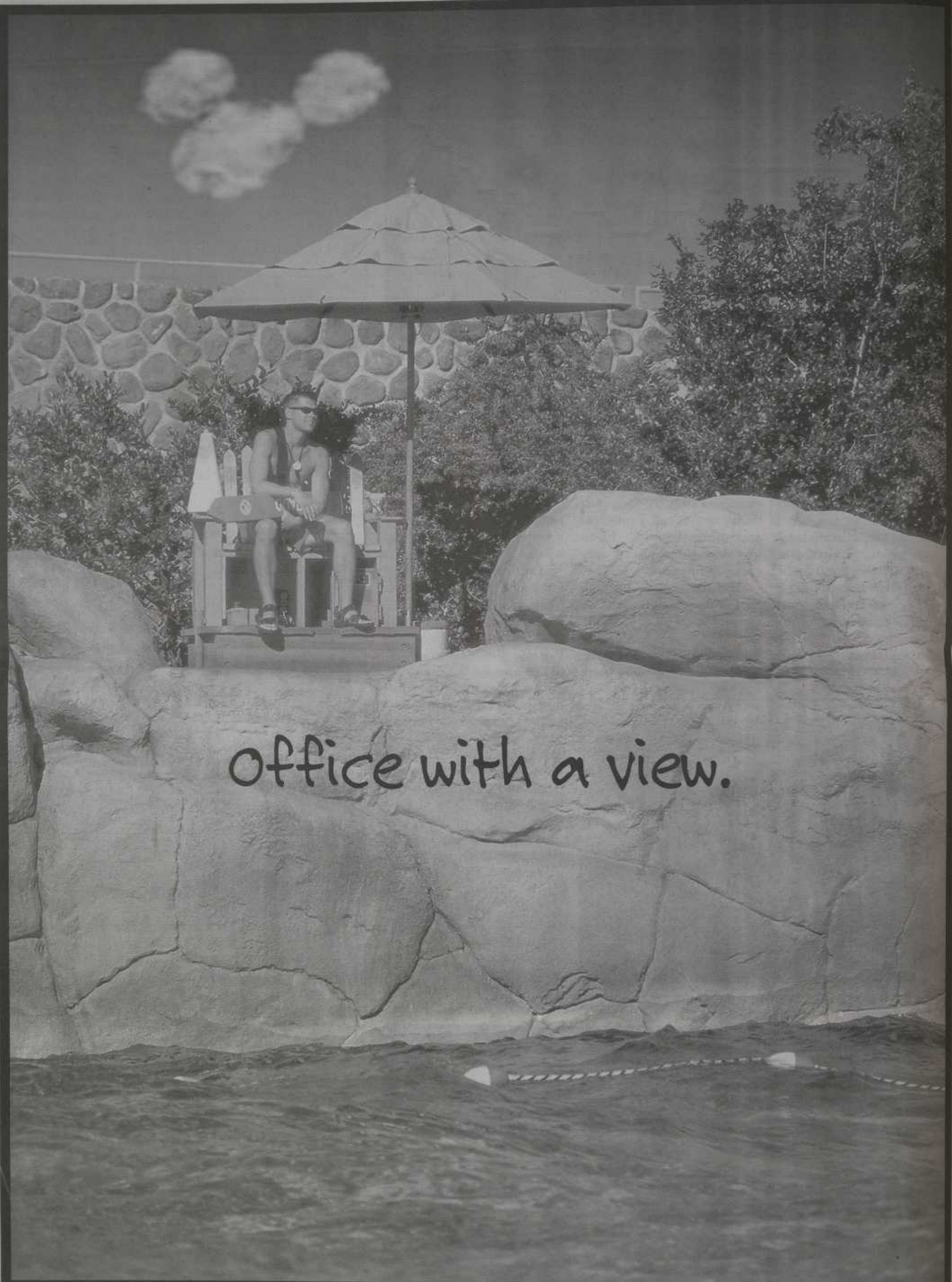
"Tom Brady because he's just a cool guy."

