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The Sandspur

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APRIL 2, 2004

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A Tour to Remember

Rollins' Chamber Singers Ensemble has had a busy schedule over the last few weeks, including a trip to Washington, D.C.

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Liberty and Justice for All?

The Supreme Court will soon hear the infamous case from California challenging the inclusion of the words "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance. Is the long-standing tradition Constitutional?

page 13

Intramural Ping Pong



The Rollins Intramural Sports Program's most recent endeavor showcases an unusual yet fascinating activity for students.

page 15

Nearly 40 Cars Vandalized in Weekend Rampage

■ Cars parked in the SunTrust Garage had their windows smashed Sunday morning.

by **Mark Bartschi**
production manager

Dozens of students were shocked to discover early this week that their cars had been seriously damaged or robbed Sunday morning in the most extensive case of vandalism in Rollins history.

Thanks to a report from an eyewitness, Christopher Hyatt, a 31-year-old Hamilton Holt student, has been accused of smashing the windows of approximately 40 cars with a baseball bat and looting many of the vehicles. The vandalism occurred on the fourth floor of the SunTrust Parking Garage Sunday morning at approximately 5 a.m.

In a campus-wide e-mail, Campus Safety Director Brad McKown reported, "All stolen items were recovered, and the police are in the process of returning them to the owners."

Hyatt has already been charged with seven counts of burglary, and investigators say that more charges are likely to follow. He is currently being held at the Orange County Jail.

Despite thousands of dollars in damage, no one was injured during the rampage. Dan Ehreiser, '05, whose car was vandalized and robbed, commented, "It's unfortunate when something like this happens. It's a reality check when crime affects you. Nevertheless, for everything that was stolen, it's fortunate that no one was in harm's way. The things that were

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A LOUSY WAY TO START THE WEEK: Dozens of cars were vandalized Sunday in the garage.

Clarke Admits U.S. Failure Farewell Luncheon

■ Former chief of counterterrorism suggests negligence in the Bush administration.

by **Erika Batey**
asst. news editor

Last week, former counterterrorism chief, Richard Clarke, made the startling accusation that the Bush administration refused to consider terrorism a serious threat and priority before the September 11th attacks. Despite the attempts of Bush and others to, "create a sense of urgency," he says their warnings were largely ignored.

Clarke's testimony opened with an apology to the family and friends of the victims of 9/11. Then in a startling statement asking



WE FAILED YOU: Clarke addresses the Council for Emerging National Security Affairs at their fourth annual convention.

for forgiveness, he placed the blame on himself and the US government. "Your government failed you, and I failed you," he said. "We tried hard, but that doesn't matter because we failed you. And for that failure, I would ask, once all the facts are out, for your understanding and for your for-

giveness."

Coming at the time of the televised hearings of the "National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States" panel, this statement has caused extreme controversy. It has particularly resulted in stern criticism and defense from

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Local community leaders gather for a luncheon to honor Dr. Rita Bornstein.

by **Isaac Stolzenbach**
staff reporter

The Winter Park Chamber of Commerce held a farewell luncheon in honor of Rollins' College President, Dr. Rita Bornstein, who was showered with compliments on the 31st of March 2004.

Dr. Bornstein, winner of many lifetime achievement awards, graduated with her English literature B.A. and M.A. degrees from Florida Atlantic University before earning her Ph.D. at University of Miami in educational leadership. She is the author of numerous educational journals; several

book chapters, and published two books. Perhaps her largest legacy is that she quadrupled Rollins' endowments from \$39 million when she started here in 1990.

The luncheon was gala affair, consisting of local businesses and leaders, which included: Sam Stark, President, Winter Park Chamber of Commerce; Dr. John Hitt, President, University of Central Florida (UCF); Dr. Ruth Prather, Provost, Winter Park Campus Valencia Community College; and Kenneth "Kip" Marchman, Mayor, City of Winter Park. All participants were full of compliments for Dr. Bornstein's achievements.

Winter Park Mayor, Kip Marchman, was sad that she was leaving, but

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Weekend Vandalism

Richard Clarke Admits Government Failures

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taken can be returned or replaced."

Many frustrated students blame the college for the incident. Mallory Masters, '07, said, "I find it hard to believe that if Campus Safety was really patrolling our campus as they say they were, this man would be able to vandalize 40 cars without them hearing or seeing it."

Campus Safety insists that security is adequate. In McKown's e-mail, he assured students, "We believe that this isolated incident does not reflect the safety of the garage. The garage was designed with safety in mind—open architecture, extremely good lighting, emergency call phones, and more."

With the resources available to the college, at least three officers are typically on duty at any given time. One staffs the office, while two patrol the campus. Since officers concentrate on residential areas, buildings like the parking garage are not constantly under guard.



HYATT

Campus Safety can be reached from the parking garage, as well as any courtesy phone location on campus, by pressing the red help button or calling (407) 646-2999. Officers will gladly offer an escort to students uncomfortable traversing the garage or campus alone.

Lieutenant Julius Jacobs requests, "Those who have not verified the condition of their vehicle and its contents should contact Campus Safety and the Winter Park Police Department as soon as possible."

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the White House. Secretary of State, Colin Powell, refused Clarke's testimony, saying that terrorism was regarded as a number one priority by Bush before the new administration even took office. CIA Director George Tenet also testified stating that both the Clinton and Bush administrations took the threat of terrorism seriously.

However, Clarke firmly stands by his claim that terrorism was not viewed as urgent by the administration.

Many of the attacks have been centered on national security advisor, Condoleezza Rice. Clarke attacked Rice on CNN's "Larry King Live," saying, "If Condi Rice had been doing her job...if she had a hands-on attitude to being national security advisor when she had information that there was a threat against the United States...[the information] would have been shaken out in the summer of 2001." While her predecessor in the

Clinton administration, Samuel Berger, felt it was vitally important to hold daily meetings after a possible terrorist attack warning, Rice chose not to do this. Many members of the commission panel were also angry at Rice for not appearing before the panel.

In response, she argued that she had "nothing to hide." She stated, "I'm more than happy to spend as much time as they would like answering further questions." She strongly affirms that a strategy to eliminate al Qaeda was already in place before the September 11 attacks.

After much debate, Rice has agreed to testify in public, under oath. The White House had refused this request initially, stating that it would be a violation of executive privilege. They are now giving her the opportunity to rebut Clarke's criticism publicly, however, under the condition that this will not set a precedent for testimony by White House staff and that additional public testimony will not be

requested.

Clarke's recently published book, *Against All Enemies*, and this public testimony have taken courage and have brought the issues into the limelight.

In order to prove false, any claims that his earlier testimony from a July 2002 hearing contradicts his recent statements, he has welcomed it as declassified. He is asking for an end to the White House's "vicious personal attacks." "The issue is not about me. The issue is about the president's performance in the war on terrorism," he stated. He refuses to show any support to any presidential candidate, stating that his motivation for writing the book and coming out with this testimony was to help advise the country on how not to repeat mistakes.

The debate is expected to continue for weeks, and a public report by the September 11 commission is due by late July.

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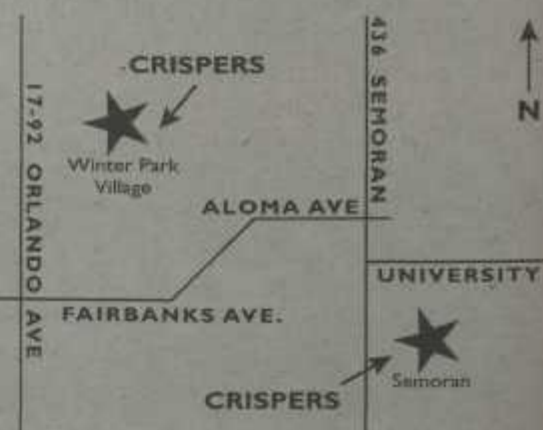
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Rollins Helps to Save Lives

■ Rollins aids in the fight to cure cancer with the Winter Park and Maitland Relay for Life.

by **Brittany Lee**

news editor

Relay for Life of Winter Park/ Maitland took place from Friday March 26th at 5 p.m. to Saturday the 27th at around noon at the Showalter Field in Winter Park.

The Winter Park event's signature sponsors were Sprint, Maze Information Solutions, WFTV, and the Darden Restaurant, but many others, particularly all involved from our campus, were vital to the success of the event.

Relay for Life is a signa-

ture event created by the American Cancer Society to, as the organization states, "mobilize communities across the country to celebrate survivorship, remember those who lost their lives to cancer, and raise money for the fight against cancer." The idea for Relay was born back in 1985 when Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon and runner, walked/ran 83 miles to earn a total of \$27,000 for the American Cancer Society. The very next year, 220 participants on 19 teams joined Dr. Klatt in this overnight event. Since then, the event has spread to 3,800 communities in the U.S. and eight foreign counties.

What started as the efforts of one man has become a worldwide initiative to aid in the fight against cancer.

Relay for Life is open to all in the community, and participants join teams to raise money. Money can be obtained through individual or company donations, or by holding events such as car washes and garage sales. Each team is asked to have a participant walking the track at all times, even into the night.

Rollins along with others in the Winter Park community worked for months to organize this local Relay event. Teams formed far in advance and found ways to raise money, ranging from selling mall gift certificates to approaching local businesses for donations.

Some teams got donations for each lap walked while others obtained donations regardless to the distance walked. The day of the event, Showalter field was

peppered with tents, assembled by each team as rest areas throughout the day and into the night. Along with tents for rest were ones containing raffles and food that raised additional funds for the American Cancer Society. In addition, luminary lamps were sold to those that knew cancer victims.

