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# The Sandspur

THE OLDEST COLLEGE NEWSPAPER IN FLORIDA

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## IN BRIEF

### Let's Talk About Sex

Dr. John Clarke, Thomas P. Johnson Distinguished Visiting Scholar, will lecture on "Excavating Obscenity: Pompeii, Victorian Patriarchs and the Invention of Modern Pornography" at 7 p.m. on Monday, September 26 in the Bush Auditorium.

### Housekeeping Week

Last week, the Rollins Housekeeping Staff was recognized as part of the week-long celebration in honor of housekeeping teams worldwide. During each day of International Housekeeping Week (September 11 through 17), departments and individuals from across campus took time to recognize the efforts of the dedicated men women who take the lead in making Rollins shine.

### John Gotti Jr. Gets Mistrial

The judge in the John A. "Junior" Gotti racketeering case declared a mistrial on the most serious charges Tuesday and said she would likely grant bail to the jailed scion of the Gambino organized crime family.

## IN THIS ISSUE

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The people voted, but neither party was able to capture a majority in parliament.

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## Keene Hall a Crescendo for Rollins Music Department

■ Rollins community gives ovation to new home of College Music.

by Jami Furo

the sandspur

On Monday, September 12, the Virginia S. and W. W. Nelson Department of Music moved back into the newly renovated Keene Hall. Faculty, staff, and students alike packed up and moved into the glorious new facility.

The music department has been occupying 170 W. Fairbanks, the old WLOQ building next to Panera, for over a year while Keene Hall was being renovated. The Fairbanks building is, as expected, set up like an office building and not altogether conducive to education. While the music department made the most of the situation and were happy to have the space, the general con-



BRETT HEINEY/The Sandspur

**SOMETHING OLD, SOMETHING NEW:** Part of the old Keene building was maintained while the façade was completely redone.

sensus is that they are thrilled to be in their new facility.

Part of the old Keene Hall was maintained, while undergoing serious interior renovations. The back half of the facility is completely new, though, and it extends

quite a bit further toward Rex Beach than it previously did. Most of this new addition is the John Tiedke Concert hall—an auditorium complete with balcony, stage, curtains, outstanding acoustics, vibrant colors, and ambiance.

The new building has two classrooms, whereas the previous Keene Hall had only one. It's brand new rehearsal room has choral risers and enough space for a nine foot grand piano. There is a keyboard and computer

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

## Slow Going for the Crescent City's Rebuilding Efforts

While slow and sure progress is being made things New Orleans and the Gulf Coast is still riddled with problems.

by Lauren Kennedy

the sandspur

Toxic flood waters, death toll in the thousands, and bodies still being recovered from destruction and waste: although the predictions of the catastrophic Hurricane Katrina seemed dire, they are proving to be a bit less substantial.

Hurricane Katrina, which battered the gulf coast of the U.S. in late August, has caused substantial damage and loss of life in more than one state. New Orleans, which was the hardest hit area, is still pumping water out of the city, which was flooded thanks to levees that collapsed during the storm. Many other areas, including New Orleans and other parts of Louisiana, are in the beginning stages of recovery.

Even though it's been

weeks since the storm hit, it is still difficult to estimate the long term effects and damage. Some answers won't be able to be answered for months, like the environmental effects of Hurricane Katrina and the fate of the evacuees. New Orleans mayor, Ray Nagin, has a vision for up to 180,000 residents of the city to return in the next week to begin rebuilding their lives. However, the city is "still threatened by a weakened levee system, a lack of drinkable water and heavily polluted floodwaters," the head of the federal relief effort said Saturday.

Many say that the mayor's vision is much too ambitious, and therefore problematic. "Our intention is to work with the mayor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2



KELLEY CHINN/KRT Campus



# Director of FEMA Resigns Amidst Criticism

■ FEMA director Mike Brown resigns after criticism for his handling of Katrina.  
by Kelsey Field

*the sandspur*

Amidst intense criticisms for his handling of Hurricane Katrina, it was announced Monday, September 12th, that Mike Brown would be resigning his post as the FEMA director. His resignation came as no surprise three days after he was recalled back to Washington DC by President Bush, in a move to relieve him of his duties in the hurricane zones.

He was replaced by R. David Paulison, the former head of the agency's emergency preparedness. Paulison is noted for his work in 1992 during hurricane An-

drew while he was serving as a career firefighter, and also his assistance in the crash of ValuJet flight 592 in the Florida Everglades in 1996.

Brown stated that his resignation was an attempt to bring the focus back onto FEMA and away from the media distractions of the "blame game" that has plagued rescue efforts. The Pew Research Center reported that at the time of his resignation 6 in 10 Americans judged the Federal Government's response to Hurricane Katrina as fair or poor, with George Bush's approval ratings at or near their lows.

President Bush's aides acknowledged that it is uncommon for the oval office to fire its own members as it is seen publicly as the federal government admitting to its role in a major mistake. But due to the immense media coverage of the hurricane that broadcasted daily

to the American public the slow rescue response and the lack of crucial details that Brown should have been aware of, such as the chaos and death taking place in New Orleans.

Criticism that inevitably led to Brown's resignation included the admittance that he did not hear about the 25,000 people who were left abandoned in the New Orleans Convention Center until 24 hours after it had been reported in news reports, a fact which shocked the public. Another major criticism that brought the White House Office under attack is the policy of placing persons with political connections but lack emergency response experience into the top ranks of FEMA.

Brown's resume include a former commissioner of the International Arabian Horse Association and 30 year friend of Joe M. Allbaugh, who managed the

2000 presidential campaign for President Bush. The week prior to Brown's resignation was a White House Office balancing act of publicly condoning Brown's actions and privately searching for a replacement, who could efficiently balance the 14 federal agencies with state and local counterparts.

Although Brown has overseen the response to 164 disasters, which range from California wildfires to the four Florida hurricanes in 2005, none of them held the magnitude of Hurricane Katrina. As time went by, critics began to actively call for his resignation. Louisiana's largest newspaper, the Times-Picayune, sent an open letter to Bush demanding a "clean house at FEMA, especially Brown". (NY Times, Sept. 7) Senator Hillary Clinton publicly stated that FEMA needs to be made a separate-level agency with a manager who

has emergency management experience. Many of the officials in Louisiana claimed that Brown actually blocked rescue efforts through incomprehensible red tape and then failed to deliver the urgently needed help.

As a result of the FEMA blunders, cities around the country are upping their emergency preparedness. Kansas Governor Kathleen Sebelius ordered officials to search cities in the state and identify, including names, those who would be most likely bypassed in an evacuation. Ohio is examining its emergency radio networks, whereas places like Milwaukee realized that they in fact had no evacuation plan, just a notion of what they would have done during the Cold War. Many simply realized that if an equally destructive tragedy were to hit their towns, FEMA has proven to be unreliable for major rescue efforts.

## Katrina Relief Continues

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

... in a very frank, open and unvarnished manner," Coast Guard Vice Administrator Thad Allen told The Associated Press in an interview at Department of Homeland Security headquarters in Baton Rouge.

The mayor's homeland security director, Terry Ebbert, says the city's recovery depends on businesses reopening, but the repopulation of the city must be done progressively. Owners are getting a head start on recovering the restaurants and bars that New Orleans is known for. However, many residents feel the necessity to express that they do not want tourists infiltrating the town while they are rebuilding and getting their lives back to normal.

"We don't want a bunch

of tourists in here while we're trying to get our homes together, get our businesses together," said Sandra Cimini, whose family owns a bar on Chartres Street, according to the Associated Press. "It's not going to be walking down the street with a hurricane glass in your hand until we can get everything together."

As of Monday, residents and business owners had begun moving back into the city, that is, to the neighborhoods that were lucky enough not to get flooded. However, many others did not have that luck. Forty percent of the city is still said to be flooded, which prevents the basic needs of residents to be fulfilled, such as clean drinking and bathing water. Engineers say that the water is being pumped out rapidly,

and has gone down significantly since the onset of the flooding.

As recovery efforts continue in the Gulf Coast, the public health crisis is beginning to unfold. Not only is there a threat of disease posed from the polluted water, but concerns relating to the cost of basic health care in the damaged areas are also surfacing. Mental health issues and the emotional needs of traumatized victims are also attempting to be met.

There is no doubt that the recovery of Hurricane Katrina will be a long, arduous road, but the efforts of countless volunteers, donations, and fearless leaders will prove to be beneficial in the long run.



**SURVEYING DAMAGE:** Gulf Coast residents survey damage in their neighborhoods as relief efforts continue. ANNE-MARIE MOREYNOLOWS / Salt Lake Mercury News

## Keene Hall Opens

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lab that is set up with brand new keyboards with weighted keys and Mac computers for students to work on music software such as the latest versions of Sibelius and Finale.

The number of practice rooms has increased vastly from the number in the pre-renovated Keene. The rooms are sound insulated to make concentration easier for the students that are practicing in adjacent rooms. There are a few large practice rooms designed for small groups, like jazz ensembles, and the percussion ensembles has their own rehearsal area on the ground floor with a wide door, facilitating the movement of equipment.

The state of the art building, both technologically and decoratively, also contains a recording studio. All stu-

dents within the major will be required to take a class in how to use the equipment.

The facility is for the use of music majors and minors only, with the exception of non-majors that take music classes, and each student and faculty member will receive a key that opens practice rooms and other restricted facilities. This is to protect the equipment and to reserve the spaces for those who need to practice for their lessons and recitals.

However, Musicians of Rollins (MOR), a club within the music department, will be hosting an open house on Tuesday, September 27, at 7:00 p.m. for faculty, staff, students, families, and members of the community. The open house will include guided tours, performances, and refreshments and will take place, of course, in the new facility.



**KEENE HALL:** Rollins music department's new state of the art facilities. BRETT HEINEY / The Sandspur



# Elections in Germany End in Uncertainty

■ Elections ended in deadlock with a failure to gain a parliamentary majority.

by Erika Batey

the sandspur

Germany's national elections on Sunday, September 18 ended in a deadlock with conservative challenger Angela Merkel winning against incumbent Gerhard Schroeder of the Social Democrat party by an extremely narrow margin, but failing to gain a majority in parliament. Merkel received 35.2% over Schroeder's 34.3%, giving her party only three extra seats in parliament. The remaining 30% was distributed among the Green party, the pro business FDP party, and the New Left party.

With these results, Merkel is unable to lead her party in a new government. Meanwhile, Schroeder is refusing to concede defeat, arguing that the vote is too close to call. Talks are being opened to discuss the possibility of coalitions between two or three parties, but the decision of who will lead it is yet to be decided.

Merkel, representing the more conservative Christian Democrat party (CDU), set out to become Germany's first female Chancellor. Leader of a party usually dominated by Catholic West German men, Protestant East German Merkel based her campaign on the idea that Germany needs a change in direction. "We urgently need a political change in Germany," she said. Schroeder of the more

leftist Social Democrat party (SPD) has been in office since 1998 and was reelected in 2002.

The close results continue an already turbulent election season for Germany. Elections were not set to take place until 2006, but Schroeder asked for early elections after losing the majority in the western German state of North Rhine Westphalia earlier in May. North Rhine Westphalia has tradi-

record high deficit.

Germany's economic problems have their roots in the country's postwar development. Between 1950 and 1970 Germany experienced a "Wirtschaftswunder" (economic boom). With the help of the war allies, the completely destroyed country came out of WWII and seemingly built itself up out of nothing. Many economists have called this one of the major economic miracles of

as much socialism as necessary" was the philosophy. Germany was torn between establishing a free market and capitalist society, and providing all its citizens with health care, social security, and other state services. This is a major concern for many other European countries that face the difficulty of reconciling their social welfare systems with the demands of global competition.

Today's modern Germany faces the problems of how to deal with the decisions and errors of its past. As a major player in the European Union, these issues affect other countries as well. Germany makes up one third of the European economy, mainly in export.

The main issues the parties have been focusing on are unemployment, economic growth rate, and foreign policy. Merkel's policies to improve the German economy include raising sales taxes to 18%. She wants to lower base income taxes to 12% from 15% and top income taxes to 39% from 42%. Merkel also wants to ease

rules for hiring and firing workers, hoping this will boost employment. Schroeder argues that these policies are unfair and will not help to combat unemployment. Unlike Schroeder, who opposed the war in Iraq, Merkel wants to strengthen ties with the United States. The candidates are also divided on whether Turkey should be a part of the EU. Schroeder supports Turkey's entry, whereas, Merkel does not.