Tony Bronzo, '07

"A poor kid from storville who plays jazz."

Conrad Winslow, '07





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My Take On Starbucks

■ The truth behind Starbucks through the eyes of David Grasso.

by David Grasso

staff reporter

As I strolled around the ample streets of London on my trip there in 2002, I took note of something very disturbing all over this internationally renowned city: there were very few "mom-and-pop" English coffee shops. Instead, there were Starbucks seemingly omnipresent on every last square inch of the city. I could get my Iced Venti Soy Latte exactly like the one I would buy on Park Ave in Winter Park.

I really did not think deeply into the ramifications of homogenizing in coffee shops in London, but then one of my tour guides filled me in on what this American corporation was doing in London, and it wasn't pretty.

Starbucks was using cut-throat tactics to put "mom and pop" coffee shops out of business by opening several of them on the block. When all the places except Starbucks had closed, they would then proceed to close down all of them except one. The lone coffee shop remaining would become an extremely crowded Starbucks.

I came home graduated high school, and attended Rollins for almost 2 years. In the process, I became very addicted to caffeine. My friends claimed that my mood has a direct correlation with my intake of Starbucks, and since it was relatively convenient to school and I desire to maintain some level of mental sanity, I started going a lot.

Being the Environmental Studies major I am, it wasn't too long before I would stare at my Iced Venti Soy Latte and wonder where in the world my money was going. So far, all I knew is that they liked to exterminate competition in pretty vicious ways overseas, and I assumed that they were doing the same in the states, and they are.

After digging up a couple of stats on Starbucks' corporate responsibility, it would appear that they have a good corporate image, and they might well be a socially responsible corporation.

They have programs for Fair Trade Coffee, environmental awareness, urban education programs in the U.S., investments in education in the third world for coffee farmers, job training and employee education, among several other programs. There is little doubt that the corporation is attempting to be socially responsible.

Others dispute that Starbucks isn't really using fair trade coffee and that their social programs and initiatives are merely a cover for a legacy of corporate irresponsibility. What side holds the truth on the matter, I can't tell you. All I know is that I'm not too keen on how it is exacerbating our view around the world as the "McCulture", like Starbucks looked in London.

Despite whatever their corporate responsibility may be and what image they are portraying for Americans and American culture, there is a much bigger issue at stake here. I would like to be informed what is in my coffee. A minuscule amount of effort researching yielded some pretty shocking results.

For all Starbucks dependent people like myself, you won't be to estatic to hear that when you get milk in your coffee at

Starbucks, you are ingesting Monsanto's controversial genetically engineered recombinant Bovine Growth Hormone (rBGH) which is banned in every industrialized country in the world except for the USA. According to the Organic Consumers Organization, Starbucks buys 32 million of gallons of milk tainted with this hormone.

The US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) concede that the use of rBGH in cows may lead to increased amounts of pus and bacteria in milk. Furthermore, cows injected with this hormone may cause greater antibiotic and chemical contamination of milk, contributing to breeding a super bug by overusing antibiotics.

The Organic Consumer Organization highlights that milk derived from rBGH-injected cows increases levels of insulin-like Growth Factor I (IGF-1) a hormone found in both humans and cows. IGF-1 is known to survive in the digestive tract, plays a role in cancer in general, and may have significant effects on colon tumors in humans.... A standard cancer test of a new human drug requires two years of testing, but rBGH was only tested for 90 days on 30 rats. This study was submitted to the FDA but has not been

published because in their words, it would "irreparably harm Monsanto."

Besides the use of these hormones that are hazardous to your health, Starbucks also uses Genetically Modified Ingredients (which is very common in today's marketplace, but is still controversial) and does not buy as much Fair Trade Coffee as they would care to admit. In fact, the vast majority of the coffee is grown in conventional ways that are very socially and environmentally destructive. Many organizations claim that their image is "Greenwashing" (making them look more eco friendly than they really are).