Rollins students were well represented at the event and many organizations including IMPACT, SGA, Residential Life, NCM, TKE, and Phi Delt, formed teams. These Rollins' teams were an integral part of Relay for Life and contributed greatly to the total funds raised. Cara Swan, '07, who was involved with organizing the IMPACT team, said about the event, "I felt a good sense of community because so many so many Rollins stu-

dents were participating." Participant Farooq Haque, '07, adds "It was an engaging experience that allowed me to think about those with cancer, something that I wouldn't do on a normal day."

An emotional first lap was walked by cancer survivors, donned in shirts proclaiming "I am a Survivor." After this, all the teams sent members onto the track. Participants continued to walk into the night, with activity slowing at around midnight but picking up again in the morning. At noon the walking/running commenced.

In total, the Winter Park Relay Team raised \$115,000. Thanks goes out to all those involved with Relay for Life, it was a truly memorable event that aided a more than worthy cause.

Bornstein Luncheon



photo / ISAAC STOLZENBACH

LEADING WOMEN: Rollins president Rita Bornstein and Valencia Provost Ruth Prather

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felt that she has set the standard in Academic excellence for others to follow, "...she is not only an excellent leader, but also a witty and gracious person...she has raised the bar of a national recognized institution." Just before presenting Dr. Bornstein with The Key to the City, he made a proclamation, "I, mayor, do hereby declare March 31, 2004, Dr. Rita Bornstein Day."
Ronald Blocker, Superintendent of Orange County Schools, remembered when he was a principle and Dr. Bornstein was the college presidential candidate. He read aloud to the crowd her inaugural address from her acceptance speech, which embodied the future Dr. Bornstein has envisioned for the school, and stated,

"She has more than fulfilled that."
Under Dr. Bornstein's leadership, Rollins College has been named #2 in the Southern Region and #1 in Florida, for the last nine consecutive years and Arts and Sciences enrollment has jumped 46%. President of UCF, John Hitt, commented sincerely, "you have transformed the life of the institution."
Sam Stark, President of Winter Park Chamber of Commerce, had many announcements. In an effort to cement Dr. Bornstein's legacy, she was given a very prestigious award for her continuous service to the community, the Citizen of the Decade Award and she was given a lifetime-membership to the Winter Park Chamber of Commerce.

Pres. Stark also announced a new scholarship for the Winter Park Chamber Youth Leadership group, The Dr. Rita Bornstein Scholarship Fund.
Dr. Bornstein seemed almost overwhelmed by all the attention and well wishing, when asked how she felt about the days events she commented, "I am thrilled and honored by the event."
Dr. Bornstein will pass the baton to Dr. Lewis Duncan on August 1, 2004, but will remain an integral part of the Rollins' community. She is being assigned a chair in the Philanthropy and Leadership Department, which includes an office in the Hamilton Holt building, after taking a one-year sabbatical.

Ad Attacks

■ New ad compares Bush, Kerry records on middle-class tax cuts.

by **Matt Stearns**

syndicated writer

The Media Fund, an independent organization that's working to defeat President Bush in his re-election campaign, began airing a new television ad Monday comparing Bush's record on middle-class tax cuts with that of his Democratic opponent, Massachusetts Sen. John Kerry. The ad attempts to counter the president's portrayal of Kerry as a tax-loving liberal, and to portray Bush as a tool of the rich.

THE AD: The ad says Kerry voted to eliminate the tax code's so-called "marriage penalty," voted for an increased child tax credit and proposes to roll back tax reductions for "America's wealthiest 1 percent, helping pay for a middle-class tax cut." It says Bush "raided Social Security to pay for a tax cut for millionaires. And he supported tax breaks for companies that export jobs."

THE FACTS: The "middle class tax cut" the ad mentions includes Kerry's proposals for a college-tuition tax credit, a \$50 billion fund to offset recent state and local tax and tuition hikes, and a tax credit for health-insurance premiums for small businesses and their employees.

The ad doesn't address the fundamental problem of Kerry's fiscal plans, which

Bush's ads point out: That Kerry's tax increase for people who make more than \$200,000 a year wouldn't come close to raising enough money to pay for all of his proposed new spending. His proposed tax hike would raise about \$250 billion, and he's proposed more than \$900 billion in new spending. Any middle-class tax reductions would expand the gap between spending and revenue.

As for Bush, to call his tax cuts a "raid" of Social Security is misleading. They do reward the well-to-do more than the middle class, but the well-to-do pay more in taxes.

The president's tax reductions have helped drive up federal budget deficits, and when that happens, the Treasury sells bonds from the Social Security Trust Fund to pay for general government operations. If there were no deficit, the government still would sell bonds from the Social Security Trust Fund, only it would use the proceeds to pay down government debt. In neither case is Social Security weakened, except to the extent that the entire federal government is weakened by having federal debt expand.

Bush did support killing a tax break that helps companies export goods, and the loss of that break could encourage companies to move jobs overseas, but Congress hasn't yet approved the president's proposal.

Rollins Professor Becomes Star

■ Rollins' own Dr. Valiante joins Golf Channel television show, 'Improve Your Game Night' as a psychological consultant.

by **Caitlin Geoghan**
managing editor

Rollins' professional staff has added a new celebrity to its ranks. Dr. Giovanni Valiante is now a part of a television show that airs on the Golf Channel (channel 58), at 8:30 p.m. on Mondays. The name of the

show is "Improve Your Game Night," and he serves as the psychological consultant for golfers.

Dr. Valiante came to Rollins by way of University of Florida and Emory. He obtained both his Bachelors and Masters degrees from University of Florida, and his Doctorate degree from Emory University. He came to teach at Rollins for two reasons. The first is that, "Dean Roger Casey shared a vision of Rollins with [him]," and he wanted to be a part of it. The second reason can be attributed to the fact that he was immediately enamored by the superior staff in the education department at Rollins.

While Dr. Valiante has gained notoriety as a golf psychologist, his first love is teaching. He is a teacher in the education department and a charismatic professor, who both challenges his students to high levels of achievement and encourages them to extend

beyond previously perceived capabilities. Dr. Valiante shares his natural inclination to professorship saying, "I would give up golf before giving up Rollins." Admittedly, however, the golfing component of his job is quite exciting.

Dr. Valiante's psychological focus is on the concept of self-efficacy and how it affects education performance. Put in laymen's terms, self-efficacy is essentially self-confidence and perception. Many psychologists have contended that higher self-efficacy yields higher academic success. Basically, the more students are encouraged to believe that they are capable of a high level of academic performance, the more likely they are to do so. Dr. Valiante decided to see if this same concept could be applied to golfers. He began counseling some friends on their game and giving them pointers on how to improve. News of his ability to improve golfing performance through psychological advice spread quickly through the professional golfing community.

Through this avenue of his career, Dr. Valiante has had the opportunity to meet and work with many noted golfers. He recently met Kevin Costner, an avid golfer. But, believe it or not this is not, in his eyes, the



DAVIS LOVE III: This prestigious player is a 14 time PGA Tour Winner who recommends Dr. Valiante.

most appealing part of his job. Chad Campbell recently won the Bay Hill Invitational. The interesting aspect of Campbell's game is the fact that Dr. Valiante coached him. "That's the coolest part of my job, coaching someone to a victory" exclaims Dr. Valiante.

Dr. Valiante eventually developed a reputation on golf tours as an expert game analyst. At the same time, the Golf Channel was looking for an analyst to delve into the psychological aspect of the game. They called Dr. Valiante, and he agreed to participate in the show. Dr. Valiante expresses the goal of "Improve Your Game Night," as a way "to help

amateur golfers improve their game. The tips offered on the show, however, are not limited to assisting golfers. Dr. Valiante deals with "fundamental psychological issues that transfer across athletic domains."

Tune into "Improve Your Game Night," to get some important pointers on how to improve both athletic and academic performance. Dr. Valiante's self-efficacy focus is a helpful way to approach any impeding task. To learn more about his golf psychology and self-efficacy, log onto his website, www.fearlessgolf.net or attend his seminar here at Rollins on April 19.



MATT KUCHAR: The 2002 Honda Classic Champion poses with Dr. Valiante, his golf psychologist.

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Rita Rocks!

The entire campus community is invited to the campus celebration.

Friday, April 16
11:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.
on the Great Mills Lawn

The lunchtime celebration and concert will honor the Presidency of Dr. Rita Bornstein.

The event will include a concert by the band The Return (a Beatles tribute band), raffle prizes, food and special surprises!

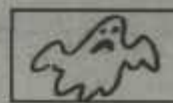


■ Learn more about the life and legacy of Rollins College's very own phantom.

by **Heather Williams**
staff reporter

OOOOOOHHHHHHH...WHOOOOOOOOO. Is that the sound of a ghost? Could it be true, here on Rollins' campus? No, it is just Annie Russell, an internationally known actress of the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. The Annie Russell Theatre, along with Knowles Chapel, is the second landmark at Rollins listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Both erected in 1932 by then Rollins President Hamilton Holt, the Theatre has been recognized for its architec-

The Amazing Annie



ture and beneficial role in arts and education in the Winter Park community. Annie Russell was born in Dublin, Ireland in 1869. After her father's death her mother moved the whole family to Montreal, Canada. As a seven year old, Annie was chosen for her first role in the play *Miss Moulton*. Annie's remarkable performance at such a young age won her much attention and became the start of a very successful acting career.

At the young age of thirteen Annie was so determined to continue her love of being on stage that when turned down at an audition, she returned the next day in a dress she made to look older and won the part. Her income gained from these roles was beneficial in supporting her family and also furthering the pursuit of her

acting career. With each role, Annie became more and more well-known around the world and her future became even brighter. Annie has been called the "darling of the London and New York stage" because of her notoriety and popularity. It was as if Annie had the King Midas touch; any show she was in became an instant success.