The election results are a disappointment for Merkel and her party because it will prevent her from being able to push through all the reforms she believes are necessary. "We had hoped for a better result," she said after hearing the results. "It is our duty to form a stable government."

Meanwhile, Germany faces a few weeks of political uncertainty. According to the German constitution, the parliament has to call a meeting within 30 days following the election. If a chancellor is not determined by then, new elections may have to be called.



BERLIN, GERMANY: Exterior of the Bundestag, the German parliament.

tionally always voted SPD. Schroeder argued that he would have been unable to carry out his reforms in parliament with an opposition majority.

In recent years Schroeder has faced increasing criticism regarding his policies. After re-election in 2002, he established the so-called Hartz reforms to combat unemployment and a stagnant economy. Many people argued that these reforms came too late and have been ineffective. At the beginning of the year Germany's unemployment rate reached 11.4%. Last year's economic growth rate was 1.6% in comparison to virtually nothing in previous years. The country also faces a

the century.

However, after 1970 the situation began to spiral downwards. Unemployment and debts began to rise, and the growth rate decreased. With the fall of the Berlin Wall and the reunification of West and East, unemployment rose by 70 percent compared to previous decades. The already struggling West weakened itself by pumping money into the poorer and underdeveloped East.

Many historians and economists have analyzed reasons for Germany's postwar development. One is Germany's unique system of combining socialism with a market economy. "As much market economy as possible,



GERMANY'S PARLIAMENT: The modern interior of the Bundestag. Citizens and visitors can view debates from the dome.

## Annual Synergy Retreat Teaches Students Leadership Skills Outside the Classroom

■ Campus leaders gather for a weekend of fun and informative activities.

by Anna Maia

the sandspur

On Saturday, September 17th a few selected Rollins students were invited to attend the Synergy Retreat for Campus leaders. The trip was extremely well-organized and well-funded. Everyone received binders with information about the activities planned through-

out the day.

The students began the morning with a fun ice-breaker. The LEAD team designed a musical-chairs based game that involved shoes instead of chairs.

Next, the students learned the components of being a good leader through the Seven C's: Consciousness of Self, Congruence, Commitment, Common Purpose, Collaboration, Controversy with Civility, and Citizenship. Much time was spent on defining the terms instead of putting them in an applicable context, which

some students found to be fairly confusing and redundant.

As the day progressed the students were able to gain some insight into the inner workings of the campus. They were able to pose questions to representatives from various organizations, such as the R-Card Office and Campus Security. This activity gave students the opportunity to learn how to plan campus events.

"I feel that students are not well informed of the process of planning an event on campus. The school

should give out a handbook on how to do this!" stated Laurel Mason, Non Compis Mentis Communications Chair and Greek Hearing Council Representative, after attending the retreat.

After a free hamburger meal the students split up into groups to talk about recruitment, retention, and commitment. This activity was somewhat eye-opening because most students do not realize that all organizations have problems retaining the number of their members. It taught the leaders how to arrange their or-

ganization in order to gain more members and maintain their interests.

In general, SYNERGY was more of a forum than a retreat. The information was spread out throughout the day and could have been covered in a few hours. However, it is paving the way for more introductory programs that involve teaching leadership skills to students.

Rollins College is putting effort into creating programs that will interest and educate its students outside the regular classroom.



HOLT SPOTLIGHT  
InterviewGet To Know Professor  
Robert L. Moore, Ph.D.

COURTESY OF IRENA VARESKIC

by Jean B. Chery

the sandspur

Do You Really Know Dr. Robert L. Moore? Get Ready To Be Surprised.

Dr. Moore, a native of Lakeland, is the Director of the Hamilton Holt International Affairs Program and he teaches anthropology courses at the college. He is currently teaching Cultures of Japan and a seminar class on Youth Cultures. He earned his Ph.D. in Anthropology from the University of California at Riverside and his BA from Tulane University.

Besides English, he speaks and/or writes five more languages—Spanish, German, French, Mandarin, and Cantonese. Dr. Moore has been teaching for 32 years, 17 of which at Rollins. He teaches well over a dozen different courses here at Rollins.

His publications include several book reviews for the *American Anthropologist* and the *Journal of the Royal Anthropological Institute of the United Kingdom*. He has a lengthy list of scholarly papers presented in America and overseas. Dr. Moore is a contributor to many newspapers and wire news, including the *Sun-Sentinel* of Fort Lauderdale and the *New China News Agency*.

Moreover, he chaired and co-chaired many events including two sessions at the annual convention of the American Anthropological Association. His past administrative positions are more than impressive; among them are head of the Social Science Division at Rollins and Operations Director of

the Indochinese Research Project at California State University at Long Beach.

Clearly, it is impossible to present Dr. Moore's credential and accomplishments in 700 words, so let's surprise you with what I learn about him through my research. Dr. Moore was very forthright and quick in his answers. As you are going to be surprised, he is going to be as well because of what I learn about him from a third party.

His answer to why he chooses to teach at the Holt school is, "I like the way Holt students approach their education with seriousness. For them it's not just 'something ya gotta do' in between visits to the beach. Also, many Holt students have such interesting backgrounds and life experiences that enhance classroom discussions." There is no surprise here; we already know we're the best.

When asked of what he likes the most about teaching, he says, "I especially like that it requires learning—both in doing research for class, and in the interactions with students in the class. Talking to students about topics of significance is certainly one of life's pleasures for most teachers and professors, and this is the case for me."

His advice to grad-school-bound students is, "In the social sciences—don't neglect statistics. In anthropology and international relations, don't neglect either statistics or foreign language learning. Both of these are technically demanding, practice-heavy kinds of

study, but they are important, especially for those who want to launch themselves into the stratospheres of international research and high level theorizing, and that's what's in store in graduate school."

Here it is! He believes that one thing about him that could surprise his students is his thought "of changing [his] name to Otto." But, what surprises me the most is his thirst for learning. For example, a year or two ago, he signed up for a class in the Holt program. I ask his professor: was he a slacker? He says, no! He was a great student. Though I could use a positive answer to negotiate an easy "A" from his class, I wasn't that fortunate. (lol)

His wish for the future, "Besides being a passable husband and father," is "to write a book that people actually want to read." I am sorry Dr. Moore, this is not a wish. Who wouldn't want to read your book...the Martians?

Currently, Dr. Moore is working with Dr. Yusheng Yao on the change in customs and attitudes relating to love and marriage in the People's Republic of China in the 1940s and 50s. I should add that Dr. Moore is an exceptional *savoir-faire*; he would go to the extreme for learning. Did I mention that his favorite pastimes are: traveling, enjoying long conversations, watching good movies, and laughs? If you'd never taken his class, you don't know what you're missing. We are fortunate to have a professor like Dr. Moore to learn from.

The  
CAREER  
COACH

Marian Cacciatore

## ADVICE ON MASTERING PHONE

## INTERVIEWS

Dear Marian:

I am looking for a job and have gotten a few phone interviews. Do you have any advice on ways to deal with this kind of interview? I have the feeling that I must be doing something wrong since I have not gotten a face to face interview yet. Tim '07

Dear Tim:

Phone screens can be a pivotal turning point in the interview process. On a positive note, the fact that you are being called tells me that your resume or application has sparked interest with the recruiter or hiring manager. However, if you have not gotten a "real interview" yet, let's analyze what could be happening! A few typical trouble spots include:

**1. Are you prepared for the phone screen?** If you are actively engaged in a job search, it is important to keep a copy of your resume, a pad of paper for notes and a listing of all of the jobs that you have applied for by your phone.

Also, it is important to ensure an optimum environment for the phone interview. If you get a call from a recruiter at an "inopportune" time (i.e. children underfoot, barking dogs, loud roommates etc.) simply express your appreciation for the call and ask if you can call the recruiter back in 15 minutes. (Or as long as you need to be able to move to a quiet spot.)

By taking this initiative, you can make sure you are in an environment that is conducive to a successful phone interview.

**2. Are you smiling during the phone interview?** During a phone in-

terview, your "active listening non-verbal" cues (like eye contact, nodding and leaning forward) can't be used.

Your only real tool during the phone screen is your voice...not only what you say but how you say it! It is important to think about how you use your voice inflection. Is there a sense of energy behind your words? Can the listener hear the "smile" in your voice? Practice some of the typical interview questions by using your answering machine. This is one way to hear how you *really* sound on the other side of the phone!

**3. Are you getting "tripped up" by some of the common interview questions?** Are you prepared for the common interview questions?

- What are your strengths...your weaknesses?
- What are your salary requirements?
- Why are you leaving your current job?
- What are your career goals?
- Why should we hire you?

If these questions make you squirm, it's time to focus on increasing your confidence in this area. Did you know that you are able to schedule a mock phone interview simply by calling Career Services? Also, stay tuned until next week's column where we'll discuss answers to the "5 Toughest Interview Questions."

Do you have a question for Marian? E-mail her at : [mcacciatore@rollins.edu](mailto:mcacciatore@rollins.edu). She guarantees that all questions will be responded to individually or in this column.



# HOLT HAPPENINGS

by Sue Easton, Ph.D.  
contributing writer

## Hamilton Holt Faculty/Student Summer Research Projects

With the support of funds from the new Hamilton Holt 2005 School Summer Research Grant, several Holt students and professors are conducting important research. Three collaborative projects have been initiated as a result of this grant and these each represent unique approaches to research in the fields of Music and Communication.

### Bullying: No Innocent Bystander:

Sue Easton, Communication professor and undergraduate student, Amanda Aberman extended their expertise in the study of small groups to explore the group dynamics involved in childhood bullying.

They conducted several focus group sessions with children in grades 4-6 and used secondary survey data from three separate private schools in Florida. Understanding that silence is a nonverbal message, the researchers wanted to deconstruct the messages that bystanders send to the victim and to the bully when they remain silent and do nothing to stop it.

The results of their research are being used in various ways. Mandy and Sue are presenting their findings at the Florida State Commu-

nication Conference in October. They are also presenting information sessions the Parent Teacher Associations and Faculty of the schools that provided participants and data for this study. They have completed an extensive research paper and will be submitting their work to peer-reviewed communication journals and hope to see their work published. The entire project provided a wonderful opportunity to work collaboratively as faculty and student while extending the research on this important issue.

### Music Education - Transcription and Composing Etudes for Percussion:

Music Education across America and throughout the world today is HUGE! This summer (and fall), Beth Gottlieb, Percussion Artist in Residence, and her students - Doug Moser, Josh Priest and Mike Malgoza have been working on a series of Audition Books geared towards high school percussionists.

For the mallet, keyboard percussion instruments, they have taken famous works written by the masters such as Bach, Beethoven, Haydn, Mozart, Clementi, Handel, Czerny, and more, and transcribed them to fit the xylo-

phone. This includes performing each one and writing down all the nuances that fit the xylophone, such as sticking, mallet choice, tempo and phrase markings, music notation, dynamics and more. For snare drum and timpani, they are composing our own etudes.

Research for this project included teaching at two different music camps in Florida, teaching four different high school percussion sections, teaching college drum lines and traveling abroad and teaching in Denmark and Italy. Beth notes, "The interaction with the students has really helped when it comes to picking transcriptions that are appropriate, yet challenging for that age."

Also, by working closely with them, we can see what the talent level is today versus years ago, as associated with the books previously written. The audition books they are using for the All State try-outs this weekend are seriously outdated. We also purchased many books from around the country that use audition etudes to study and compare and contrast."

The culmination of this book will have them imputing their compositions and transcriptions onto the



COURTESY OF BETH GOTTLIEB

**PERCUSSION RESEARCHERS:** (From Left) Doug Moser, Beth Gottlieb and Josh Priest. Not pictured is Mike Malgoza.

Sibelius and Finale Music Programs in the new computer/music lab at Keene Hall. Once these are inputted, reviewed, checked for consistency and performed, they will be sent to the Row-Loff Company in Nashville, Tennessee for publication. Their goal is to have the Florida Music Educators Society pick the book for use in Florida next year. The book will be called "Audition and Sight-reading Etudes for Percussion."

### Communication scholars replicate study using Hamilton Holt Students:

Communication professors Greg Gardner and John

Morrison along with undergraduate student, Brian Hernandez are designing a study inspired by the excellent work done in 1995 by Dr. Barbara Carson. She surveyed Rollins' alumni asking them to reflect on professors they perceived to be highly effective. She asked them to describe "incidents and details" that supported that perception.

In the new study, they want to replicate the survey, but specifically focus on nontraditional alumni from Hamilton Holt. They will also extend the study by collecting and analyzing additional data.