I have to admit, you may still see me lurking around Starbucks on Park Ave or in Thornton Park, but there are plenty of local coffee shop alternatives that use organic coffees and don't use rBGH.

You'll feel better in the end as you sip you coffee from local coffee shops. Although it may not have the same consistency as Starbucks, it is much more exciting sampling different tastes.

Best of all, you won't be giving your three dollars and some odd cents to a company that pulled in \$3.3 billion dollars in 2002.



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1000 Holt Avenue - 2742
Winter Park, FL 32789
Phone: (407) 646-2393
Advertising: (407) 646-2696
E-Mail Us At:
TheSandspur@hotmail.com
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View From Mars, Part II

■ The good doctor elaborates...

by **Alan Nordstrom**
contributing writer

For the three decades I have been teaching English Renaissance literature (Shakespeare, Marlowe, Spenser, Donne, Jonson, Milton, & Co.), I have necessarily been an expositor and purveyor of theology, though not exactly its proponent. In order to understand these writers, one must understand the religious premises of their thinking.

Though I always indicate that I am not intending to inculcate students in this belief system nor proselytizing for theism of any kind, I make little if any effort to view these beliefs critically. I say I am trying to take students into the "mindset" from which come Spenser's *Faerie Queene*, Donne's *Holy Sonnets*, and Milton's *Paradise Lost*, and I maintain a kind of anthropological neutrality as to the truth or usefulness of those beliefs about God, the universe, and humanity embedded therein. At most, I suggest that some students may have very different views on these ultimate questions, and I

encourage them to articulate them.

But now I begin to think that I need to be more critical about the implications of the cosmological and theological system advocated by these authors, which seems to lie at the root of our present-day crises.

One big thing we can learn from studying the dynamic period of the Renaissance and its profoundly changing world-views is that we, too, live in a similar period of paradigm shifting, even more dynamic and profound than that of 500+ years ago. Ours is a period of revolution and reformation even more rapid and unsettling than theirs.

Yet we can now look back half a millennium to find a model of human minds changing in large ways, reprogramming themselves according to radically new belief systems, and making it through, if tumultuously, to a new era and new level of consciousness. From them we can take hope that we also may establish a new order of mentality, one suitable to the needs of a sustainable global society.

Our minds are changing about just who we think we are and what our role is on

this planet (and in our solar system). The earlier Renaissance produced a flourishing of humanism that set out like kudzu to overgrow the secular world and assert our powers to dominate the globe. And we've pretty well done that now, though recklessly and none too wisely. While still paying lip service to our bygone Medieval deities, we, like Faust, have proceeded willfully, unconstrained by divine exhortations to think about our motives more comprehensively and essentially.

Even so, I believe we're beginning to wake up (none too soon) to the consequences of our collective arrogance in regarding ourselves as the lords and masters of the planet, entitled to plunder it for our own gain and glory. Such secular humanism has proved less than humane and hardly sane.

The emerging paradigm, one transcending homocentric secularism, is a worldview that might rightly be called spiritual, not secular, but also not religious. This spiritual paradigm regards the universe as a living, evolving, intelligent system, one that has created our vital Earth, a marvelously wrought global ecosystem, of which we are each a part, as a cell is a part of a body, integral to the functioning of the whole. This spiritual paradigm lets us understand that we are not separate from the world and the universe, but integrated into it and far better off when we stop acting like cancer cells but act beneficially toward each other and our sustaining matrix.

Perhaps we will soon find out that long, long ago, Mars was a place like Earth, a planet with water and an atmosphere and a day only 40 minutes longer than our own. Maybe life evolved there, too, and then, for reasons we may learn, the planet died. If that were so, did Martians cause their own demise? Will we cause ours? I'd bet we will, and very soon. All the trends seem headed that way as 6.3 billion of us bulldoze and bomb our Mother Earth into oblivion.

But then, I'm still hoping that this second Renaissance, with its paradigm of spiritual consciousness, can emerge soon enough to save us from the outmoded belief system now urging us toward catastrophe.