During the peak of her career Annie met a woman named Mary Louise Curtis. This woman would eventually come to change her life. Annie continued adding to her list of remarkable accomplishments during World War I. During this time period, she led other women of the Stage Women's War Relief Committee in building an 800 seat theater in order to perform for the injured troops. When her own health began to decline in 1929,

Annie moved to Winter Park, where she would reside for the rest of her life. It is then that the creation of the Annie Russell Theatre at Rollins College came about. Annie's and Mary's friendship had flourished over the years and Mary said to Annie, "The building is just my loving tribute to you as a woman and artist and dear, life-long friend, but you will give it a soul. Your spirit and knowledge and artistic integrity will be the inspiration for the youth of Rollins College, privileged to work under your guidance." Once the Theatre was built Annie came out of retirement to perform in one last show on the stage which was built in her honor. She played the part of the Queen in Robert Browning's *In a Balcony*. Rumors abound of the presence of Annie's ghost in the



Theatre, and many students have testimonials of varying incidents. Regardless of her questionable presence today, Annie Russell was a dominating presence in the past that greatly served and contributed to life at Rollins for many generations to come.

Beware Of What's Below

■ An idiot's guide to water safety and the real and not-so-real sea creatures.

by **Karina Mc Cabe**
features editor

Remember how your parents always warned you against putting your hand into the garbage disposal, because you weren't supposed to put parts of your body into anything that you couldn't see? Okay, well, maybe everyone's parents didn't put it quite like that, but it is good advice anyway, and it should be heeded particularly now as the weather gets warmer and everyone heads to the nearest vat of water, be it the beach or the lake, to cool off.

While *Jaws* was somewhat of an exaggeration, the truth is that there are menacing, dangerous creatures in the water, even in Florida. Some, however, are considered elements of fiction or folktale, but scientists are not positive about the existence of many supposed creatures that lurk in the water, including Loch Ness' Nessie, the Lake Storsjön Monster in Sweden, and Ogopogo of Lake Okanagan in Canada. North America is not exempt from this list either, as cryptozoologists suggest the existence of a Lake Erie monster and a Flathead Lake monster in Montana, both of which have been the object of

numerous recent sightings. Every region appears to have its cryptozoological creature.

Cryptozoology, according to www.lochnessinvestigation.org, is a term that was created in the 1950's, and it refers to the study of animals that are of astonishing, unrecognizable dimensions. For more information on Cryptozoology, one can subscribe to Rip Hepple's "Nessletter," which has been in circulation for a quarter of a century, or join the *International Society of Cryptozoology*.

These "creatures," however, may in fact be figments of people's imaginations. There is enough evidence to suggest that "Nessie," who

necked aquatic seal," according to Mark Chorvinsky, a Loch Ness investigator. On the other hand, there is always the case of believing is seeing (right Santa?). If one is so convinced by all of the media hype that a mystical, dinosaur-like creature lurks in the water and has evaded sonar equipment for almost 70 years, then one may in fact perceive that this is reality, and almost convince oneself that he or she can see a sea creature even if there is nothing there.

Case in point, in 1993, a Scottish woman, Edna Mac Innes, reported watching the Loch Ness monster for ten minutes; however, when she developed her photographs, there was no sign of any



Is Nessie really an oversized River Otter?

is said to be a forty-foot long, snakelike creature with camel-like humps and horns, may actually be a deer, particularly since the deer in that region have a tendency to swim in the lake. There is also a theory that "Nessie" may be a "snake-like primitive whale known as a zeuglodon, a type of long-

creature in the picture, though it did reveal the ripples of what may have been either a boat or a large creature. In total, there have been at least 3,000 sightings of "Nessie," but it is nearly impossible for scientists to determine whether she exists since the Loch is enormous. Mark Chorvinsky



photo / MYSAPCE.CO.UK

LOCH NESS MONSTER: Would you want to go swimming with this creature?

reports that it is "Nearly 1000 feet deep and 24 miles long." As a result, the only conclusive evidence remains that there are large animals within Loch Ness, but even modern sonar technology is unable to determine if "Nessie" exists.

On the other hand, the water is home to many, more immediate dangers, and Florida is home to several of these, including alligators, sharks, and Piranhas. Sharks do not have the tendency to attack quite in the way that *Jaws* portrays; however, they will attack if provoked, or even at the scent of blood.

Most Floridians know this anyway, but two years ago, an elderly man who had spent much of his life swimming in the Gulf of Mexico lost a limb to a shark even though he did not antagonize it. The mere presence of the man had disturbed the shark enough to attack, and if there had been no one there to rescue the man, or if he had not kept a cool head, then perhaps the shark would have been disturbed

enough to kill.

Alligators are equally, if not more so, dangerous. In fact, according to experts at Busch Gardens, right now is breeding season for alligators; therefore, it is especially dangerous to disturb the females of this species, as they will instinctively attack anyone who approaches their territory, as they view this invasion as a threat to their offspring's well-being.

So, during Spring, before you go swinging from tree vines into the nearest lake (a more likely, but less interesting, scenario would be that you go kayaking or swimming), make sure to take note of the dark, murkiness of the lake bed, and then be sure to observe the overhanging bushes whose branches dangle into the water concealing the edges of the lake, feel safe still? Just make sure you don't get in the situation where you question, hey, why is that log coming towards me? Hey, why does that log have eyes? Hey, why does that log have teeth...?

SIMsations: A Virtual Reality

■ A virtual fixation: computer game "The Sims."

by **Peggy Rogers**
syndicated reporter

Little virtual people in little virtual homes, "The Sims" are so lifelike that players of the personal-computer game often fashion characters after themselves.

Some have rewritten their own troubled childhoods and marriages.

And some take their frustrations out on the little people.

"Two of the most fundamental truths about people is that we love to create and we love to destroy," says Jon "PyroFalcon" Habib, who writes a free and popular strategic "Sims" manual posted on many Web sites. "There's always a new way to create a family. And, of course, there's always a way to burn, electrocute or starve" a Sims.

"The Sims" is the nation's top PC game for the fourth year running, and the even more realistic "Sims 2" is expected to be released this year. The game, created by the Redwood City, Calif.-based Electronic Arts, has sold more than 28 million

copies worldwide and been translated into 17 languages. The expansion packs feed this popularity and the surging sales.

In "The Sims," which has spawned the creation of seven best-selling games that keep expanding play, the players create characters that they name, dress, assign personality traits and color to, and build homes for.

One woman scripted a game based on her sister's life, mirroring her entrapment in an abusive marriage and her eventually successful efforts to free herself.

Wedner Charles, 19, calls it "a very, very creative game," one that's "real life-like and entertaining." After selling the game by day at the Best Buy in Aventura, Fla., Charles says, he goes home and plays "The Sims" almost every night.

His main character, named Wedner Charles and modeled on himself, often goes out on the town.

"I go downtown, and I'll greet the women, and I'll talk to them," Charles says.

The player must tend to "The Sims'" every need - and needy they are.

While you can assign them some free will, you must steer them to socialize,

make meals, have fun, surround themselves with possessions and make it to the bathroom in time. Should they wet their little Sims pants, they'll suffer great embarrassment and need to be hoisted into the shower.

You must also make "The Sims" practice such job skills as cooking (by reading books) and mechanical ability (by toiling at a work bench) to get ahead at work and be able to buy more expensive possessions. Sims who grow too depressed stop obeying their players' orders and can even die.

Starting with the originally rural, cul-de-sac setting, the packs have introduced wild house parties, hot downtown dates, a sweeping vacation resort, movie and music studios that create Sims superstars and pet shows, the latter in an expansion game called Unleashed.

"I actually tried to bribe the Wal-Mart clerk to try to get the Unleashed expansion pack a few hours before midnight when it came out," says Juliet Violette, of Las Vegas, who describes herself as "a 33-year-old mom who is hooked on 'The Sims.'"

"When 'The Sims' Hot Date came out, my 5-year-

old daughter and I sat in the store and watched the FedEx truck unload," she says. "We weren't about to wait any longer."

Players steer Sims by highlighting characters' heads and clicking on objects or other characters. Click on a refrigerator, and a Sims can eat or serve a meal or grab a snack. Click on another Sims, and your highlighted character might hug, kiss or compliment the other one or talk, brag or even propose to it.

But you often cannot predict the outcome. The second character might slap the original, who might burst into tears.

Players gather around hundreds of fan Web sites and chat forums, where they talk like lifelong friends, form clubs and download tens of thousands of characters, furnishings, prebuilt homes and possessions custom made by other players.

One participant, known by her screen name of Raveena, has created 1,264 items that have been downloaded more than 22 million times at www.thesimsresource.com, according to the Web site's count.

So many people spend so much time creating and

playing "The Sims," that fans have become sensitive to a portrayal of them as "freaks without lives."

Many observers point out that Sims players form valuable friendships and communities. And sociologists and industry experts say people can learn about juggling the elements of their lives from such simulation games.

"It's literally a test drive: You can do whatever you want, and there's no danger," said Richard Ow, game-industry analyst for the NPD Group, a research firm.

The game is taken so seriously that, though it creates characters in light, medium or dark skin, it has been criticized for creating too many white ones.

And some women have complained that while male Sims come in many shapes and sizes, too many female Sims have Barbie-like proportions.

Defenders say there are technical reasons for a white-skin majority and point out the players create most of the characters.

"This is like a sandbox," Sims producer Tim LeTourneau says. "You can build your own sand castle."

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Spreading Sweet Harmony Nationwide

■ The Rollins Chamber Singers group are having a hectic, but successful season.

by **Jami Furo**

staff reporter

Rollins Chamber Singers, an ensemble within the department of music under the direction of Dr. John Sinclair, have had quite a performance schedule for the past few weeks.