## Teacher Evaluations Often Reflect Attractiveness, Study Finds

by Gwen Miller  
syndicated writer/krt-campus

**Question No. 1:** On a scale of one to 10, how effective was your professor?

**Question No. 2:** On a scale of one to 10, how would you rate your professor's looks?

Think the second question is outrageous? Well, it is. It would never appear on a student evaluation of a professor.

But that doesn't mean it's not a factor as Pennsylvania State University students fill out Student Rating of Teaching Effectiveness forms this week.

In a recent study, two researchers at the University of Texas at Austin concluded that more attractive professors outscored their more homely peers on teaching evaluations.

Daniel Hamermesh, pro-

fessor of economics, and one of his students, Amy Parker, asked students to look at photographs of 94 professors and rate their looks. They compared the ratings with average student evaluation scores for the courses those professors taught.

The researchers found that the professors who rated high in the looks category also were rated better teachers than less-attractive professors, by almost a point. According to an October article in the Chronicle of Higher Education, that's a substantial difference.

Reviews of the study are mixed.

Robert Secor, vice provost for academic affairs at Penn State, said the university's own research found that the biggest indicator of student evaluations was how much they learned from the

course.

"The more the students felt they learned, the higher the scores," Secor said.

Susan Basow, the Charles A. Dana professor of psychology at Lafayette College, said non-traditional professors women, minorities are judged more critically.

"The findings don't surprise me in the sense that there's a long psychological history of attractiveness mattering in lots of things," Basow said.

It matters so much that entire Web sites are devoted to evaluating professors. RateMyProfessor.com allows students to rate teaching effectiveness and professor's looks (depicted by a chili pepper if they are deemed "hot").

Kimberly Rodgers, Penn State assistant professor of

finance, was one professor whose name appeared on the site. She said reasonable people will reject Internet-posted evaluations.

"The notion of correlating instructor appearance with effective teaching strikes me as nonsensical," Rodgers said.

As superficial as the study (and the Web site) might sound, student evaluations can have serious implications for faculty. Tenure-track faculty at Penn State are ultimately judged in three categories to get tenure -- research, service and teaching. In other words, student ratings count.

Secor said the university wants to make the right promotion and tenure decisions. And to do that, Penn State must ask student input as a measurement.

Basow said biases do affect evaluations and aren't pure measures of teaching effectiveness or competence.

"It's not that students' opinions aren't useful, but they shouldn't be the sole measures of teaching effectiveness," Basow said.

Senior Melissa DiCarlo said it matters whether a professor can keep her awake in class, not their looks.

Other students agree. Senior Maria Sansone said it's important that professors care about what they teach.

Nick Magnini, a senior, said first impressions are big, but only at first.

"If your teacher's a slob, you'll be like, 'What's going on here?'" Magnini said. "In the end, after a few weeks, it comes down to what you learn. Looks only go so far, like everything else in life."



# MCAT Change Aug '06

by Nicole Fluet

the sandspur

Starting in August of 2006, the Medical College Admission Test's (MCAT) traditional pen and paper version will be changed to a completely computer-based version of the exam. The test is "designed to assess problem solving, critical thinking, and writing skills in addition to the examinee's knowledge of science concepts and principles prerequisite to the study of medicine," according to the MCAT official webpage.

The traditional MCAT has not been changed in over a decade, according to Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions, a company who has been helping students prepare for tests such as the MCAT since 1938. The change will directly affect over sixty thousand students who have planned on taking the pen and paper exam.

Good news, however, is that students who are able to prepare early, will be able to take one of the two remaining pen and paper exams in April and August of 2006. After these dates, however, every test will be converted to the new computer-based system.

Many students have expressed concern toward this new test. The main concerns center on the fear that computers can be unreliable and may freeze or shut off at any moment. If that were to hap-

pen, everything done would be lost. Also, taking notes on the actual test, along with problem solving in the margins of the paper, would have to become obsolete, which could be a problem for those students who rely on note taking as a way of working through problems and coming to conclusions.

However, there are advantages to the new test. The Vice President of Graduate Programs for Kaplan Test Prep and Admissions, Justin Serrano, states that the new computer-based tests will allow for "most test dates each year, faster score results, a more controlled testing environment, and a shorter test day." These advantages are very well received among students who will have no choice but take the new test.

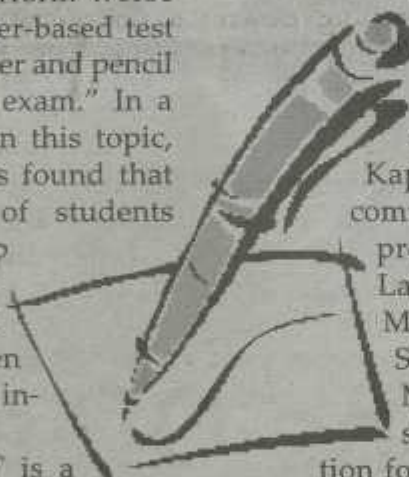
Kaplan has found that "82% of respondents feel they would perform worse on the computer-based test than on the paper and pencil version of the exam." In a press release on this topic, Kaplan officials found that the majority of students would give up the "advantages" to take the original pen and paper test instead.

The MCAT is a very important test to those entering the medical profession. Many are encouraged to only take the MCAT once; however, stu-

dents are allowed to take it up to three times. After three years, MCAT results expire and cannot be used for entrance into medical school.

Therefore, students focus a great deal of time and energy into getting the test done right the first time. The added stress from the change in test format may not be well received and will likely cause problems and discourse in daily activities.

Kaplan suggests three main things when considering the MCAT. Number one, "Complete your core course requirements as soon as possible" in order to spend more time focusing on the courses that apply to the MCAT. Next, Kaplan suggests that those planning on taking the MCAT should take the test before August 2006. "If you will have the requisite courses under your belt and you have adequately prepared, take the MCAT either April or August of 2006 before the exam changes to computer," Kaplan experts comment in a press release. Last, "take the MCAT once." Since the MCAT has such a reputation for being "grueling," Kaplan experts state that most students don't want to take it twice since it is so long. "Plan and prepare accordingly," they warn.



# Taking the Blame

■ Could global warming be the cause for the increase in hurricane activity?

by Lori Lipkin

the sandspur

As we all try to understand and come up with answers to why? We seem to keep coming back to Global Warming. Are we our own worst enemies? Could this all be rectified by pulling together and conserving above and beyond?

If only it were that easy say scientists.

This assault we've just experienced through images, memories of our own, and empathy pains can be summed up as evolving nature. Part of Mother Nature's recycling efforts in short, and periodically changing ocean circulation patterns. The cycles of hurricane activity can be described as 'waxing and waning' according to atmospheric scientist William Gray from Colorado State University who is uncertain exactly how long the present active period will last. Historically, such periods have gone on for 20 to 40 years.

Gray forecasted 11 named storms and six hurricanes this past December with three of those hurricanes becoming major and believes that there is a chance that these numbers may still increase. His 69% prediction that at least one major storm would hit proved correct. But Mother Nature can be hard to second guess. The oceanic patterns and varying currents can alter directions without a whole lot of warning driving those memorable five hurricanes ashore last summer. Gray assures us that the odds are against Florida getting struck four times again. He added that "last year was a kind of freak year" which many of us can attest to!

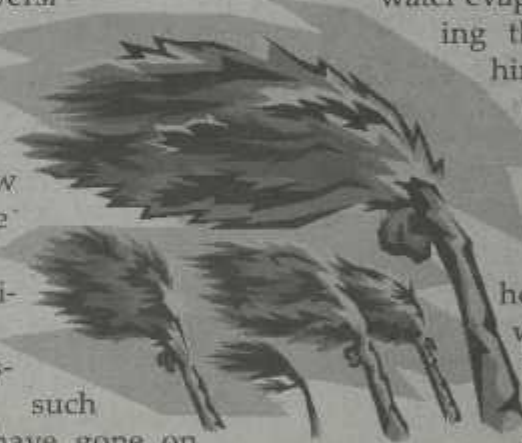
Even though Katrina's wrath seems completely isolated, horrific, and catastrophic, "anything we've seen so far, is not outside of what has occurred in the past," claims Robert Sheets director of the National Hurricane Center in Miami.

The biggest difference has been the influx of inhabitants to the tropical areas during the calm periods, leaving plenty of disturbing visions we will remember for a long time. "The coastal population is doubling roughly every 25 years from Texas to Carolina, which means the last time we were in a heavy period there were fewer people and less infrastructure in the way," Christopher Landsea of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration adds.

It has also been noted that rising temperatures are to blame and tend to be stronger and longer lasting thus causing more rampage and destructive forces according to professor Gary Yohe from Wesleyan University in Connecticut. The warmer oceanic tropic temperatures account for much of this. The northern extension of the Gulf Stream brings water to the ocean around Greenland. As it deposits, the water-cools and becomes saltier. Then the water evaporates leaving the salt behind. This makes the water heavy and it sinks. Thus how fast this water sinks is what controls the speed of the currents at the top of the oceans as well as the deep below.

So basically hurricanes are heat engines with their severity driven by the difference in temperatures between the heat source and this salty heat sink. Dr. Burnett of ABetterEarth.org sums it up as the smaller the difference, the less severe the storm season. He believes that while Global Warming is likely to cause the oceans to warm modestly in the coming century, air temperatures nearest the equator, where hurricanes form, will see little or no increase.

So even if it is not Global Warming, thus not ours to blame, we still impact our Mother Earth in ways that may never be repaired in our lifetimes. So this doesn't mean we're off the hook. Sure no one likes to hear alarmists or scare tactics via the media but if it makes us think twice isn't that still good? To a certain degree? Just a thought.



## Websites to Know:

MCAT Website Address: [www.aamc.org/mcat](http://www.aamc.org/mcat)

## Useful Study Help Websites:

Kaplan Testing: [www.kaptest.com/MCATchange](http://www.kaptest.com/MCATchange)

Micro Testing: [mcat.microedu.net](http://mcat.microedu.net)

Practice Test Center: [www.testprepreview.com/mcat\\_practice.htm](http://www.testprepreview.com/mcat_practice.htm)

Princeton Review: [www.princetonreview.com/medical/testprep](http://www.princetonreview.com/medical/testprep)

## Keep In Mind:

-The MCAT is long and exhausting, so you only want to take it once. Be prepared and ready. Use all resources available to test yourself before the test date.

-Take the test before August 2006 if possible. The new test is going to be a big change.

-Study! Study! Study! and Good luck!



# Adjusting to the Host Family, or Not...

In last week's article, I promised to explain why the "honeymoon period" with my host-family was over. Well, when I specified in my housing application that I did not wish to live with animals, I forgot to mention anything that sounded like animals too...

Every morning at seven, a piercing jungle-like shriek sounds from the second-floor, waking all six other members of the household concurrently. Once the rooster has completed its job, it loudly thuds down the stairs with an added resounding BANG as it leaps down the final few steps in one go, landing smack on the wooden floor next to my bedroom. I assume the purpose of this is to make up for any possible failure in the first cry for breakfast. The other two noisemakers then proceed to follow suit, meaning I have six wakeup calls prior to my alarm clock.

This is not, of course, the most pleasant racket to wake up to this early in the morning. So, when it seems like it should encourage me to get out of bed and out of the house, it ends up only persuading me to hide further under my covers rather than having to face whatever jungle animals are making these noises (this is not so good for my class attendance...).

Regrettably, the hullabaloo only continues to progress. However, it is difficult to describe the morning commotion in my home-stay for those who do not live with their own tropical sounding noisemakers,

roosters, or first-year male students in McKean.

Now, my mum has two infant boys who stand a good chance at competing in this daily shrieking contest; the difference is, though, that I can scream back at them, and they will usually shut up for a period. Here, however, I feel as if I am stuck on one side of a mesh fence, staring in at a display of screeching gorillas, attacking each other in primal rages of anger, jealousy, and vindication. If I say anything though, either they will ignore me completely or, worse, they will redirect the rage towards me.

Erica, another home-stay student in my house, and I have attempted to talk to our host-mum about this problem, specifically when it occurs at the same time on weekends when we have only just gone to bed. Actually, the weekend problem is worse, because the noisemakers do not disappear off to school for the greater part of the day; instead, they take it upon themselves to barge into our rooms (we have no door locks) at ungodly hours of the morning, howling for attention or simply looking for things to break.

Interestingly, they have stopped doing this to me since I growled at the eight-year-old one morning for doing this (quick justification—I had only been asleep for two hours, and if they get to make weird jungle-sound noises, then it is only fair

that I can too)...