Consumerism Wins The Super Bowl!

■ What happened to the actual game? Pop culture dominates NFL's biggest game of the year.

by **Jesse Thompson**
opinions editor

Fireworks boom above a stage that is surrounded by spewing upward flames and legions of multitasking dancers and fans. A revolving door of pop icons forms at center stage and perform about a quarter of a song each. Light bulbs flash, they sing and dance, and the crowd goes wild...or does it?

Between the elaborate ensemble of pop performances and the overdone pregame interviews, I found myself having some difficulty with pinpointing the exact purpose of the Super Bowl. Does anyone care anymore? And if they do, how can they pay attention amongst all the muck?

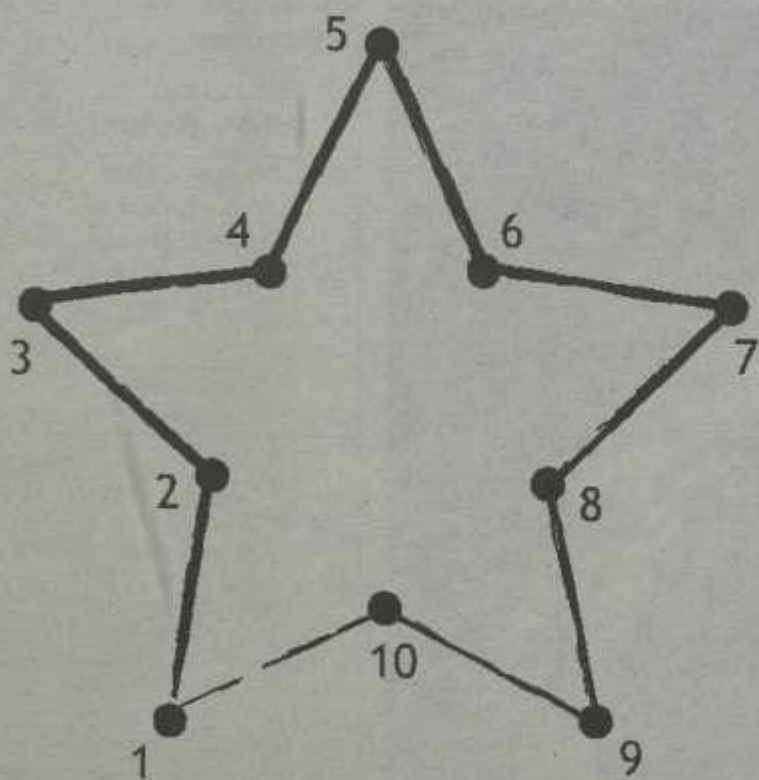
breast than I did with the Patriots or the Panthers.

The priorities seem to be a bit skewed. Don't get me wrong; athletic events are not sacred activities or all-important moments that should be held above all other events. However, isn't the point of a Super Bowl supposed to be that it is a final game to declare a football champion, instead a feeding frenzy for our consumer nation?

The point of the game seems to have been cast aside on its own forum to fill the needs of advertising, musical promos, and media rhetoric.

What happened to the game? I found myself consistently confused throughout the evening as I tried to shield myself from the slings and arrows of the pop culture exploitation; however, between Budweiser's donkey commercial and the sideline news reports, I think I lost my point of focus.

Consumerism wins the Super Bowl! Perhaps these would have been a bit more



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STEAL THE SHOW: Janet Jackson adds to the hype and heavy dose of pop entertainment in this year's Super Bowl.

The force-fed festivities surrounding the sporting event seemed to linger for days prior to the game and then proceeded to march right through the game itself.

The Super Bowl seemed to fly by with a torrid pace, and by the time it ended, I found myself more familiar with Janet Jackson's bare

fitting words to recap the evening's entertainment extravaganza. If this is the route that future Super Bowls will follow, then perhaps next year's game length will be cut back to allow more room for the halftime show and clever commercials.