On Sunday, March 7, the group sang a Bach cantata under Dr. Kristoph Wolf during the Sunday morning service in the Knowles Memorial Chapel. Dr. Wolf is the leading authority on Bach in the world.

During spring break, the choral group went on a tour of the Washington, D.C. area, performing a wide array of musical selections, from classical composers like Mozart and Haydn to spirituals to folk songs and beyond. They left on Monday, March 8 at 7:00 in the morning in order to perform at two schools in the Jacksonville area later that

day. One of the schools was St. John's Country Day School, a private school grades kindergarten through 12 in Orange Park, Florida. The other was Douglas Anderson School of the Arts, a performing arts high school in Jacksonville, Florida.

After spending the night in Savannah, the group spent all of Tuesday, March 9, on the road, headed for Washington, D.C., where the group stayed for the next three nights. While Rollins Chamber Singers never actually performed in the city, they spent the next three days performing in the Washington area. On Wednesday, March 10, the group performed at the Sanford School in Hockessin, Delaware. On Thursday, March 11, it was off to Brooklandville, Maryland to perform two concerts at St. Paul's School for Girls and one later that day at St. Paul's School for Boys. On Friday, March 12, the Rollins Chamber Singers spent their last day in the Washington area performing at the Holy Trinity Episcopal Day School in Glenn Dale,

Maryland.

On the afternoon of Friday, March 12, the group left the Washington area. They arrived in Winston-Salem, North Carolina late on Friday night, and they spent the entire day on Saturday touring Winston-Salem. This included a private tour of the Moravian Music Foundation, led by Dr. Nola Reed Knouse.

On Sunday, March 14, the Rollins Chamber Singers performed at the Clemmons Moravian church in Winston-Salem for their Sunday morning service.

After eating a lunch provided by the church in the fellowship hall, it was time to head home, and the choir spent the rest of the day traveling back to Florida. They arrived late that night.

The performances did not stop there, however. Though the group is not currently crossing any state borders on a daily basis to show their stuff, they are not slacking off. On Tuesday, March 23, the Rollins Chamber Singers performed at the Bach Lunch Series at the First Congregational Church in Winter Park. On

Thursday, March 25, the group presented a concert in the Knowles Memorial Chapel. On Sunday, March 28, they performed at the morning chapel service for Alumni weekend.

Believe it or not, you have still not missed your opportunity to hear the Rollins Chamber Singers this year. They will also be performing at the groundbreaking for the new building for the department of music, the convocation, "Rita Rocks," and baccalaureate.



photo / ROLLINS MUSIC DEPARTMENT

FAR FROM HOME: The Rollins Chamber Singers, joined by selected orchestra members, pose on the steps of the Jefferson Memorial in Washington, D.C. during their Spring Break trip.

Organization Spotlight: Community Hearing Council

■ Are you being unjustly tried for an infraction of the code? This council is here to make sure you are not.

by **Heather Williams**

staff reporter

"Oh no, I got written up!" I am sure that at one point or another within their tenure at Rollins, almost every student will face this situation and recite this phrase. Those who are lucky enough to have not been faced with this yet do not really know what I am talking about, but for those who have it is a pretty inconvenient situation. After getting a letter of the write-up in their mailbox, many students are faced with very understandable questions. What is this for? Will my parents find out? What do I do now? What is going to happen to

me?

The Community Hearing Council, a peer judicial board here at Rollins, is a group of students that are here to answer those questions. Depending on the severity of a student's write-up, most students will come before the Community Hearing Council while at Rollins. The students on the board have been trained at how to handle these cases in a fair and respectable manner. They base their decisions and sanctions on the Code of Students' Rights and Responsibilities. This code is accessible to all students and can be found on the Rollins website under the Office of Judicial Affairs.

It has been reported that many students do not really know about the Community Hearing Council, what their presence on campus is, and what they serve to accomplish. The Community Hearing Council is simply a

group of students that are here to better serve their peers in helping them ensure a fair judicial process. The benefit of students going before their peers rather than having their case heard administratively is that their peers are more closely related to the problems that occur on campus and have a better understanding of where the student is coming from. They are able to relate to what the student is going through and in understanding their thoughts or intentions on why they got written up. This board is open to anyone who is interested in applying and is always looking for new members. Most common misconceptions about the Community Hearing Council are that they are here to get students in trouble. In actuality, the goal of the board is the exact opposite. It would be simple for one person to make a decision as to what will happen to these students, but one person's thoughts and perceptions of the events is not representative of anything fair or equal. The most productive aspect of having

a board of people is all the different backgrounds, thoughts, and opinions that greatly aid in deciding the sanctions of each student. The sole purpose of the Community Hearing Council is to support and educate the students in understanding why they committed a certain action to get written up in the first place. The board also serves to help them in becoming more involved on campus so

that this behavior does not repeat itself. The Community Hearing Council is becoming more of a strong presence here on campus in opening students' eyes to the many opportunities that are presented to them here. If you are interested in becoming a part of this wonderful group simply stop by the Office of Judicial Affairs, located on the first floor of McKean, and ask for Michelle Tano.



photo / Google.com

To find out your rights and responsibilities as a student at Rollins, read the student's code at <http://www.rollins.edu/reslife/rules/codes.html>

THE HOT SPOT: FARRIS AND FOSTER'S FINE CHOCOLATES

Simply amazing! There is no other way to describe this week's high quality chocolatier hot spot. An absolute masterpiece of an idea by both Farris and Foster. Upon entrance your nose will fill with sweet scents of handmade caramel, chocolate, amaretto, raspberry truffles, orange tarts, my personal favorite mint melt-aways and more. Then your eyes widen as you see that array of chocolates and the opportunity to tour where Foster, otherwise known as Mr. Chocolate makes 200 lbs. of chocolate a day. And get this, you can do it too!

All customers have the chance to learn the chocolatier ways and design their very own deserts. "Remember the scene in 'I love Lucy,'" Mr. Chocolate man first asks newcomers. That's exactly how the small shop operates. Conveyor belts run across the room, as the pure milk and dark chocolates rotate around metal wheels. With over 1000 different molds for all occasions, sprinkles, fruits, peanuts, gummy worms, marshmallows, Oreos and more, customers can create their very own masterpieces and take home one pound of chocolate at the end of their chocolatier journey for only \$20.00. This is not simple cheap Walgreen's chocolates, but fine and delicate high-quality chocolates, that melt in your mouth, like their special "mint melt away" that dissolve on your tongue.

Booked every night of the week, it is necessary to call in advance and book a party of four or more. Mr. And Mrs. Foster will welcome you into their home away from home and teach everyone the tricks of the trade. The personal touch makes the chocolate taste even better. They will cater to the customers' every need and even engage in chocolating themselves with you. Mr. Foster's apron embraces the entire concept of the chocolate shop: "How many calories does chocolate have? Who cares, it's chocolate?" This store has only been opened three years, but has had so much success that another store in Lake Mary opened and look forward to a Baldwin Park edition on the lake.

Need party items? Mr. and Mrs. Foster will gladly make molded items such as baby shower lollipops, or other items for all parties and holidays. For those chocolate lovers that are constantly watching their weight, not to fret, they stock sugar free, low-carb chocolates.

Feel free to stop by and try the candy apples, hot cocoa basket, or even take home an entire box of chocolates. Close your eyes and imagine the most exotic chocolates at the making of your own hands. It is great girls night out activity. Share time bonding, having fun, making chocolate, and adding new excitement to your lives. Don't ever let anyone make you feel guilty for splurging on fine chocolates. "Life, liberty and the pursuit of chocolate" as one of their signature magnet/business cards. Find more humor in a wide variety of magnets.

Enjoy indulging in sinful pleasures, take some home to the family, and don't forget to book your next party for all ages at this scrumptious chocolatier.

BY LARA BUESO



WILLY WONKA'S RIVAL: Step inside this local chocolate factory for a chance to indulge your sweet tooth. Experience some unique, handmade confections at this family owned business.

photo / LARA BUESO

The Coens Are Back!

■ With spastic colons and gospel music, *The Ladykillers* is a surefire hit.

by **Brian Hernandez**
editor at large

Sure it's another remake in a season of unoriginal screenplays, but the Coens' revamped version of the 1955 British Comedy *The Ladykillers*, successfully runs the gamut of ironic whimsy from subtle undercurrents to over-the-top belly laughs.

When a group of dastardly criminals descend upon the home of a stern churchgoing widow to rob a nearby riverboat casino, the buffoonery that follows is classic Coen brothers magic. Starring Tom Hanks as the eccentric criminal mastermind, Professor Goldthwait Higginson Dorr, PhD, and talented actress Irma P. Hall as the innocent little old landlady of the house, *The Ladykillers* is another "heist gone wrong" story with enough comedic surprises and great performances to keep you smiling long after your raisonnettes have run out.