Unfortunately, the slightest suggestion that the children were causing problems only served to alienate Erica and I further. So now, instead of feeling like part of the family, which is the purpose of the



program, they treat us simply as boarders whose rooms are free game for the children to play in while we are away. The majority of the house, though, is off-limits for us.

Then, the one morning I had to wake up at some ridiculous hour for a field trip (okay, 6 a.m.), my host-mum came yelping down the stairs to inform me that I was being disrespectful by making too much noise opening my bedroom and bathroom door. What? I thought furiously. Opening a couple of doors is too noisy when you are sleeping, but you think that unleashing a pack of wild animals in the house while Erica and I are asleep is acceptable. I wanted to scream, but I remembered what happened the last time I complained about

her darlings, so I held my tongue, and decided to let this incident slide.

Alas, the problems do not end there. The food situation is far worse. Breakfast consists of toast with jam or vegemite (gross), lunch on weekends are non-existent (thankfully I only wake up for brunch, otherwise I would probably be pretty upset at missing a meal I supposedly pay for), and dinner defies explanation. Twice now, Erica and I have received half-a-cup of soup for Sunday dinner and, at least several times a week, dinner consists of some off-grey colored, indistinguishable meat substance with a side of broccoli so small that it looks as if it is substituting parsley for decoration.

Now, I like soup, but, unfortunately, I have told my host-mum I am extremely allergic to MSG (a thickening ingredient in the soup) and, considering we do not seem to be getting along so well, I wonder perhaps if she is simply forgetful or trying to poison me. I would rather assume the best of people and go with the former explanation. This is really making me miss my meal plan, because at least I could order Dominos when Beans was not looking so appetizing.

Another regrettable factor in living with kids is the babysitting question. Prior to the trip, International Programs warned us that some host-parents would try to take advantage of students by requesting that they

baby-sit frequently, but the Aussie home-stay brochure countered that one should feel grateful if a host-parent requests that she baby-sit because it signifies a trust in the student. So, when my host-mum brought up the question within the first few days of my arrival, I felt a little unsure of how to respond. I did not particularly want to sacrifice a Saturday night by minding her children but, on the other hand, ought I do this as a way to better belong to the family?

In the end, I was unable to baby-sit because I had an overnight field trip at that time, so Erica did it instead. Later, I learned that the host-parents did not pay Erica for babysitting from 6 p.m. until 1 a.m. because she is "part of the family." It is an odd family membership, though, when one's privacy is invaded or when one is fed unpalatable leftovers while the rest of the family orders takeout. No other Rollins student seems to have to put up with this double standard on the program.

Unfortunately, my "real" mum has an extremely Irish response to the situation. She seems to think that, rather than complaining, I should simply ignore the situation at my home-stay because it will make a good "story" one-day. In addition, she suggests I make excuses for why I cannot baby-sit (this has worked all but once when I was conned into babysitting one Friday night... long story), and simply appreciate that I am in Sydney.

## Those Beloved Peer Mentors of Ours

by Chris Winsor

*the sandspur*

A term foreign to most anyone outside the Rollins family, Peer Mentors are those scholarly upperclassmen that arrive to campus two weeks earlier than their friends, ready and willing to make freshman orientation be all that it can be. They also play an integral part of the Rollins Conference Course that all first-year students are enrolled in.

Given the enormously complex and demanding task of befriending the wee ones on campus, one must try to sympathize with the many responsibilities that these fine individuals deal with on a regular basis. As put eloquently by current Peer Mentors Emy Cardoza and Brett Heiney, "the re-

sponsibilities of this job go beyond what we're given on paper that first week." Peer Mentors exist to extend that helping hand where professors inevitably fall short. They offer the first-hand experience of being a Rollins Freshman and all the invaluable guidance and information that's attached to that experience.

On that note, I interviewed two Peer Mentors with differing situations and opinions. Brett, now a sophomore, is still quite attuned to his first year here at Rollins and therefore feels he has a pretty easy time empathizing with his mentees. Emy, on the other hand, is now a senior and has long since dealt with the transition from high school to college. This is, however, her second Peer Mentorship, and

so she brings a healthy collection of ideas that have been refined over her four years as a Rollins student. Both bringing priceless resources to the task, hopefully you'll agree that these two represent the solid personality and dedication associated with all our beloved peer mentors.

While both Brett and Emy agreed with the way things are going under the current Peer Mentor program, both had some opinions on how best to carry out their tasks.

Her first time Peer Mentoring, Emy took the position thinking her assignment was to be the "ultimate academic role model." Upon taking up the job a second time, she decided to change her demeanor to emphasize more the "peer" part of "peer men-

tor." Though the semester is not nearly over yet, she's found this approach works more effectively in her communication with the students, and while she isn't necessarily giving off the aura of a perfect academic, this enhanced communication has enabled her to help her mentees at a much more meaningful level.

Instead of coming to her simply to get help editing a paper or brainstorming ideas, her mentees now eat meals with her, having in depth conversations on religion and morals, and play highly competitive volleyball. She really feels that she has expanded her worth as a Peer Mentor and as one of her lucky mentees I have to agree with her.

One aspect that both Brett and Emy had strong co-

inciding opinions about was their reason for participating as a Peer Mentor.

They each had a personal twist on their reason, Brett didn't like his Peer Mentors and Emy wanted to improve upon her previous mentorship, but the underlying factor remained the same: become a Peer Mentor because you care about the future of Rollins and within that, because you want to aid and assist incoming students in every way you can.

Under this premise, both Emy and Brett had a few pointers for future Peer Mentors. They agreed that spending time with your mentees outside the classroom is important.

Though it may be hard at times, try to keep everyone on the same page during class time.



## Ask The Fox!



Dear Fox,

I really like this guy. He's in a couple of my classes, we share the same major, and both have a really awesome sense of humor. We're both Methodist, and have the same morals and values. We are perfect for one another. The problem is, he has a girlfriend. They fight all the time, but they've been dating for four years, so they're set on staying with each other. They are "promised" to each other and sometimes he talks about marrying her and having children with her. He says he considers me his best friend, and I consider him mine. I think we have the basis for a long term relationship, if only he wasn't with her. Am I being delusional? Should I forget about him? He hasn't shown any interest in leaving her, but he complains about the little things she does all the time. I don't think he would ever cheat on her - he's too loyal - and I don't want to be the cause of their breakup, but I don't know what to do.

~Taken Lover

Dear Taken Lover,

Well, this is a complicated situation. My advice to you would be to explore other options. I know the two of you have become best friends, but from what you've said, it seems like what he needs and wants right now is simply a friend.

Everyone complains about their relationship at one point or another, and it's always wonderful to have someone to talk to when you need to vent. It seems that you're that person for him. I'm not saying nothing could ever happen between the two of you, but I doubt anything will happen right now, or any time soon. If he is talking about having children with his girlfriend in front of you, it sounds like he's pretty serious and probably in it for the long haul. They may fight a lot simply because they've been together for so long. Sometimes couples in long term relationships end up taking their stress and frustration from life out on each other, which is where the fighting comes from.

If your heart is set on this guy, which it sounds to me like it is, maybe you should consider talking to him about how your feeling in order to get an idea of where he is. You don't want to invest all of your feelings and energy into loving someone if there is not a chance of them ever loving you back. If it turns out that he's planning on spending the rest of his life with his current girlfriend, don't be discouraged. You can find someone else. I truly believe that there is more than one person out there meant for us, we just have to keep our eyes open to what could be there.

~Daisy Fox

The Fox returns to answer this weeks social and relationship questions from Rollins students. If you have any questions that you would like The Fox, to answer, then send an email to [fox@thesandspur.org](mailto:fox@thesandspur.org)

## Falling in Love too Fast?

by Natalie Wyatt

the sandspur

Have you ever met someone and just clicked with them instantly? It's amazing, right? But if you jump right on the fast track to love, how do you know whether it's true or not? Maybe you need a reality check.

Just look at celebrity dating patterns! These stars who we love to gossip about are seemingly getting hitched right off the bat and posing the question: is falling in love that fast even possible? Tom Cruise and Katie Holmes dated for a couple months when all of the sudden, he professed his undying love for her on public television, and next thing we know, they're engaged. Can that intense of a relationship truly last?

There are some basics that everyone should know, just to protect themselves from hitting the bottom of a fall too soon. Hopefully they can shed some light on these

basics for you.

Make sure that you are comfortable with the person, not just attracted to them. If they want to go to a sketchy place your second date, and you don't feel completely comfortable with it, do you speak up? If you can't bring yourself to say no to such a simple thing, there's an obvious warning sign. You have to know where to draw the line between wanting to make someone happy and going along with anything they want.

If you think the relationship is going too fast but you don't want to hurt their feelings, stop and think about it. If you don't talk about it first then you'll end up hurting both of you later on down the road. Try not to act on every impulse.

Talking about the future when the beginning is barely even there is not a good idea. Try to keep your conversations on a day to day level. Save any big ideas for later: from planning a trip a month in advance to how

many children you might want, keep those under wraps for a bit.

And then there are those three little words. Yes, they get the best of everyone at one point or another but don't move too fast when saying such an important statement. Hearing "I love you" can scare someone half to death and end everything right then and there. If you aren't on the same level, don't try to drag that other person up there. On the other hand, that other person might hear those words and get way too excited about where this is headed, and you could be driving the two of you into the ground.

The point is this: be careful. Falling in love is amazing. All the butterflies, the flirting, the caring, and sappy stuff that only you two can understand. Enjoy that, just don't move too swiftly or else someone may get hurt. Falling in love is good, as long as you have a healthy relationship to fall into at the end of it all.

## College: Not One Big Party?

by Kelly Castino

the sandspur

Read Starr. Pp. 228-246, pp. 319-338, Kraemer Ch. 3-4, Gouchberg Ch. 3, (text) 169-187, study for my theatre exam, write paper for English, read Ch. 5, and do articles and dialectical notebook. Crew practice, write article for Sandspur, and practice clarinet for pep band. That was my homework after one day of school. School can get stressful when you are in a sport, many different clubs and organizations, along with the day's assigned homework.

As a freshman, I was told to pursue every opportunity that seemed interesting. I followed that guidance and decided to join the crew team, pep band, and the Sandspur. Before doing so I did not know the extent of my homework.

The assignments listed above is an actual day's work for me. Another challenge in my schedule is that I have five classes on Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays. I only have one class on Thursdays. Mondays and Wednesdays give me no time to relax because I have crew practice and homework after my last class.

College is not always about doing work, but also about having fun. Most of

the people I have met go to movies, fraternity parties, club games, or just hang out in their room. But with all our work, many don't have a lot of time to relax and have fun.

The majority of my friends say they don't sleep, but nap instead. I learned this truth from watching my two older brothers nap all day and then go out at night. I didn't believe it until I began to follow this pattern myself. I went to bed at 2 AM because I was doing homework and relaxing in front of the television, then I woke up at 2:50 PM. Luckily, I didn't have any classes the next day. I was shocked when I saw the time, as I had never slept that late before.

There are so many activities outside of Rollins that are fun to do: including Universal, Disney, or the beach. Students cannot wait until Fox Day so they can participate in those activities that they are too busy to do now. Unfortunately that won't be until April or May.

But not all challenges in college have to do with academics and outside activities; it is also a challenge to make new friends. Most people coming to college do not know many people, if any. Because I had lived in Orlando for two years, I knew a few people from my high

school, Lake Highland Preparatory School. I was lucky and so were other people who were originally from the Orlando region. On the other hand my roommate did not know anyone when she came to Rollins College. She had to meet people like everyone else. I am a very shy person so it was hard for me to meet new people. Our RCC class in particular helped us to meet a small group of people.

Don't get me wrong, it was good to meet a group of people right away, but all you do is spend time with the same group. It would have been nice to be able to meet more people at orientation rather than within one specific group. It is great having a roommate because we have been able to talk to one another and form a friendship that probably wouldn't have happened as fast otherwise. I have to continually go out and sit with new groups of people in an effort to meet others.

College is a big adjustment both socially and academically. I learned how to manage my time and still make space for play. Between the homework and other activities, there is little rest time. But it is worth it because we have the opportunity to go to a great college and get a great education.



# Big Diet Mistakes

by **Rochelle Siegel**  
the sandspur

When trying to lose weight, one of the most important things to watch is not the food you eat, but the amount of you consume. Consuming massive amounts of food is what causes weight problems in the beginning. At least one of the seven deadly sins of weight loss has been known for a long time, and it is eating too much, too often. The only way to stay happy when you step on the scale is to eat fewer calories than you burn up during the day, doing various activities.