I wonder if anyone will care or even notice.

Gearing Up For Baseball Season

■ Rollins sluggers are always hungry and ready to eat up the Sunshine State Conference.

by **Jesse Thompson**
opinions editor

There is a rather unanimous opinion among coaches and fans alike: Every team has their standout talent of a pitcher, hitter, or fielder who gains most of the attention. But it is the dirt bags that do all the dirty work. They are usually found scratching and clawing for any opportunity to exploit another team's weaknesses.

These players are few and far between and always loved by those who understand winning and appreciate effort. It is rare to find even a group of these players on one particular team.

However, this is what the Rollins Tars' baseball team prides itself on.

They are characterized by their "bone-saw mentality," as described by team captain Toby Rice. The senior catcher went on to add, "we like to spit, scratch, and get dirty; we're a bunch of dirt bags."



photo / RC SID
SENIORS: Baseball seniors.

Such a team understands the importance of unity and a shared full-out effort that is exerted through every minute between the white lines. This seems to be in place for the Tars this year.

After finishing with a 29-24 overall record (11-9 conference), the team made strides in the off-season to gain a greater edge. In turn, the squad hopes to improve their already solid record from 2003.

One major area of concentration has been the weight room. The team implemented an intense lifting program that stretched from September all the way into the season. "The guys have all added about 40-50 pounds on their squats and bench press," noted Rice. "We have really dedicated ourselves." The strength added to the already productive Tars will most cer-



photo / RC SID
ROLLINS BASEBALL TEAM: The Rollins Baseball team is ready for a tough and demanding season.

tainly pan out to be an imperative decision.

Of course, a team can only lean on their physical abilities so much. Just as important to success is the mental aspect of the game. The Tars are aware of this. Rice highlighted "keeping people positive and making sure there is the right amount of encouragement around" as crucial particulars to this season. The responsibility of such a mindset is bestowed upon leadership.

This, of course, stems from the head coach and staff. Coach Bob Rikeman seems to emit the right kind of energy. Described by Rice as, "someone you can trust and who loves to win," Rikeman brings the attitude that he insists the entire program possess. The torch of leadership is then passed to the elder citizens on the team and the bunch of "spittin' and scratchin' dirt bags."

This is another area of progression since last year according to Rice. "The team has strong seniors and juniors this year," he added.

The freshmen have been caught in the upward momentum swing as well. Their fall performances have impressed the coaches enough to have a few of them battling for starting positions. Another newcomer is transfer Brent Magnuson. The sophomore outfielder looks to be starting in the outfield and making an instant impact.

The Tars won't have to rely on newcomers too much this year. The team has 19 returning letter winners and several returning starters. At the top of the order, Jeff Halbert and Tido Alfonso will be resuming their typical duties as consistent clutch hitters. The Dieguez brothers will also be returning impact players who bring solid defense and offense to their positions. The pitching staff has basically every major contributor returning. Steve Edsall will most likely continue his reign as the staff ace. Gator Brooks, Eduardo Chile, and David Pringle, to name a few, will also be returning to the mound this year.

As if the Tars don't have enough in their favor already, drafted former players have been around most of the off-season. The ex-Tars have brought advice, drills, and perspective to the team. The upcoming season looks to be one of energetic intensity and mental maturity for the excited Tars. Hopes are set high for this well-prepared bunch, and with good reason.

That's not too bad for a bunch of "spittin' and scratchin' dirt bags."

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What's Happening? ROLLINS CALENDAR

Friday 2-6

Baseball vs. St. Thomas
Alfond Stadium
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Saturday 2-7

Baseball vs. St. Thomas
Alfond Stadium
11:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m. (DH)

Basketball vs. Lynn
Alfond Sports Center
1:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. (DH)

Sunday 2-8

Seeds of Peace Lecture
Bush Auditorium
5:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Monday 2-9

LASA Meeting
Hauck 110
5:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Understanding Secularism
French House
7:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m.