As an Edgar Allen Poe quoting Colonel Sanders look-a-like, Hanks does a wonderful job of getting

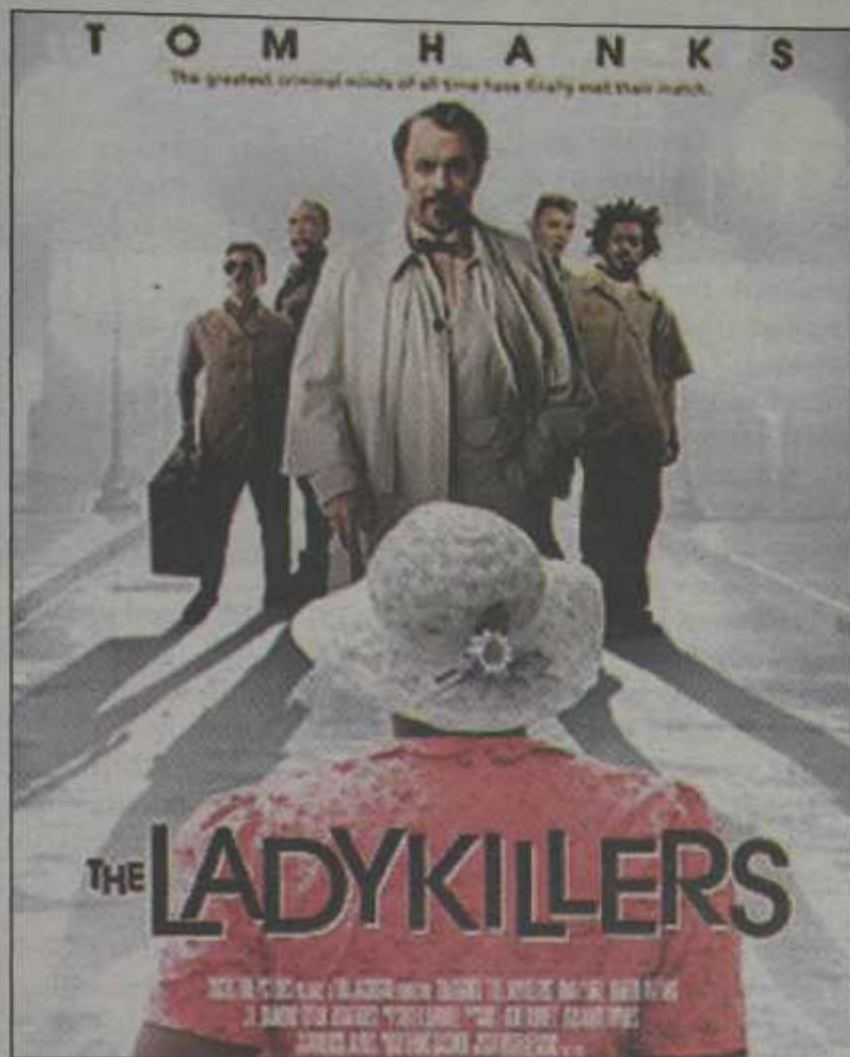


photo: HOLLYWOOD.COM

back to his comedic roots by forming a crew of classified-ad answering misfits (each with their own vital expertise), to tunnel their way from the root cellar of the little old lady's house, to the underground cash room of the Bandit Queen. But doing so under the watchful eye of the strict Christian homeowner proves more difficult than any of them have anticipated—especially the charm-

ingly sly professor.

With great cinematography, dark humor, and music that will make you dance in your seat and yell "hallelujah's," *The Ladykillers* is a film that's sure to entertain you. I give it three and a half severed fingers out of five – it would be four but a cat is gnawing on the other half (you have to see the movie to figure it out).

Eclectic New Artist

■ Prepare for *flutterby*, a new CD released by an Australian funky artist.

by **Caitlin Geoghan**
managing editor

Butterfly Boucher has just released her first album, *flutterby*. In a unique production, Boucher plays every instrument on the CD and was the lead in every stage of producing it. Her folky-rock sound gives her an edge, as if she needs one with a name like Butterfly. This funky Australian artist has extensive musical talent ranging from vocals, guitar, piano and bass. Her first CD is a tribute to her range as a budding new musician.

A look at the roots though, music is in Butterfly's blood. Her mother is a dancer and her father is a musician. She spent the majority of her childhood traveling the Australian out-

back with her parents and six other siblings. She was home schooled, and obviously took advantage of the many instruments available to her. Her musical start was in a band, The Mercy Bell, with her sister, Rebecca. Butterfly played bass and sang back-up vocals. She also wrote some songs during her time with Mercy Bell. One of these songs is the *flutterby* track, "Another White Dash," which reflects her traveling childhood, "there is something exciting about leaving behind...something about having everything you think you'll ever need, sitting in the seat next to you." Her lyrics aren't necessarily profound, but rather catchy and reflective.

While her debut CD has an overriding melancholic feel to it, Butterfly is by no means a completely jaded woman. Songs like "Busy" emphasize her hope for new opportunities and adventures; "this could be so fun, I might just like it, I might just

love it." This is a great first CD for Butterfly. Her voice is refreshingly unforced unlike the Britneys and Christinas of the current pop world.

Another testament to her eclectic abilities is her future-touring schedule. This summer she starts a tour with Sarah McLachlan and she has also been signed to open for the Bare Naked Ladies. We look for big things from Butterfly as she continues to delve into the folk/rock/pop musical world.



photo: THOMASPETILLO.COM

RISING STAR: Boucher will be touring with major acts this summer.

WORD ON THE STREET

by **Jessica Combs and Jessica Estes**

entertainment staff

Word on the Street investigators set out to uncover the future plans of some of Rollins' finest. Whether it be grad school, opening businesses, or giving back to the community, these students have a specific goal in mind.



"Grad school for criminal justice."

Abby Fidler, '07

"Attempt to pay off my student loans."

Kelly Welch, '07, and Janet Aponte, '07



"I'm going to find a cardboard box."

Brooke Harbaugh, '06

"Going to grad school for psychology."

Jaslin Goicoechea, '07



"Start Haque Enterprise: a computer that owns everything and anything."

Farouq Haque, '07



"I want to build a skate park for inner-city kids."

Stephan Belhomme, '07



Phantom Planet is "Always on my Mind"

■ Entertainment staff report back after a night of "California" rockin' out.

by **Jessica Combs**
and **Jessica Estes**
entertainment staff

This past Thursday the Entertainment staff headed out to the Orlando Social to check out the indie rock band, Phantom Planet. You may recognize their name

from their hit song "California", the theme for the popular, new Fox show *The O.C.* The group typically sticks to the west coast for touring, but with the recent success of their newest album, they've branched out to reach more of their audience. They're now playing to sold out crowds all across the country.

Two bands unfamiliar to us, Mellow Drone and Lola Ray, opened the show and riled up the crowd with their upbeat songs and energetic stage presence. By the time

Phantom Planet hit the stage, the audience was ready to rock. After Lola Ray finished their set, we headed over to the merchandise table, where they were giving away free CDs. The band members gladly autographed them for us and chatted while the next band set up. Unfortunately during this time, we lost our great spots by the front of the stage. We ended up standing in the right corner where the bands entered and exited the stage. Right behind us were some extremely loud, spastically dancing women. We quickly bonded with the security guard over this common enemy.

The set list (which the security guard gave us as a memento!) included songs from their last two albums (*The Guest* and *Phantom Planet*), which allowed old and new fans to sing along. The biggest crowd pleasers were "California", "Always on my Mind", and "Lonely Day", and "Badd Business," but the highlight of the night was the song "Big Brat." Before it began, lead singer Alex Greenwald informed the audience that during the next song, he would be ask-



photo / PHANTOMPLANETFAMILY.COM

SING IT ALEX: Lead vocalist, Alex Greenwald, serenades the audience during his song "Lonely Day."

ing everyone for a favor. Halfway through the song Greenwald started pulling audience members on stage. Our buddy the security guard led us up onto the stage where we resumed our rockin' right next to Sam Farrar, the band's bass player! After the song, Sam gave us a big grin (and gave Lara a nuggie!) as we left the stage. Needless to say, you probably already heard this because Lara has told this story to everyone by now.

They closed their set with the energetic tune from *The Guest*, "All Over Again." Greenwald jumped out into

the crowd for some good, old-fashioned crowd surfing. He also encouraged the audience to form a mosh pit. It was a great ending to an awesome show. Attendees who purchased their new CD at the merchandise counter received a wristband to attend the meet and greet after the show. For those of you who have yet to hear their new CD or have yet to hear Phantom Planet at all, we highly encourage you to check them out. Their catchy songs are sure to get you hooked too!



photo / PHANTOMPLANET.COM

THE BOYS OF PHANTOM PLANET: Alex Greenwald, Sam Farrar, Darren Robinson, Jacques Brautbar, and Jeff Conrad.

FAIRY TALES CAN COME TRUE!

If you've ever dreamt of creating memories for millions of Walt Disney World® Guests, this is your chance. We are now casting for **Disney Animated Character "look - alike"** and **Disney Character Performers**.

Qualified **Disney Animated Character "look - alike"** candidates should have a positive attitude, good speaking voice and resemble the characters in look and height. Selected candidates will also perform as costumed characters.

Qualified **Disney Character Performer** candidates should be able to demonstrate effective non-verbal communication skills.

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Please wear tennis shoes and comfortable attire that allows free movement.

Added consideration will be given for height ranges 4' 8" to 5' 0" and 6' 0" to 6' 3".

The War Wages On: America Ousted in Round 2!!!

■ I told you not to ban steroids, Bushy! Now all the other countries can run rough shod on us!

by **Eddie Huang**

humor editor

Thanks to the leadership of George Bush, America has officially been ousted from WWII. First, George thought it'd be a great idea to ban steroids among the U.S. soldiers, but he forgot to make sure the other countries weren't using. So, the Palestinians arrived averaging 225 lbs per soldier and raging! Not only were our soldiers under prepared, but he also decided to keep the team in the Middle East after fighting Iraq instead of flying to a neutral site where the water is drinkable. On top of all this, he had the team stay in the Palestinian Quarter and treated them to a night on Pourbon Street, where several soldiers got inebriated on P.L. O'Brien's homemade hand grenades and hurricanes.