The second big mistake a dieter can make is believing in a miracle diet. Everybody wants weight loss to be quick and easy and some even go to the extreme of eating a "secret" slimming soup recipe for six weeks straight in order to lose weight.

People will pretty much do anything to try and make their weight loss happen with the snap of a finger. The problem with these miracle diets is keeping the weight off that you lost.

People go on diets, lose weight, and then once they lose all the weight they wanted to lose, they go back to their old eating habits. Naturally, they just gain back all the weight they lost. Staying fit and healthy is a lifelong commitment, not a six week program.

Losing weight is a matter of taking in fewer calories than you burn up during the day. So yes, calories do count, and counting them can help you stay on track. Ignoring the nibbles and sips you take each day can help your weight loss plans. Everything counts towards your calories, even an energy bar and a sports drink consumed at the gym.

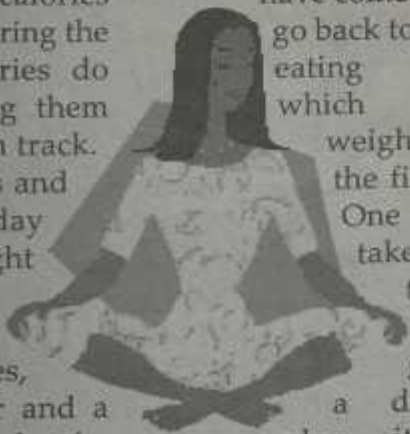
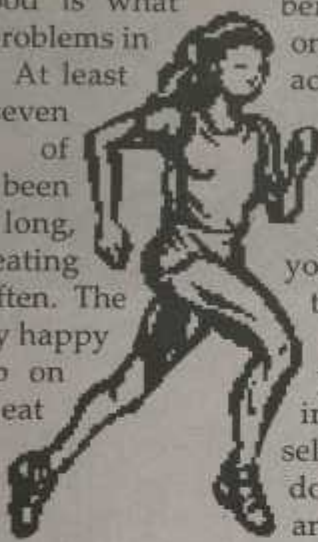
Many think that if they stop eating they will lose weight. Yes, this is true to a point, but it can also cause permanent damage to your health and body. But just like eating too much is bad, so is eating too little. Eating

too few calories may slow your metabolism, the process your cells use to burn food and create energy. Researchers vary on how few calories it takes before your body slips into starvation mode and begins conserving calories. The number primarily depends on your own body and activity level, but as a general rule, going below 800 calories a day may be counterproductive and cause your body more harm than good.

Setting goals for yourself is extremely important. Ask yourself, how much weight do you want to lose and how fast do you want to lose it? Goals should be realistic too. Losing twenty pounds in a week is not a realistic goal. Keep in mind that losing five to ten percent of your body weight, that's ten to fifteen pounds if you weight 200 pounds, can provide health benefits, as well as make you feel so much better. Once you reach your goal, it's best to set another goal.

Exercising is also important because it burns calories. It takes more energy to maintain lean tissue than it does to maintain fat. By building your lean tissue, exercise helps you burn calories even when you are not moving. People who are physically active are more likely to keep weight off once they lose it.

Always keep a plan for keeping the weight off. After you reach your goal you have come too far to go back to your old eating habits, which led to weight gain in the first place. One big mistake is to think that you are going on a diet and when it's over, that's it. People should focus more on doing something good for themselves, as opposed to denying themselves. That's the best way to lose weight and stay healthy and live a lifestyle you want to live.



# Portable Music=Hearing Loss?

by **Rochelle Siegel**  
the sandspur

Many young people today are suffering from hearing loss, due to the growing popularity of portable music players and many other items that attach directly to the ears, including cell phones.

The director of the clinical education in audiology at Purdue University, Robert Novak, says that the younger people listen to music now on a much different level than people in the past. Instead of just plugging in the earphone when going out for a jog, listening to music through headphones is becoming a full-day listening experience.

Novak and colleagues randomly examined students and have found growing occurrences of what is known as noise-induced hearing loss.

This means that they have lost the ability to hear higher frequencies. The students had trouble following conversations in noisy situations, and during the study could not hear mild ringing in their ears. Studies have also been done that show that people in their thirties and forties suffer from tinnitus, an internal ringing or even the sound of buzzing in the ears. These people in their thirties and forties were among the first walkman

users.

Dr. John Ogalai, director of The Hearing Center at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston, refers to this as just the tip of the iceberg. He believes that as time goes by more and more young people will be suffering from hearing loss, due to their extensive, all-day music listening.

Noise-induced hearing loss can happen any number of ways, from attending clubs or noisy concerts to using low powered tools or firearms, and even some vehicles such as snowmobiles and some motorcycles. Many people today also wear headphones to block out different noises around them while on buses, trains, or even just the street. All of this can lead to hearing loss.

Wearing headphones during exercise is also dangerous to hearing. Aerobic exercise diverts blood from the ears to the limbs, and leaves the inner ear more vulnerable to damage from loud sound. A Swedish study estimated that the risk of hearing loss is doubled when listening to headphones at high volumes during aerobic exercise.

Due to new technology such as rechargeable batteries, people use their portable music players longer and do not give their ears time to rest. Some signs that tell you that you have done damage

to your ears are: if you leave a place that was extremely noisy such as a concert or sporting event and you have a slight ringing in your ears that could mean you caused some ear damage, or difficulty in understanding speech, or even slight muffling sounds.

The best thing to do is let your ears rest after you have been exposed to high levels of sound, and your ears may possibly recover. As you repeatedly subject your ears to loud noises it causes more damage to the hair cells in the inner ear, which are the keys to good hearing. The louder the sound the less time it takes for damage to occur.

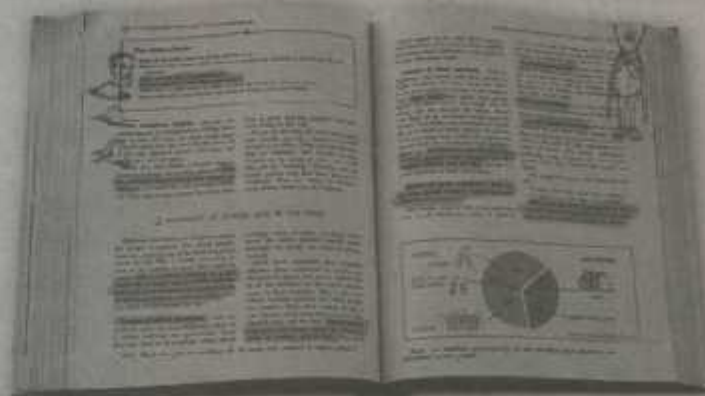
Researchers say that listening to a portable music player with headphones at sixty percent of its potential volume for one hour a day is reasonably safe. But people often turn their volume up to ear-damaging levels. A survey published this summer by Australia's National Acoustic Laboratories found that about twenty-five percent of people using portable music devices had daily noise exposures high enough to cause hearing damage.

Professional musicians have formed Hearing Education and Awareness for Rockers (HEAR) to promote hearing protection and researchers are trying to develop teaching kits.

## COLLEGE SURVIVAL TIP

## THE BENEFITS OF USED TEXTBOOKS.

THE WISDOM OF RIDING THE COATTAILS OF THOSE WHO'VE COME BEFORE.



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# The Exorcism of Emily Rose: Dark and Terrifying, What Happened to Emily?

■ Based on a true story, Emily Rose tells a terrifying spiritual story.

by **Sophia Koshmer**

*the sandspur*

It is not so unlikely that a film such as "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," would top the charts in the past week. Since its September 9th release, it reeled in 30.1 million and the number one spot at the box office.

With the zombie horror fad becoming a thing of the past, exorcism is quietly fading into mainstream cinema with its dark and terri-

fying nature, possessing its faithful comedy-craved audience that has been the overall trend as of late.

Based on a true story, "The Exorcism of Emily Rose," is a film in which a priest, his lawyer, and a faithful innocent are put through one of the strongest tests of faith that cinema history has ever known.

On trial for the shady, so-called negligent homicide of Emily Rose (played by newcomer Jennifer Carpenter), a faithful priest (Tom Wilkinson, *Eternal Sunshine of the Spotless Mind*) would risk the tainting of his honor and devotion in

order to tell the story of the possession of Emily Rose, which he contends was the cause of her death.

Skeptical and vacant attorney Erin Bruner (Laura Linney, *The Life of David Gale* and *Kinsey*), assigned to the case of Emily Rose, is quickly pulled into a highly outlandish world of demon possession and holy exorcisms, taking on both church and state in the fight to find out what really killed Emily. Finding herself almost willing to believe her client, Bruner must search within herself to figure out if the truth can be revealed through something more than hard evidence.

Those hoping for another "Exorcist" scare will most likely find themselves highly disappointed. The previews for this movie are deceiving in that they make it seem like a horror film, when in actuality aside from the genre classification and some mildly intense flashbacks, this film is more representative of a heavy drama than a satisfactory scare-fest.

The direction of the movie is probably best depicted by its tagline, "What happened to Emily," because this is the heart of the



The Exorcism of Emily Rose / Screen Gems

**WHAT HAPPENED TO EMILY?:** Scenes from the movie are vivid in color and enchanting to the eye.

film and its exact purpose. Many also contend that a film boasting such first class talent is expected to deliver, and I feel that "Emily Rose" does just that, but not in the way that the previews lead you to suspect.

Tom Wilkinson has created a very moving character in Father Moore, whose deep torment never outdoes his very true goodness. This is paralleled by Linney's fabulous rendition of the deeply lonely and empty attorney searching for truth, not only in her cases but in her own life.

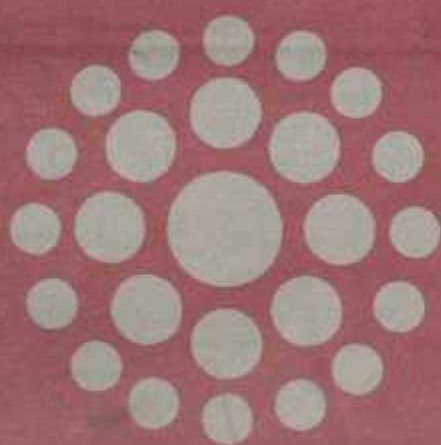
The only complaint I have about this film is probably the acting of the title character, Emily Rose. While Carpenter was the picture of innocence and faith, I felt that her torment

was unconvincing in the way that much of the time you can tell she's acting. However, she is new to Hollywood and has much to learn, so I felt that above all it was a very commendable debut.

None of this contends to say the film was not enjoyable. However, if you are looking for a good scare this is not the movie I would recommend you go see. Yet, if you are intrigued by a very intense stretch of the American court system and a journey of the skeptic mind into the world of the believer, then this film is the perfect balance of shocking and thought provoking.

"The Exorcism of Emily Rose," will have you searching beyond the boundaries of reality.

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# WEEKLY HOROSCOPES



**Aries** (March 21-April 19): If you feel like you don't have the time to get your life in line this week, don't panic. Early this week you'll have so much to do that you should really leave the social life on the back-burner. Instead, get everything done early so that you'll be able to relax at the end of the week and go out to party this weekend. This could be especially good weekend for your love life so don't miss out.



**Taurus** (April 20-May 20): You've spent so much time helping everyone around you to stay calm that you deserve to spoil yourself. Don't worry about all the difficult things you have to deal with later this week. Just remember to take time for yourself to relax and enjoy the simple things in life or your loved ones. You're sensible by nature, just utilize that ability now and you'll be in good shape through the end of the month.



**Gemini** (May 21-June 21): This is not a week for relationship bliss for you. Batten down the hatches because everyone in your life is going to be having issues this week. Even though you'll have to deal with a lot of situations you don't necessarily have to be involved in, your presence will make things turn out just a little better for everyone involved. If you'll approach every situation you're presented with calmly then you'll make it through just fine. Avoid being over-emotional or antagonistic towards those seeking your help and support.



**Cancer** (June 22-July 22): It could be that you feel a little overwhelmed this week despite your lack of academic work late in the week. Don't get overwhelmed by the situations you encounter. Go play outside, relax with a movie, or cuddle up with your honey

and things will look better immediately.



**Leo** (July 23-Aug. 22): This is a week for love and life. Don't waste it. You have opportunity waiting just around the corner in every area of your life if you'll only go after it wholeheartedly. Don't let less meaningful pursuits distract you from the important things in your life right now. Try staying at home this weekend to get all your affairs in order.