Tuesday 2-10

Blood Drive
Mills Lawn
9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.

RHA Meeting
Bieberbach/Reed Room
4:30 p.m. - 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday 2-11

Kaplan MCAT - Hauck 113
6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

SGA Meeting
Galloway Room - 6:30 p.m.

Wickit Wednesday
Dave's Downunder
7:00 p.m. - Midnight

Thursday 2-12

Cultural Action Committee
Warden - 5:30-6:30 p.m.

Sandspur Staff Meeting
Mills 3F - 7:30-8:00 p.m.

InterVarsity Meeting
Faculty Club
8:00-9:00 p.m.

The Strength Of A Gator

■ Play ball! Junior Thomas "Gator" Brooks lights up the field with his performance.

by **Lara Bueso**

entertainment editor

As the college baseball season rolls around again, Rollins' team is striving for their first ever Sunshine State Conference victory. 25 positive players storm the field in what Coach Bob Rikeman calls "a very close knit group. They are just exciting to coach; they are always ready to play and even hyper at 6 a.m. in the gym when most others are not." The Rollins team has only been under the leadership of four different coaches, and now under Bob Rikeman since 1995.

The athletic spotlight this week is focused on up and coming baseball star Gator Brooks. A returning junior, Brooks hopes to assist the

team in making it to the conference and achieving the team's ultimate goal of playing in the national championship game. "He's just a winner; we're hoping for big results from him this year," Coach Rikeman said.

At 6'1", 205 lbs., the only left handed pitcher on the Rollins team, Gator Brooks is the number two starting man and has an average ERA of 4.07 in his career at Rollins. Last year, in 16 appearances and 12 starts, he had a 3.54 ERA. Statistically, he had the second highest amount of strikeouts on the team, with 53 in 73.2 innings.

Brooks hopes to continue and better his success in the upcoming season. He leads the team in the number of runner picked off (six) and also leads in the number of batter struck out looking (22). "I'm hoping that everyone is going to come out to our games and support us," Gator said.

The baseball season started last Thursday night, as



THE GATOR: Rollins baseball will be calling on the left-handed pitching talents of Thomas "Gator" Brooks, '05.

the Tars took on Saint Leo University, and the next game is tonight against St. Thomas at 7:00 p.m. at the Alfond Sports Stadium. Be sure to go support Gator Brooks and the rest of the Rollins baseball team.

The Unstoppable Tars

■ The Rollins men's and women's basketball teams are on a hot streak.

by **Jon Birdsong**

sports editor

In St. Petersburg last Saturday, the Rollins basketball team defeated the Eckerd College Tritons. The win gave them a 16-4 record overall, but an even more

important 6-2 in the Sunshine State Conference, putting them alone in second place behind Florida Southern. The game started off with Rollins pouncing on Eckerd with a quick 20-9 run. They maintained a 10-point lead going into the half.

Coming out of halftime, the blue and gold picked up from where they left off and increased their lead to 17. At the 14-minute mark, the Tritons made the game a lit-

tle more exciting with a 17-9 run, cutting their deficit to 9. Eric Faber took control of the game with 36 points, 8-of-16 from the field an additional 17 points coming from the free-throw line. Along with dropping a smooth 36, Faber added to his career night by throwing in four assists, five rebounds, and two steals. Other key performers for the Tars were freshmen forward Isaac Codrey and rebounding sensation Placide Muhizi.

The Lady Tars continue to dominate the Sunshine State Conference by beating the Eckerd College Tritons, making their record 17-3 overall, but more importantly 8-0 in their Conference. The team was led by Senior Lindsey Woodcock's amazing ability to score as well as Gabrielle Blankenfeld's outstanding rebounding skills. This win is the ninth victory in a row and ranks the Lady Tars 24th in the nation in Division II basketball.



KILLER CROSSOVER: Eric Faber gets ready to break the ankles of another defender.



INTENSE FOCUS: Lindsey Woodcock takes it to the hoop, leaving behind a struggling defender.