The next morning, the Palestinians stoned the drunk Americans to death while chanting: "Keep

democracy and McDonald's to yourself!" Jessica Lynch was the sole survivor and she will be taking over for Martha on Living beginning next week while Stewart sports this spring's hottest color: orange. For the Americans who still care, here are the rest of the results:

#1 USA vs. #9 Palestine - Remember the Palemo!

#5 N. Korea vs. #4 Russia - The Russian Federation versus the Democratic People's Republic of North Korea. That's got a nice ring to it, but the last time I checked with Webster, democracy involves voting and human rights as opposed to a weapons of mass destruction program and famine. As a result of famine, the N. Koreans did not eat in between last week's win over Canada and their battle with Russia. They came out flat in the first half and Russia established an early lead. It became obvious that N. Korea was merely delaying the inevitable and tried to negotiate a surrender, but the Russian leadership stole a quote from "Rocky IV" and replied, "If he dies. He dies!"

#14 Ireland vs. Bye week - Dr. O'Sullivan was seen in Egypt being fanned by twelve year old boys and eating grapes with Cleopatra as he celebrated his triple-double from last week.

#10 Vatican vs. #2 Chiwan - Personally, I took the Vatican in this match up. How can you not like a team that starts the Pope at the point and God at Center as a player/coach? Unfortunately for the Vatican, Chiwan attacked on Sunday and God was unavailable for the game. Not only did they play without God, but they didn't get their team headbands back from the cleaners in time and were lacking team unity throughout the

match up. Since God called in and the Pope was in his mobile most of the game, Mel Gibson filled in as player/coach. The Vatican took an early lead, but the Chiwanese just kept coming. Apparently, the Chinese Generals used the Taiwanese soldiers as human shields and advanced slowly through the Vatican ranks. Billy Packard interviewed Hu Jintao after the game and asked, "How do you expect to keep winning if you lose 3 men for every one man the opposition loses?" Hu Jintao promptly responded, "We have plenty of reinforcements at Nike Town."

Hey Coach Put Him In

■ One theory and possible outcome of the parking garage fiasco.

by **Eddie Huang**

humor editor

Dear Coach Rikeman,

I know your team is on fire right now and you're currently holding the #2 ranking in the nation, but how did you let Christopher Hyatt slip under your radar? This guy is the next Barry Bonds waiting to happen and he's been slumbering your nose at the Holt school.

I'm upset, the students are upset, their cars are beyond upset, but most importantly Hyatt is upset. Last weekend, he couldn't stand waiting any longer and decided to let you in on his talent by racking up over 40 dingers in one night.

The cat is out of the bag coach and the students have spoken. I can't believe I pay 38, 40-thousand dollars a year to go to a school where we have a baseball program that let this guy's talent deteriorate in the parking garage.

I love you coach, but get this guy in the line up pronto. Move Halbert to the five-hole, put Hyatt in the three-hole, and have Toby protect him in the clean up spot.

With that kind of power in the middle of your line up, no one in D-II could even touch you. I don't know anything about Hyatt's defense, but if it's half as good as his offense, you'll pass Central Missouri State and be #1 in the nation by next week.

I know I'm just a lowly humor writer at The Sandspur, but I thought Hyatt's talent was just too obvious to go unnoticed.

If you need a couple of weeks to evaluate his skills and work him into the clubhouse, that's fine. I'd just like to see him in the line up by May so that I don't have to hide my car in the woods.

Sincerely,

Eddie Huang

Humor Editor



Examining Belief Beyond Knowledge

■ A pragmatic person's take on human knowledge and belief.

by **Alan Nordstrom**

columnist

Because of our human hunger for meaning (logos), we must turn either to knowledge or to belief to fill our logomaniac cravings. Where knowledge leaves off, belief takes over, and belief runs the gamut from sound hypotheses to utter delusion. Yet our need to make sense of our experience is paramount because to live in absurdity is intolerable and self-destructive. Thus one way or another, we strive to make sense of our lives and our world by constructing meaning from whatever resources are available that we can use: science, philosophy, religion, myth, or fantasy.

To rely on science as much as possible, with its rigorous methodology of testing and verifying, is best;

I say, when it comes to that domain of meaning science rightly governs, empirically and theoretically. Yet our need for meaning goes beyond the boundaries of what science can ascertain, particularly regarding our questions of purpose and value. If you ask such innately human questions as "Why are we here?", "What should I do here?", "Why has this happened to me?", and "Have I lived well?" then science can't fully provide you with the meaning you crave, at which point you may turn to philosophy, religion, myth, or fantasy for assistance and satisfaction, with their more or less plausible belief systems and schemes of meaning.

It seems to me, though, that most of the meanings we think we possess, even much of that we would call "true knowledge," are varieties of beliefs, which could be ranked as more or less credible and serviceable, but which remain in the domain of belief and not of rational-empirical knowledge, not

nailed-down science. In fact, 93.72% of our meaning, statistically speaking, is not knowledge but belief. Like the previous sentence. And that sentence, whether or not one believes it, is simply fiction. Nevertheless, I still assert that much far more than we readily admit of what we think we know and base our lives on, we only believe, with more or less justification. We only assume it to be true.

Credology, I suggest, would be an apt name for the study of human beliefs, the study of those assumptions we make to provide us with the meaning we crave so as to "make sense" of our existence. While science works from outside our belief conglomerations to clarify and certify where belief passes into knowledge, credology works from within to determine how useful and serviceable any belief might be to the believer.

For example, a Jehovah's Witness friend of mine, who has cut my hair for nearly

twenty years, gives me regular opportunities to hear about her belief system (though only if I ask, which I do). While I am no closer now than twenty years ago to adopting her religion, I have been increasingly impressed by its positive effects on her life and by her reports of how beneficially it works for her co-religionists to produce pious, peaceful, and virtuous behaviors. On the other hand, because Jehovah's Witnesses found their beliefs absolutely on biblical scripture and prophecy, they willfully narrow their minds to close out other ways of interpreting the meanings of human experience, often conflicting with scientific interpretations (as in the genesis of the universe and the existence of the Garden of Eden).

To take another example, one I find more plausible (or at least congenial with my disposition), what about belief in the soul? Despite science's efforts to weigh the departing souls of expiring people, souls seem more a

subject of belief than a matter of fact. So my credological question becomes: How would my believing in a soul of a certain sort affect how I live and how I think about existence?

It's appealing to me, for instance, to assume that I possess a soul that precedes and succeeds my present earthly incarnation and that is inscribed with a potential destiny it intends to accomplish during its present manifestation as me. Consequently, my job is to recognize and realize my soul's mission, bringing it to fulfillment within my lifetime. I find this belief more enlivening than to dismiss the soul as a phantasm and to live with no intimation of essential purpose and emergent potential.

Entelechy trumps absurdity in my book. It works for me, pragmythically. That is, it may be a myth, but it's practical, viable, and fruitful. And that is how I feed my own hunger for meaning: pragmythically.

College Athletes And Role Models

■ A higher standard for college athletes is needed.

by **John Ferreira**

staff reporter

It is a moment like none other. It is a special moment in sports when you are elevated to the top of the world. You have scored the game winning run, basket, or goal, and you feel like nothing can stop you. It is the magic of sports, and today, it is being ruined by people who are completely irresponsible. For most of us with no talent, special moments are remembered only in little league, or even for some in their imaginations. We all dream at one point of becoming professional athletes; it is a profession of which most males dream. Almost all people I know would give up their lives to play sports for a living. Children and teenagers idolize their favorite players, and a dangerous tendency is to also idolizing their greed and irresponsible lifestyle.

Why wouldn't anyone want to be a professional athlete? The perks are huge; first of all, you get to play a sport for a living. Most people take up sports as a hobby or a pastime. Wouldn't it be

great to play a sport all the time? Secondly, the salaries that these athletes get paid are insane. We've all heard about Alex Rodriguez's historic contract, LeBron's sneaker deal, and the astronomical amount that Real Madrid paid to get Ronaldo from Inter. The numbers for the NBA alone are staggering. An average basketball player is going to make \$2.4 million in 2003-2004. An AVERAGE player will make that money; the league minimum is around 250,000. That is just for a guy to sit on the bench and not play a single game. The last perk of a player is the amazing respect that comes with playing a sport. For some reason we all look up to people who can shoot three pointers or who can blow a ball away 400 feet. In high school it was like that. In college it is like that, and later on it is like that too. Athletic prowess has always commanded respect. Don't take me the wrong way; I am a huge sports fan. I watch Sports Center daily; I read up my sports teams everyday. I admire professional athletes, and I add to the sport madness of this country.

An issue that made me think about how we are mirroring the worst things that

sports has to offer can be summed up in two words: March Madness. The country is engulfed in a flurry of basketball games of kids who are in college. I wasn't too shocked to find out that the average graduation rate of players in the NCAA tournament was only 40%. How many times have we heard of cases of players losing eligibility because they can't manage a C in a class? There have also been famous cases of professors turning a blind eye to athletes' laziness because they simply are athletes.

If everybody in America wants to be a pro athlete shouldn't he or she be a moral example too? Some people think I'm wrong. Of course, they say athletes are regular people too. Should they be held to a higher standard? The answer is an emphatic yes. I'll repeat that: YES!!! College athletes are often the poster children for partying and good times. They are often involved with alcohol and drug abuse. It is not surprising to find then that there is a steroid problem in baseball and that alcohol and drug abuse is common in pro-sports. These bad habits carry over from college, and this needs to stop. I think that colleges

have the right to pry into athletes' personal lives because they are paying for their education. In most cases, student athletes all over the country are getting financial aid. Some get a free ride while others get some percentage off. Athletes should have the moral obligation to be role models because they are getting help from others to make something of them. I'll give it to you this way: there are many people in college that are forced to pay full tuition (yes those people do exist or else the college would go bankrupt). The college then uses the money taken from these full tuition students to existentially "pay-off" the education of athletes getting full scholarships. So basically, full tuitions or even half-tuition students are paying for the education that scholarship athletes are getting. This then puts money into the hands of athletes, because they don't have to pay for their education. It would be comforting to know that these athletes are being responsible. It would be comforting to know that they are taking the money and trust invested in them by students and the institution alike. The reality is very different though. Most col-

lege athletes could care less about their institution and even less about the students that are paying for their education. So what really happens is that the students that are paying tuition end up paying for parties and drunken binges, and not a solid education.