**Virgo** (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Love is in the air for you this week. If you're single then get out there and meet someone. The stars don't just ordain romance for no reason so make sure that you look for meaningful love, not just a brief flame. If you're attached then be sure to romance your love thoroughly to remind them just how lucky they are to have you.



**Libra** (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): This is a week for renewing old friendships and actively searching for new ones. Call up old friends from home to remind them you still care even though you're in a new place. Seek out like minds on campus who can help enrich your life experience here at college. Friendship is just a matter of looking in the right places.



**Scorpio** (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Don't burn any bridges this week. You're on the verge of hurting others if you don't try to curtail that edgy nature of yours. Some of the special people in your life are going to have a difficult time. They need your support, not your sarcasm. Make this a week for diplomacy and empathy and you'll be sure to gain a few new favors and friends.



**Sagittarius** (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Your life is continuing to look up. Don't let small disappointments

discourage you from realizing that your life is going in the right direction. There are always minor setbacks, but if you stay focused and positive then you'll be sure to overcome them and be highly successful in your daily pursuits. If you find your week shaping up along the lines that you can deal with then by all means go after love. Love is one of those key areas in your life that you have the potential for great success as long as you can get past the initial steps.



**Capricorn** (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Be sure to check in with the loved ones in your life this week. You're naturally a highly dependable person for those around you. That will be especially useful this week as those around you wonder how you're doing as a part of their sense of stability. It might not be a bad idea to call the people in your life that you depend on as well to give yourself a sense of security. Be reassuring and reasonable for a calm week.



**Aquarius** (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Your life is enriched this week with the people that surround you so don't take them for granted. Go out with your friends for a day of fun and laughter. Be the leader of the pack this week on such activities to ensure that you'll be having a good time. In matters of romance, your love will be thrilled if you plan a romantic evening at home to celebrate your mutual satisfaction. Love and be loved this week.



**Pisces** (Feb. 19-March 20): Stay calm. Stress is trying to hammer down your door this week emotionally and academically. The only way you'll make it through is by organizing your week. Make a list of the things you need done and systematically make your way through them. Begin with your personal life or you won't be able to focus on your academic life at all. Karma will make this all up to you soon. Good luck.

## THE HOT SPOT URBAN FLATS

Given the fact Urban Flats has been open since their soft opening in January of this year and is a mere few blocks away from our small campus, most of you have either heard much about this Rollins' hot spot or have experienced it for yourself. I think the general view around campus about Urban Flats is that it is just a posh, overpriced restaurant which is only geared for the 21 and up crowd. Granted it does have a very popular Wednesday college night beginning at 11 p.m. with a live DJ, however, there is so much more to this new addition to Winter Park.

I am here to break that urban myth that Urban flats is just a place for the 21 and up kids to drink oversized martini's and dance to great music. I myself only had the impression it was a place for late night dancing and cocktails until I recently experienced the softer side of what this urban treasure has to offer. Many of us have been so distracted by Urban Flat's exceptional night life that we fail to realize what an affordable and scrumptiously appealing menu it has for us. This dimly lit, contemporary atmosphere includes a full menu featuring appetizers, Flatwiches (flat bread sandwiches), Flats, and collection of desserts. The prices range from about five to ten dollars (what a bargain folks!). The restaurant's signature dishes include flats. A flat is circular shaped flat bread with a variety of fresh toppings (almost like a thin crusted yet satisfying personal pan pizza).

Have a hot date tonight and a little tight on cash? I would highly recommend this as a ideal date idea due to the fact that it is so affordable. In the evenings the tables are all lit by candles and the booths all illuminate a romantic glow from the hanging glass lamps.

Guys don't think I forgot about you. Urban flats has a long bar that is almost the focal point of the restaurant, including two large flat screen televisions in order to watch any major games. Not to mention a full bar guys that features a great happy hour Monday through Sunday. Beer, Sports, and food guys, how much better can it really get? Getting together with a big group of friends? Urban flats is simply a relaxing and inviting environment with the dim lightening that sets the mood and decorated with scenic photos of deserted and mysterious out door locations. It is perfect for a group because the menus just right for sharing. Have all your friends order something whether it is a fabulous flat or a decadent dessert and get going on passing the dishes around and trying a little bit of everything.

The bar is a main center focus of the restaurant but the open kitchen to your immediate right is also a focal point. It includes an oversized flaming oven which helps to fill the room with a delectable aroma of fresh spices and baked bread. All and all kids, I gave you all the urban facts about Urban Flats so head on over and try a little bit of this and a little bit of that. Enjoy!

Location: 601 S. New York Avenue Winter Park FL

## VANESSA EVES



Lara Bueso and Dani Picard / The Sandspur

**FOOD AND FUN:** Urban Flats is great for its variety of alcoholic beverages as well as its awesome food.



# 50 Cent's New CD Doesn't Measure Up

■ The Massacre CD from 50 Cent leaves fans with unfulfilled wishes.

by **Angela Gonzalez**

*the sandspur*

It could be just me, but I get the feeling rap music is maturing and getting to the point where the subject matter goes beyond having sex and gang-bangin'. Like most genres, rap has followed a pretty tried and true method of song formation, lyrical content, and rhythm structure.

After being around for 25+ years, I think it's time for

more innovative rap music to emerge, possibly similar to artists like Kanye West & Common. As an appreciator of all genres of music, I'm definitely yearning for rap that expands musically beyond an 808 and simple looped hooks, and lyrically beyond sex & thug life.

The Massacre CD from 50 Cent leaves a lot to be desired for me. I feel like 50's going the way of Eminem. Being called an innovator once doesn't mean recycling your music over and over again will allow you to keep that title. Now, just like his predecessor Eminem, I feel a

little bit of déjà vu every time a new 50 track comes out.

The two released singles from The Massacre, "Candy Shop" and "Just a Lil Bit," both contain a simple looped hook and maybe a clap-track over a basic bass pattern lined with explicit lyrics about sex, and some pretty cheesy metaphors.

Actually, 50 obviously has no problem whipping out some downright lame lyrics like "I'll take you to the candy shop, I'll let you lick the lollipop" and "You don't wanna play with my toy soldiers". I'm sorry, but how gangster can you really

be if you're using children's subjects to purvey sexual innuendo? I think I'm even more disappointed in the rhyming schemes in general i.e. "shop, lollipop, spot, stop".

Call me overly-critical but I think a legit rapper can come up with a bit more complex word play than elementary level rhymes. I will admit, I did like "Disco Inferno" when I first heard it because when it comes down to it sometimes you just need a good 2-4 beat to blast when you're going out on the weekends. But I liked it for what it is, pop-rap.

When 50 first came out,

he was good, he was different. But that was quite awhile ago; rap, like all other forms of music, is always going to experience new artists coming out with new interpretations and experimenting with new things. Kudos for putting Jamie Foxx on "Build You Up," but copying Kanye isn't going to keep him ahead the game and all of the newcomers who want to be the next 50 Cent. I think if 50 is looking to be known as more than just MTV's rap poster boy, there needs to be a bit more effort put forth in his music to come.

## March of the Penguins Fans Still Love the Katamari

by **Alan Nordstrom**

*faculty contributor*

March of the Penguins is a film designed to generate empathy. I cannot think it possible for anyone to watch it through without developing a strong bond of affection, respect, and admiration for the "tribe" of Emperor Penguins it depicts.

A more beleaguered and durable species, utterly devoted to its self-preservation, is hard to imagine, even though its tenacity is matched, no doubt, by every other form of life when closely scrutinized.

What makes these perdurable penguins appealing is the intimacy the film compels by taking us into their midst to walk and slide in their footsteps on their harsh

Antarctic journey to breed and beget.

Invisibly, we waddle and huddle amongst them, a member of their tribe, or at least an assimilated anthropologist. We stand wing to wing and eye to eye with them, or perhaps a little shorter than these "Emperors" (when in fact they're half our height, as we see only with the credits at the end). We literally look up to them. And the camera lets us inspect them as minutely as Chaucer does his Canterbury pilgrims, while Morgan Freeman soulfully and unsparingly narrates the harsh story of their trek.

A nearly continuous score of music subliminally molds our emotions toward empathy, while camera close-ups of arcing beaks,

blinking black eyes, intricate fabrics of white, black, and gray feathers (and even scaly, reptilian feet and horny claws) enchant us aesthetically—to make us care.

Then add the charm of romance, the wonder of birth, and the sacrifices of parents for the well-being of their young, plus an ever-lurking danger that makes life seem fragile and precious—and you have drama that matches human drama.

Here's what we come to feel: how powerful is the instinct of life to persist and propagate—to go on and on and on, even against the most onerous and dreadful of obstacles. Life fights to prevail, but love underlies the process: life loves to live and lives to love, and round and round it goes.

by **Jeff Joseph**

*the sandspur*

Yes, it's that time of year again. On September 20, the sequel to the video game favorite Katamari Damacy will roll into local stores. The first installment released exactly one year ago today and I remember it plainly.

I was traveling across town on my bike to Winter Park Village mall. A new video game which I had been waiting for had finally released and it was my duty to collect it. Little did I know that the date September 21 would be forever burned into my mind. After hearing of the addiction called Katamari Damacy that had been sweeping across the nation, I had to buy it.

Upon the return to my dorm room in Holt, half my floor crowded into my room for the first glimpse of what would become a campus and nation wide cult favorite.

How do you explain a concept that can be described as an artistic masterpiece and a raging addiction? The basic concept is that you play as the Prince, a wee centimeter tall man who is a member of the Royal Court. His father King of the Cosmos accidentally destroys all the stars in the sky and it is your duty to recreate and rebuild the bright shining sky. How do you do this? The concept is delightfully simple, just roll a Katamari.

The Katamari is the tiny ball which the Prince rolls and everything of a size

similar to the Katamari's will stick to it. As the ball grows bigger so do the objects which can be claimed and rolled over. Eventually, you will pick up houses, volcanoes, and best of all people and animals. For some reason there is nothing more satisfying than hearing the people scream as they are rolled over. I'm sick...I know. You start out small, a mere 10CM is a sufficient size for the first star but by the end you must create the Moon and it requires a massive 300 meters for completion.

Beside creating the single stars, you can also create the constellations. The game includes Pisces (collect as many fish as you possible), Gemini (collect as many twins as possible), Ursa Major (roll up the largest bear possible), and many more.

Perhaps the most appealing aspect of Katamari Damacy is that it has a soundtrack that has gone down in history as being unforgettable. Sharp witty pieces of music from artists such as Saki Kabata make the game ten times as enjoyable and the songs are so catchy they never become dull or boring.

In one week, as the cult Katamari following stands breathless at the anticipation of another masterpiece, we, and at least I hope that the joy will spread beyond the cult group and that you will roll "We Love Katamari" into your living room. So have fun with it and don't be afraid to feed your Katamari addiction.

## Dancing with Pussycats

by **Roberto A. Pineda**

*staff reporter*

Some of the new faces introduced to the popular music world this summer are those of the delightfully quirky, extremely sensual, and delightfully upbeat Pussycat Dolls.

After listening to their debut album, which includes their worldwide hit single, *Don't Cha*, it should be obvious that these six girls are here to stay.

While their strength is clearly based on their dance songs, they also include some nice ballads which can be used for nice breather between dances. They definitely do have a sound of their own, but it is also clear, especially in their ballads, that they are being influenced by the already popular Beyonce Knowles and Mariah Carey styles.

Unlike a lot of the women coming into the music world nowadays, the lead singer in this group, Nicole Scherzinger, produces very strong vocals, and while the same cannot be said for the other five in the group, one definitely has to admire a genuine singing talent.

As should have been made obvious in their music video for *Don't Cha*, these girls are not going to shy away from the sexual and borderline raunchy, but they do it in a more sophisticated way.

Songs like *Beep* and *Buttons* use sexually implicit lyrics to make the mind swerve into certain gutters while the body follows in suit on the dance floor.

Their use of the hit classic, *Hot Stuff*, in their own version, *Hot Stuff (I Want You Back)*, is thankfully not a abomination nor is it a dis-

grace to the original. While it is very different, it is very well mixed together and one cannot help but dance along. Their redone versions of Billy Idol's *Tainted Love* and The Temptation's *Where Did Our Love Go* also follow the same patters.

None of three songs ever become annoying, and one can enjoy them even if the originals were a favorite from the beginning. All three songs are close enough to the original to be recognized as tributes to them, but far away music-wise that they become non-comparable. They also try their luck at the Big Band style of music in their song *Right Now*, producing a surprisingly awesome song to, again, dance to.