The NCAA should move to really crack down on this sort of irresponsible lifestyle that athletes lead. But what I find instead is complacency, mostly in Division I Schools with big programs. Most big schools make millions of dollars off the backs of student athletes, so they don't want to annoy the players. If alcohol keeps the players happy and motivated, so be it, even if it means sacrificing a bright and promising future. Most schools simply don't care about their athletes, and I also think that is irresponsible. Schools need to care more about the future of their athletes even if it means cracking down on the team star and telling him to go easy on the partying.

I have heard many stories about big sport schools that are absolutely disgusting. It is time for responsibility in the NCAA Division I programs, because that is where the major problem lies.

I Pledge Allegiance To...

■ The Supreme Court prepares to debate the issue of God in the pledge.

by **Robert Walker**

editor-in-chief

Brace yourselves boys and girls, because the pendants on the right and left will soon have a new hot-button issue to scream about. Currently The Supreme Court is hearing arguments in the case of Elk Grove Unified School District v. Michael A. Newdow.

For those unfamiliar with the case, Michael Newdow is an atheist who has an issue with the Pledge of Allegiance. His issue is that everyday at public school his child is forced to listen to a pledge that includes the words, "one nation under God." He feels his child is both being indoctrinated by Christian ideology and being made to feel uncomfortable in school.

Before we dive into the ideological battle it is important to understand what the pledge is and why we have it. I've tried asking around and it seems nobody knows. I even tried asking a schoolteacher friend of mine and she didn't have a clue, although she does recite it everyday.

Well, I did a little research and it turns out that that pledge was the brain child of Francis Bellamy, a schoolteacher. Bellamy came up with the pledge in 1892 as a means for schoolchildren to celebrate the 400th anniversary of Columbus' landing. When Bellamy wrote the pledge he made no mention to God or any organized religion. The "Under God" part was added in 1954 by President Eisenhower, who was under pressure to do so by the Knights of Columbus. In a show of how convicted he was to religious ideology like later added, "Our government makes no sense unless it is founded on a deeply religious belief—and I don't care what it is."

So, here we are in 2004 with this little pledge and the looming question of is: "under God" constitutional. Yes, yes it is. For starters I should clarify that I don't

support the idea of a required pledge. I think one's devotion to country, like one's devotion to a higher power, is a personal issue and should be left to the individual. However, I don't mind having the option to say the pledge any more than I mind the option of a moment of silence that can be used for prayer. But, making kids recite the pledge is fascist, nationalist, silly, hogwash, and it happens to be unconstitutional. If you don't believe me, check out the 1943 Supreme Court decision in the Barnette case. Of course, a court ruling means nothing if it isn't enforced, and this one isn't. Recently my thirteen-year-old brother informed me

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your culture happens to be that of the white heterosexual Christian, we do just fine embracing it. However, when it comes to the bulk of the world's cultures that don't fit this mold we have issues. We complain about immigrant kids who have limited English skills, as if it is their fault. We gripe about the racial minority welfare mother, ignoring that the bulk of welfare mothers are white women living in trailer parks in Kentucky, listening to John Cougar Mellencamp records. We blame the homosexual for destroying the moral fabric of society and the family unit, ignoring the fact that many televangelists are committing fraud everyday. And we still watch the black man with suspicion, as if he'll commit a crime at any moment, of course, most of the real nut jobs killers are white guys (Jeffery Dommer, Charles Manson, Hannibal Lecter...).

America isn't an embrative society. We do all we can to discourage difference and force people into a certain way of thinking and the pledge, with its "Under God" is no exception. I think it is wrong to force kids to recite what they don't believe and it is equally wrong for the school to create an uncomfortable learning environment. I truly believe the pledge does this. As U.S. troops invaded Iraq, a friend of mine's younger brother decided not to recite the pledge as an act of civil disobedience, of conscientious objection. After school, half the football team took turns kicking his butt. If that isn't an uncomfortable learning environment I don't know what is.

I hope the Supreme Court will see fit to follow the letter of the law and not allow their judgment to be swayed by their own religious beliefs (Judge Scalia I'm looking at you). If they do we could be amending the wording of the pledge for the first time in fifty years. I would like to recommend Robin Williams' solution of, "One nation under Canada and above Mexico."

Perhaps I am hoping for too much from this Court, but they have made some brave and just decision of late, so maybe they'll surprise even cynical old me.

*One Nation,
under Canada,
above Mexico...*

photo illustration / CAITLIN GEOGHAN

that failure to recite the pledge warrants detention at his school.

Yup, the school will punish him for exercising his constitutional right. Maybe I'm just an old-fashioned nut, who still believes in that freedom thing, but this frightens me. Schools should be teaching children their rights, not brainwashing them into chanting a nationalist mantra.

Are we, as a nation, so insecure about our national pride that we have to force kids to repeat a pledge of allegiance? Honestly, this is a sad state of affairs. If things keep going the way they are, these kids will inherit a mas-

see things from another point of view. Just because most Americans are Christians who would be fine with reciting this, not all are.

Personally, I'm a Catholic and, having been forced to recite the pledge in general, the "under God" part in specific always bugged me. I like to keep my government out of my religion and my religion out of my government. It's this wacky idea I came up with, I like to call it "Separation of Church and State."

America is supposed to be open to embracing different cultures; America is the melting pot. And as long as

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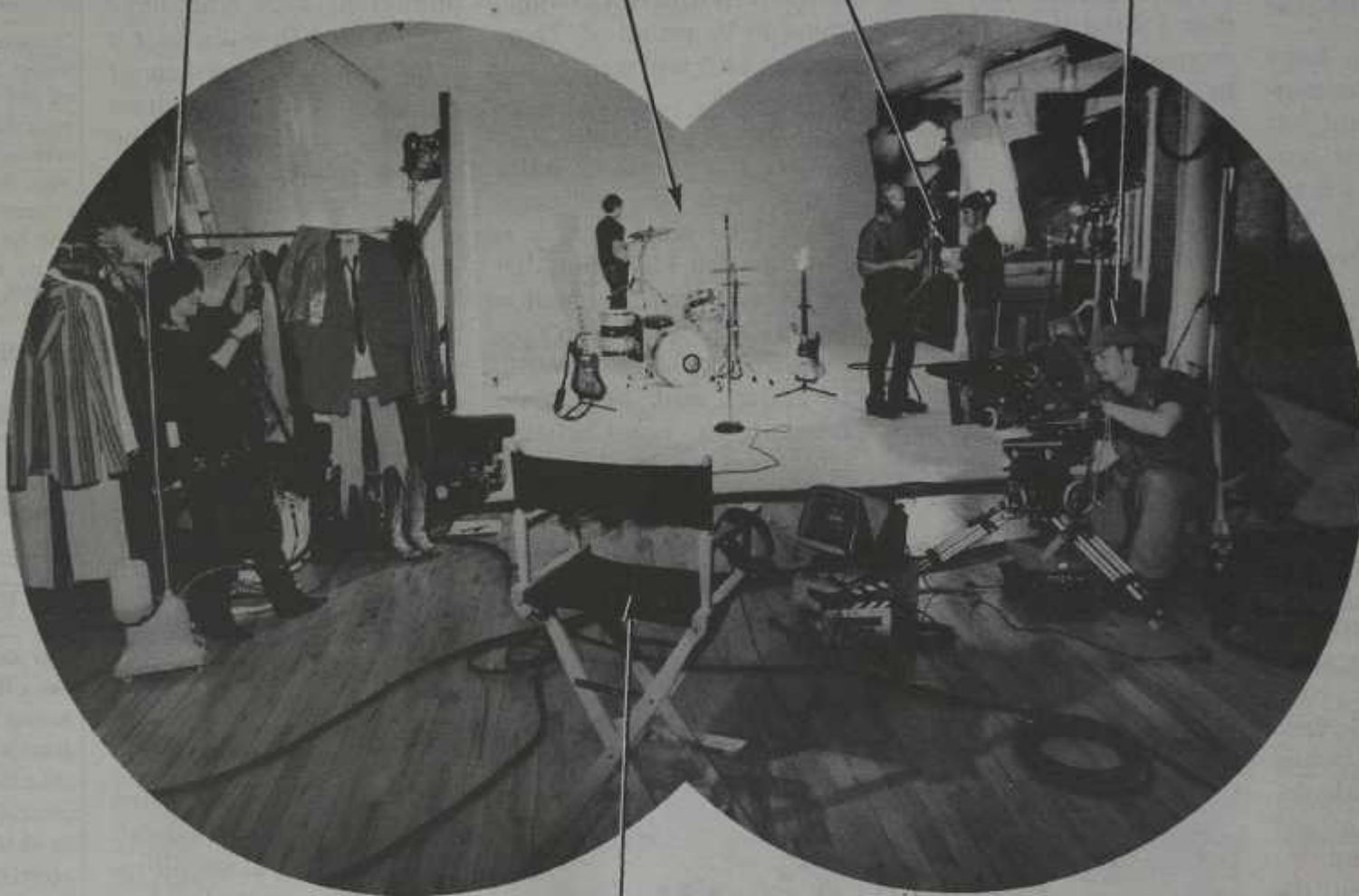
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The Sandspur
1000 Holt Avenue - 2742
Winter Park, FL 32789
Phone: (407) 646-2393
Advertising: (407) 646-2696
E-Mail Us At:
TheSandspur@hotmail.com
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Tars Baseball # 2 In Nation

■ The Rollins Baseball Team is destroying their competition and on their way to the playoffs.

by **John Ferreira**

staff reporter

The Rollins Tars baseball team is getting ready for the crucial last month of the season. The team celebrated moving up to number 2 in both the Collegiate Baseball Newspaper Rank and the National Writers Poll. Rollins is now only behind Central Missouri State for the national lead.

Rollins faced off against Eckerd last week and got a

split in the double header. In game one, and they beat Eckerd 3-2, but were didn't hit in the second game to lose 2-1, and ended Rollins amazing win streak. Toby Rice Rollins at the plate in game one went 3-5 with a RBI; Mike Crane and Jeff Halbert both got a pair of hits. Gene Howard picked up the win for the Tars. The Tritons took a 2-0 lead in the second inning with hits from Mickey Penrose and Chris Rosende. Rollins came back and put a run up in the third when Halbert doubled to left and then was brought in by a Rice sac fly. The Tars tied the game in the sixth, when Crane singled and scored on an error to make it 2-2. The game went into extra

innings; it was in the 12th that the Tars got the score and won the game. Crane knocked in Chris Munoz to give Rollins the victory.

In game two, the Rollins' hopes for extending their 20-win game streak were dashed by an amazing performance by Eckerd pitcher, Bill Evers. Evers tossed a no hitter, walked two, and struck out five. Eduardo



photo / RC SID

Chile suffered the loss, allowing four hits and two runs, while striking out six in five innings of work. Rollins scored first in the game in the third inning when Rice was hit to lead off the inning. He was brought home by a walk, a sac bunt, and an Eckerd error. The Tritons came back and took the lead in the fifth, scoring

two runs to make it 2-1. Each team was then retired in order, and it gave Eckerd the win, snapping one of Rollins longest win streaks at 20 games.

However, Rollins Baseball will continue their winning ways this weekend against their competition.

They're Not Forrest Gump But They're Good

■ Ping pong takes over the Alford Sports Center for a couple of days.

by **Jon Birdsong**

sports editor

The Rollins College Intramural Ping Pong Tournament was held in the two weeks, with 19 Rollins students competing for the title of "The Best Ping Pong Player on Campus." However it was not just Rollins students, faculty and graduate students also competed in this prestigious event. Individuals brought all different type of styles and paddles. Director of Intramurals Meagan Kula was "amazed at the quality level of ping-pong" held in the lobby of the Alford Sports Center.

The tournament was broken up in two weeks consisting of double elimination. The games were to eleven and it was whoever took the best two out of three. Numerous players were gone after the first day losing their first two matches. With the competition intensifying, the players who did not lose two games came back to play the following week.

As the sun set over Rollins' Campus, two players remained battling each other for the title of "The Best Ping Pong Player on Campus," Ryan Friel and James Gill. In the end, Ryan Friel took the title beating James 11-9 and 11-6. Not only did Ryan win himself a T-shirt, he added his name to a long list of past champions namely, Rollins golf sensation and two-time winner Rob Oppenheim.

Other outstanding performances besides James and Ryan include Sean Carr and Jeff Golden. The faculty did not fair that well with the farthest faculty member, Rich Morris playing only three games. The Intramural league is winding their 2003-2004 season down with Softball and Golf. So make sure you sign up for the 4 person golf scramble on by Tuesday, April 13 for the tournament that next Saturday the 17.



photo / ANDRE 3000

GRUELING DEATHMATCH?: Intramural ping pong pro's duel till exhaustion in the Alford Sports Center lobby.



photo / LLOYD CHRISTMAS

THE CHAMP: Here is the closest we have to a Forrest Gump on campus, because Ryan has taken the title as "The Best."

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What's Happening? ROLLINS CALENDAR

Friday 4-2

Mayor Penelas Lecture
Suntrust Auditorium
1:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

Women's Tennis vs. Eckerd
Martin Complex
3:00 p.m.

Saturday 4-3

Softball vs. Barry
Lake Island Park
1:00 p.m.

Sunday 4-4

Fall 2004 Study Abroad
Orientation
Galloway - 6:00 - 9:00 p.m.

Monday 4-5

LASA Meeting
Hauk 110 - 5:30 p.m.

Journalist/Author Matt Wolf
Galloway 8:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Tuesday 4-6

RHA Meeting
Warden - 4:30 p.m.

Baseball vs. Embry-Riddle
Alfond Stadium - 7:00 p.m.

Rollins Jazz Ensemble
Keene Hall 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

Wednesday 4-7

Men's Tennis vs. North FL.
Martin Complex - 2:30 p.m.

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

Softball vs. Saint Leo
Lake Island Park - 7:00 p.m.

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

Thursday 4-8

Music at Midday
Keene Hall 12:30 - 1:30 p.m.

Lip Sync Contest
Warden Gym 7:00 - 10:00 p.m.

Softball vs. Saint Leo
Lake Island Park - 6:00 p.m.

Mallet & Chamber Ensembles
Keene Hall - 7:30 - 8:30 p.m.

The Talented Ms. Elam

■ Rollins pitcher Jamie Elam pushes the Tars toward thier first championship.

by **Katie Pederson**

staff reporter

No one would have ever guessed that the little girl born twenty-something years ago during a Texas hurricane would eventually come to dominate Florida's very own Sunshine State Conference. But that's just what Jamie Alicia (as in Hurricane Alicia) Elam has come to do. Elam's pitching has led the Tars to an amazing 25 of their 32 wins, pitching all but 10 games this season, going 8-1 thus far in the SSC to currently tie for first place. With an amazing 0.87 ERA, she recently broke the Rollins record for most strike outs in a season, currently standing at a total 211. Jamie's amazing talent at the mound is additionally con-

firmed by her ability with the bat; she currently has the forth highest batting average on the team with an impressive .297 and stands second on the team with 5 season home runs.

Elam's softball career began at age four in her hometown of Ochelate, Oklahoma, where she says her father first initiated her pitching at age eight. Growing up, Elam was constantly involved in school and travel-softball, where her teams went to ASA Nationals six consecutive years. After graduating high school, she attended and played ball for Northeastern Oklahoma A & M Junior College, where her amazing pitching and batting power won her All-regional First Team and All American honors for the two years spent there.

Recruited to play for Rollins her remaining two years of eligibility, Jamie has already proven her skill and shown her dedication to her

team. Speaking of her teammates, Elam says, "I think our record misrepresents our talent and ability." Elam says she has found her home on and off the softball field with team members, who have learned to effortlessly play well together in the past seven months. The Tars are currently closing in on their year goal of a conference title, with their toughest competition Florida Southern yet to come.

Elam is Biology major with a minor in Spanish and hopes to eventually attend NYU or Miami to get her masters in Physical Therapy.



photo / RC SID

She is also a member of Habitat for Humanity and says she can be found all odd hours of the night and day "living" in Bush Science Center. Hey Rollins, keep an eye on this amazing athlete. The next year is full of many great things to come.

Golf Teams Go Crazy!

■ Rollins Golf Teams are revving their engines for the post season.

by **Jon Birdsong**

sports editor

The Men's Golf Team has picked up their games since the last time I wrote about them. In their last two tournaments, they have finished first and T- sixth. Individual players have stepped it up and brought their game for Rollins, their teammates and most importantly, Owen Kyle Frakes.

The two previous tournaments include The Fairfield Invitation in Myrtle Beach and El Diablo, no not the martini drink that Robert Goulet speaks about. However, Rollins won by 24

shots over the second place team.

Dan "The Man" Walters won the tournament with his new lady killer (pimp) hair style. Other top finishers include "Cock Diesel" or known to the Rollins public as Dave Cosper, Scott Wilson, and Tim Sunyog. Dave finished 2nd and Scott and Tim finished T-sixth. Cock Diesel is quoted as saying "I had it four under in the first round, but lost a few strokes on the back nine and shoot 72 to tie Dan "The Man" Walters for the day." The team was lead by Rollins graduate and former player Ben Daughn while Coach Frakes tended to the Basketball teams playoffs.

Last weeks tournament was The El Diablo, hosted by Division I team Marshall. Rollins ended up finishing a



photo / RC SID

2003-2004 MEN'S TEAM: This year's success is in full swing.

T- sixth in the D-I stacked field beating D-II rival West Florida. Dan Walters again had a strong third place finish against this competition of the D-I teams. The increasing popular Dan Walters still maintains a level head and focuses only on the team as he states "that the recent success of the Mens team will raise their confidence and bring everybody's game to the next level for the postseason."

The next tournament is this weekend and they plan to take the title and go into the postseason with more confidence and thrills provided mainly by "Cock Diesel and Company."

The Women's Golf Teams is playing to a similar drum. In their previous tournaments at Florida Southern, The Home Tournament, and

The Texas tournament.

The Women Tars won the Lady Moc Tournament hosted by Florida Southern by 30 strokes over its next competition. Freddie Seeholzer placed second individually. In the Rollins Home Tournament, they place second as a team to U of Miami who had their first victory in five years. In the Texas tournament, Charlotte Cambell was the medalist for Rollins. They finished a tie for sixth in the heavily D-I field. Charlotte Campbell is quoted as saying that "all the girls are shaping their games and getting ready to peak in the post season."

The Rollins golf teams are once again getting hot going into the post season and are focused on the national championships.



photo / RC SID

GIRL POWER: The 2003-2004 Women's team looks to match last year's performance.