If you enjoy dancing till the morning comes, definitely go out and buy this cd, you won't regret it.



# Mötley Crüe Still Rocks Hard Live On Stage

■ Mötley Crüe brings back all that was good with 80's music.

by **Angela Gonzalez**  
the sandspur

Long gone are the days of the eccentric 80's hair and glam metal. But last Tuesday at the TD Waterhouse, the men from Mötley Crüe showed that they can still rock hard by putting on an over-the-top performance, laced with Mick Mars' ground shaking guitar riffs, Nikki Sixx's pulsing bass, Tommy Lee's rapid-fire drumming, and Vince Neil's classic, screeching vocals.

The stage was set up like a circus tent and held a theme of "Carnival of Sins," chalked full of pyrotechnics, acrobatic strippers, and leashed midgets. A giant projection of an Armageddon-themed, clay-mation video about Mötley Crüe saving the world from a giant planetoid kicked the show off. Thankfully they had no one opening for them, devoting

the entire show to the greatness that is Mötley Crüe. I think we were all relieved to find that Tommy Lee wasn't opening, phew! With an introduction done by an evil-looking clown, the Crüe started their musical set out with some of their older tunes. They had flames going all over the stage and tons of bright, pulsing lights. The band played on for about an hour or so before going to intermission. After the intermission, the guys really kicked it into high-gear when they came riding out on choppers and appropriately followed into "Girls, Girls, Girls." Not allowing a single moment for the momentum to go down, they continued right into "Wild Side." Honestly, I really lost track of the order of events after that because it was just a great mix of hard rock and tons of screaming and flashing all over the place. At one point in the show, Nikki came out with a video camera and formally introduced the band before handing over the camera to Tommy, officially making it the "Möt-

ley Crüe Titty Cam." They played "Dr. Feelgood," a personal favorite, with sparks flying everywhere. Tommy Lee contributed a high-flying drum solo with the help of two platforms suspended from the ceiling. "Kickstart My Heart" was another favorite that sent fans' fists shooting into the air. Vince Neil came out with an acoustic guitar and serenaded the crowd. After their encore, the entire crew came out, including the other stage performers, and promised that the Crüe would be back. My only complaint would be addressed to the fact that there was no general admission on the floor. Although I suppose when you're mainly catering to the 30-40 year old demographic, standing for 2+ hours doesn't seem like a very good idea.

All other things aside, it was one hell of a show. It doesn't matter if you're not a Mötley Crüe fan; if you didn't go, you still missed out. Because no whiny, John Mayer-wannabe's show is gonna rock you like the Crüe.

# Annie Russell's Starting Here

■ *Starting Here, Starting Now* looks to promise a good show this fall.

by **Roberto A. Pineda**  
the sandspur

The Annie Russell Theatre is yet again starting their theatrical season with quite the bang. This time, not a comedy remake of an old classic (as was last year's *Oscar and Felix*) but an old classic musical, *Starting Here, Starting Now*. Excellently penned by Richard Maltby, Jr. and composed by David Shire (*Ain't Misbehaving*, *Baby, Big*) this musical promises to be a huge hit this fall.

Everyone of all ages should enjoy this musical, especially since it should speak to all. Its basis is on the subject dearest to our hearts, love. Yet, this musical chooses to skip the clichés and does not become stereotypical at any time. Its vignettes are comedic at times, heart breaking at times, and yet very true to the complexity of its subject matter. The audience will not at any time

feel sick to their stomachs due to the falsity or mistreatment of the fragile topic of love.

While there aren't any real named characters, each actor and actress plays a variety of roles: players at times, lovers at time, and rejected at times. The cast is extremely promising, including the two freshmen and a variety of old faces. They all share strong voices and minute mannerisms required for a show of this nature. While you won't find any acrobatic *West Side Story*-like dancing, you will be amazed at the talent these young people possess at portraying each different character.

This show promises to be quite the strong start needed this season. It would be tragic to miss *Starting Here, Starting Now* considering it will be enjoyable to all ages and sexes. The show opens on September 23rd and runs through to October 1st. For ticket information call the box office at 407-646-2145. Remember, Rollins students get in free!

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## The "Right" Answer



by Jami Furo

political columnist

## WHAT ARE WE PLEDGING AGAIN?

A federal judge has ruled that the recitation of the Pledge of Allegiance in schools is unconstitutional and has banned it from use in four California school districts. U.S. District Judge Lawrence Karlton made the decision based on the fact that saying "one nation under God" is offensive to students who do not believe in God, also stating that it "violates school children's rights to be free from a coercive requirement to affirm God."

I know that the phrase "under God" was not added to the Pledge of Allegiance until the 1950s. However, why is it that this judge and those bringing the suit to the court, if they do not believe in God, why are they so offended by those who do? Why are they so insecure in their own beliefs and in the beliefs of their children that they are offended by the inclusion of two words? If they do not want their children to say those two words, more power to them. Employ some parenting skills, communicate with your kids, and tell them to leave those two words out, if you're so inclined. Why should that affect the other children in the room when then chances are that most of those children are either Christian, Jewish, or Muslim, all of whom believe in the same God?

Karlton was supposedly bound by the precedent set by the case ruled in the favor of atheist Michael Newdow's appeal that saying the pledge in schools is unconstitutional by the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals. In case you were somehow mistaken that Mr. Newdow had a single shred of credibility, the case was actually dismissed last year because the child that he had in elementary school who he was arguing on the behalf of was not a child that he had the custody of. He was not the legal guardian of his supposed daughter.

This is not about changing the Pledge of Allegiance. If they want to change the Pledge of Allegiance back to the way it was before the McCarthy Era, more power to them. That's really not my point. My point is that the Pledge of Allegiance is not a religious statement. It is a patriotic statement from a nation that happened to have been founded on Christian principles. To say that it is unconstitutional to pledge patriotism to the United States because of two words is extremist. This is not a nation of extremists, or at least it should not be given its governmental structure. This is a democracy where the rights of the individual and the rights of the nation of the whole are protected.

This is obviously the act of a group of activists that are threatened by any sort of profession of faith in the classroom, even if the document is not a profession of faith but a profession of patriotism. The situation is comical, at best. Or maybe it's not. Maybe it's a serious issue that these individuals are so insecure in their beliefs that they are threatened by every tiny mention of God in society.

## Park's Parking Problems

by Tanisha Mathis

the sandspur

There are many ways you can spend \$55.00, paying the city of Winter Park for violating section 98-163 is not close to the top of the list. Section 98-163 (a) states where a vehicle has been parked in an area within the central business district which restricts parking to a specific time interval, regardless of the time parked in such a area, such vehicle shall not be reparked within the central business district within a distance of 500 feet of the place initially parked within a period of 4 hours thereafter. On the surface that seems wonderful. It stops people from getting in their car and moving three parking spaces over in order to gain another three free hours of prime parking space. However, this new ordinance that was adopted on March 22, 2004 leaves a lot of room for some very questionable cases.

For instance, an individual who is in the district, leaves and then returns is subject to the stiff penalty. You didn't know about this new law? Well, you're not alone. And exactly how are you supposed to know about this new ordinance? Not through any newly posted signs; after you

get a ticket for violating the law like I did. I would love to be able to say I sniffed this one out like some pit bull reporter working for the people but I am not. I am simply the recipient of a ticket that doesn't make any sense to me. First of all, I didn't receive a \$55 slap on the hand. My ticket was for \$25 and it wasn't for reparking, it was for exceeding the three-hour parking limit. The meter maid, I'm sure she has a more politically correct title like the executive assistant and the flight attendant, was doing her check when I was leaving my parking spot a few minutes after 9:00 a.m. I went home, which is outside not only the Winter Park business district but the Winter Park city limits and ran a few errands in two different locations before returning to the area in order to take care of my last errand. I thought I was lucky when I found a parking spot in nearly the exact same spot I had left hours earlier. Thirty minutes later I return to my car to see a ticket securely under my windshield wiper and the beginning of a very frustrating process. Too many situations exist where this ticket should not be issued. Not only was I not trying to cir-

cumvent the parking limit, the police officer didn't know whether I was parked in the same spot for over three consecutive hours, which constitutes a \$25 fine or whether I "repacked" which garners a \$55 fine. Remember, she saw me leaving minutes after 9:00. In fact, that was the starting time she marked to begin my three-hour limit, two hours of which I wasn't in Winter Park.

The ordinance was to keep people from cheating the parking limit. Leaving the Winter Park business district, driving to Maitland and waiting for two hours is a long time and a lot of effort to circumvent the three-hour parking limit. Surely, common sense should come into play.

Now I have to contest the parking ticket. If the City Attorney's Office does not dismiss the ticket I will have to make the decision to pay the fine or continue on to court. If I go to court and I don't win, I will have to pay the fine, a late fee for the fine and possible court costs. Let me get this straight. If I go through the legal channels of protesting the ticket as the system allows me to do and I don't win I have to pay a late fee? Somehow I don't think common sense will prevail.

## Vegan Unfriendly Food

by Kelsey Field

the sandspur

When I think of the things I could buy with the \$3766 I am spending a year on bad Rollins food, I will admit I get a little upset. But when I think of what happens to my money when I don't use it up at the end of the year my blood boils. Besides the fact that you pay \$1883 a semester, you only start out with \$1612 after the fees they take out.

If you are one of the few vegans or vegetarians at this college, your nightmare doesn't end at the ridiculous amount you pay for food. At the beginning of the year I was told that the entire vegetarian section would be changed over to vegan in order to encompass both vegan and vegetarian dietary requirements.

Even if you are a meat eater, throw a bone to us non-meat eaters and check out what they are serving. Half the time I wouldn't feed it to a starving dog. Not to mention the kitchen is apparently not quite sure exactly what vegan is. So let me clear it up for those who don't know. No animal products. No eggs, cheese, meat, milk etc.

Although not everyone agrees with idea of vegan, the fact is that the Rollins dining services has pledged to provide those who do with a meal that will meet dietary requirements, including the very important yet often missing protein requirements. So why is it that sometimes the "vegan" section has cheese in it or some mysterious white sauce? I was told because the menu was made prior to the decision to change it over, mistakes were apt to happen. Without that main meal, there aren't many other options. If you're lucky, you can find some soy yogurt in the C-Store, which is surprisingly good, but other than that you're stuck with a proteinless sandwich.

Besides the basic blunders, the quality of food is drastically below what I should be getting for what I pay for. When I think of the food options they could do that meet a vegan/vegetarian diet, I imagine at least somewhat appetizing meals. But instead we are left with questionable options.

Most times I don't even bother trying Beans for the vegan food, because experi-

ence tells me that the stench arising from the vegan section does not mean it is a work of culinary art. So what. Bad food is a part of every college student's life. But say I don't use up all my money throughout the year, maybe I don't want to encourage this bad food phenomenon.

Shouldn't I get the money I don't use back? I mean, there is already money taken out at the beginning, why at the end as well? I'm sure most females can relate to this, whereas the males run out a couple weeks before the end of the semester and take on a food pal who will buy them food. But as much as I love helping out a fellow hungry student, the fact is I should be reimbursed at the end. There is no reason why the dining services should be able to take the money I haven't used up, since obviously they are not using that money to improve the food quality. Besides that, where does it go? Call the bursar and they'll tell you it's forfeited. That's great; I could have figured that one myself. Perhaps it's time to get that money reimbursed through action and buy yourself a real meal with that leftover cash.



# The Power to Move Mountains: The U.S. Government as God

■ Has the United States system of government gone too far in deciding its own powers?

by **John Ferreira**

managing editor

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all Men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights..." Thus are the glorious and storied words of the document that created our august nation. As a people we have heard them time and again, and I believe that we have not sufficiently pondered on their meaning. Vested in our Declaration of Independence is the idea of Natural Rights (made famous by John Locke) that we as humans are endowed by some higher power than the state with rights. Jefferson and Locke went so far as to assert that

the only reason that government was instituted among people was to defend these natural rights. That is foundation on which America is built on.

The liberal ballast of America is being eroded by an increasingly predatory executive branch which consumes more power as the decades wear on and cultural advocates who want to eliminate all mention of a higher power from the public square. There is a ominous strain in America today that seems to acquiesce all power to the government, in essence shifting the role of the "Creator" to the State. The State in all its forms has now become God, the highest power. In the eyes of many Americans it is the government that gives you your rights you are not born with them, that is a worrisome thought.

When all Natural become civil rights they are no longer inalienable they can

be taken away by a swift amendment or a capricious piece of legislation. When the State becomes God it is capable of all abuses, for who is to say they are wrong since theirs is the monopoly on power. In an ironic twist our system sounds more like a Hobbesian utopia than a Jeffersonian or Lockean one.

Today American democracy has become an empty exercise that occurs to fulfill the pragmatic need of leadership, ignoring the higher moral order inherent in the consent of the governed. If you remove the Liberal bedrock of democracy you are left with a system that is not free or just. T.S. Eliot put it best when he wrote "...totalitarianism can retain the terms 'freedom' and 'democracy' and give them its own meaning; and its right to them is not so easily disproved as minds inflamed by passion suppose."

The Liberal underpinning of our system of government must be retained. Even if one is not a Christian one must see that there is inherent value in all people. This is not about a Christian God it is about human rights and our defense of them. Without a power higher than the State the governed become pawns, nothing more than puppets to be manipulated. The most abusive states in history have been those that fail to acknowledge the inherent value of the individual. These states fail to recognize a power higher than themselves giving them a *carte blanche* to do as they wish.

Liberalism inevitably gives rise to ideologies that wish to destroy Liberalism, and I cannot help but feel that the rights that Jefferson and the brave men of Philadelphia wanted to be upheld are being encroached upon by their creation.

## Katrina: FEMA's Failed Response

■ The failure of FEMA at its recent test of response to Katrina brings doubt to a nation.

by **Jean Bernard Chery**

the sandspur

No one obviously, rich or poor; educated or uneducated; blacks or whites; young or old, is exempt from the fury of Mother Nature. Yet, the risks are greater for those lacking the capability to make a quick escape as proves Katrina. If one never thought of the disadvantage of being poor, the Katrina disaster gives everyone a glimpse of the plight of the poor.

For decades, the gap between the rich and the poor in America keeps widening while the presume war launched to counter it is nothing but failing. The war on poverty has been in vegetative state for many years, now could Katrina perform a miracle to revive this brain-dead American war?

Many believe that the only good thing that may come out of this tragedy is a national understanding of how harmful poverty is to the

lower American social class. However, it also exposes one ugly side of our political system.

It is common belief that in America knowledge supersedes partisan political when it comes to some key jobs such as head of FEMA, but when making a nomination a politician cares more about paying his dues to those contributing countless time and money to his campaign than qualifications of any kind. This case backfires on the administration and leads to the resignation of Michael D. Brown, now ex-FEMA director.

Many including myself were amazed to see the president for the first time take responsibility for the administration failure to respond in a timely manner to the victims of Katrina in the gulf coast, especially in New Orleans. Finally, this bullet was too fast and too hot to dodge. However, this failure recognition from the president did not come easy. Despite the fact that it took FEMA five days to respond to the desperation of victims in the devastated area in the state of Louisiana, the president hails Brown for what he calls "a heck of a

job." It seems like the president was watching the FEMA response at a whole different angle from everyone else; perhaps it appears that President Bush was in another planet. As he gets back on Earth from his celestial voyage, the president realizes that almost the whole country is outraged with the federal government response to the disaster.

A prevailing debate in the media was that race may have played a role in the slow response from FEMA, for most of the victims were black. Although, this allegation could not be proven at this time, one black woman says on CNN that this response would be part of the history's blackbook. One could argue that there is no proof that race was a factor, but there is no way one could reject the fact that poverty was a factor in determining the fate of so many left to die in New Orleans.

In addition to the unmistakable failure of the government, revelation about Brown's background puts the administration in an awkward position. Among others are allegations that Brown embellished his resume in order to get the job and his appointment to the post was

in compensation for his contribution to the president campaign. A day or two later, the president changes the tone of his speech from complementing Brown to calling the result of the federal government response unacceptable. Why couldn't the president's advisers anticipate these reactions and accordingly spare the president of this embarrassment. Definitely the president would earn a lot more credit if he had not praised Brown's job. He just gives Michael Moore another chance to make a second movie to show a pattern in the way the president is so disconnected from the every day reality.

After all, this tragedy is a reminder of how vulnerable the country is. If the federal government cannot respond quickly enough to a well anticipated disaster as Katrina, how could we trust it to protect us against unpredictable terrorist acts? And would the government's failure to bring aid to Katrina victims and Brown's questionable appointment and resume force authorities to return FEMA to the independent institution it once was?

### The Sandspur

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Newspaper in Florida

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WITH THE FOLLOWING  
EDITORIAL:

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

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In considering a submission for publication, *The Sandspur* reserves the right to edit letters and articles.

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## VIEW FROM MARS



by Alan Nordstrom

faculty columnist

## ON VALIDATING BELIEFS

In judging or justifying beliefs, to ask whether a belief is true or false misses the point, since if a belief proved true it would no longer be a belief but a known fact. Those propositions that bid for our belief are not like hypotheses that can be tested and verified factually; rather, being empirically unprovable, they must be evaluated in another way. Ask instead: are they wise or foolish? It is prudent to believe in some notions because such convictions bring benefits, while other notions prove noxious and therefore foolish.

In my usage of the terms, I would restrict belief and believing entirely to matters beyond scientific verification and proof. A comparable distinction is sometimes drawn between a problem and a mystery in that problems may be solved or resolved, whereas mysteries cannot be (except in "mystery stories," which actually involve inspection, detection and reasoning that solve problems). A true mystery is inexplicable; it lies beyond reasoning and fathoming; it transcends intellectual and empirical processes. "Whodunnit?" is a problem; "Does everything happen for a reason?" is a mystery. A mystery endures through the ages as one of "life's persistent and unanswerable questions." A mystery must be lived with and accommodated to, and beliefs are our means of accommodation.

Does everything happen for a reason, a hurricane for instance? If you are the survivor of a devastating hurricane in which you have lost relatives, pets, your house and your belongings, and now you are relocated thousands of miles away and are dependent on the charity and assistance of strangers, do you believe there is a reason or purpose for all this? If you do, what proof can you offer, what evidence? None, I say. But that's beside the point.

The appropriate question to pose to your belief is this: What comes of your believing that your apparent calamity happened for a reason? "For a reason" implies, I think, for a good reason, for some beneficial purpose we may not now realize. It also implies a benevolent reasoner, say God, who for purposes beyond our reckoning has contrived for or allowed events to happen as they did and permitted the suffering that ensued. For us to know why may be impossible, may never be revealed, yet still you trust that these events are not absurd or meaningless, but are unfathomably reasonable.

At this point you may estimate the results of believing as you do, as opposed to believing in the absurdity or senselessness of the universe. What comes of your belief may be consolation and reconciliation you would miss by believing in a meaningless universe. Another person, however, an atheistic existentialist such as Albert Camus, might find more benefit in supposing the universe to be absurd and finding a kind of heroism in so believing. Hence two opposing beliefs on this mystery are tenable and beneficial and therefore, I would say, valid in the sense of strong. Neither belief is true or false because those words pertain to matters of knowledge, not of belief. Veracity is different from validity in my usage. Knowledge can be verified; beliefs can be validated.

A valid belief is one that "works for you," no matter how incredible it may seem to others. But it is a wise belief, not a foolish one, only if it does produce genuine benefits, not merely for you but for others you are involved with. What benefits are "genuine" is a matter of interpretation, but also of verification—partly subjective and partly objective. And it may take time to know whether what results from your belief will prove enduringly beneficial, so that you might look back from the end of your life and say that it was indeed a justified belief because to believe so and not otherwise worked best for you and produced the best results. It was a belief that paid off and proved its value—its validity—and this is its wisdom.

## THE OFFICIOUS OMBUDSMAN



by Issac Stolzenbach

asst. opinions editor

At the request of some of our readers, I've developed a column to try and offset the blatant fundamentalist-conservative view purported by this publication. I am not on the right or the left; I am a dissenter who believes in progressive thought, a veteran, and a patriot.

[pulls soapbox from back pocket and steps up] The fascist swine facilitating this newspaper (who are trying to prove me wrong by running this article) will not hinder my quest for Truth. With that in mind, let's get right down to business. As of late, our government has reinvigorated their noun sodomy—the war on drugs—with an ad campaign reminiscent of the 1930's anti-marijuana propaganda hit, "Reefer Madness."

I often use "Reefer Madness" as a marker to argue how trustworthy our government is when it comes to deciding what is good for the American people. Now let's be honest with ourselves, if only for a moment. When was the last time you witnessed some random violent & crazy-eyed stoner wearing semen-stained bib and tucker... chasing after little red-hair boys with big ears and freckles?

You haven't! Nor have I. But I have observed, and interviewed, what the establishment considers "stoners"; people who use medical marijuana. Rest assured, they don't have fluids sizzling from every pore, nor do they have any desire to molest Opie. Some look just like you and me; some look like you are staring Death in the face.

The new anti-drug campaign posits marijuana use by teens causes "depression, suicidal thoughts, and schizophrenia." Ha! Our teens will have these inclinations regardless of their interaction with pot because they are witnessing the death of the American dream. Matter of fact, marijuana actually helps with depression. Using the Center for Epidemiologic Studies' Depression Scale, researchers at the University of Southern California found in June 2005 that marijuana use actually lowers depression levels. For the other claims, our govern-

ment played "pick and choose" in gathering their evidence by gathering isolated cases from around the globe, which by the way is not endorsed by our own National Agency on Drug Abuse.

Earlier this summer I visited Portland, Oregon (where marijuana is legal for medicinal purposes) to visit friends and investigate the possibility of picking up a prescription for pot. I found I couldn't just "pick it up" but I was eligible for a grower's card, which would entitle me to six plants: four growing and two mature.

I am a legal addict, suffering from degenerative disc disease (DDD), osteoarthritis, scoliosis, and a herniated disc that visits occasionally, which require seven prescriptions to make me "normal" like you: Bextra, Skelaxin, Oxycodone, OxyContin, Xanax, some steroidal, and name any ran-

## Journalism



DANI PICKARD / The Sandspur

dom antidepressant you like; about one to two hundred dollars worth of meds every day to quell the constant pain and make me affable in public. All of which can be replaced with a five-dollar joint in the evening.

I spoke with Oregonians who suffered similar ailments as myself, and worse illnesses. One sufferer, Ed, informed me, "We have found different strains of the plant for different ailments. Some for pain relief that doesn't make you "stoned" per se, others that excite the appetite of chemotherapy patients," Ed removed his beanie hat to reveal a shiny head, and only then did I notice the purple bags under his eyes, "I was dying from the treatments [chemotherapy]

because I wouldn't eat, but now I have a grower's card and a strain of the plant to help with appetite and pain. I will survive!"

Sitting at the airport on my way back to Florida, I heard the Supreme Court's ruling on CNN echo through the lounge, "The court has ruled that medical marijuana users are still liable for federal prosecution regardless of state laws." I thought of the reaction Ed and others sufferers might have when they heard this, and my heart sank. Would Ed still survive?

A few basic questions came to me: Why such a fuss? Why won't our country legalize such a cheap and effective non-chemically addictive drug? Further research revealed that the main lobbyists against pot are the tobacco and alcohol conglomerates that don't want competition in the recreational drug arena. And of course the pharmaceutical companies don't want any chemically addictive substances replaced—at a fraction of the cost—by a natural remedy. I don't think our teens should be using drugs, but we should reserve anti-drug campaigns for drugs that ruin lives like cocaine, heroine, opium... OxyContin.

What a tragic joke. The people who peddle alcohol and cigarettes, the true "gateway drugs" in this country, work hard pushing the hand of our government to lie to us. Even worse, the pharmaceutical companies are allowed to push drugs that make their users addicts. The chief offender in that line of prescriptions I mentioned earlier is OxyContin, a drug that leaves a cavernous scar on every cell of the user. Victims of this legalized drug addiction, if and when they are able to kick the habit, are left searching for excess in all things... trying to fill the gaping wound in their soul. I speak from experience.

[raises goblet] So, here's a toast to Bacchus in hopes that here at the newspaper we don't lower ourselves to adolescent column-banter because I'd rather not carry out a battle of wits with the unarmed....



# Professional Athletes Open Their Hearts

■ Professional athletes donate millions to aid Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.

by **Juan Bernal**

*the sandspur*

In the competitive nature of sports, many critics or fans always talk about playing with heart. Giving all that one has every time he/she steps out on the field is a must every time, and it would be considered an insult to the sport if you did not.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many athletes in the NBA, NFL and other prominent sports figures have opened up their wallets to help out the victims that were ravaged by the devastating hurricane. Also many athletic departments, namely LSU opened up their campus to help refugees from the hurricane.

Let's face it, we all complain about how we think professional athletes make too much money. But when the hurricane hit, it was amazing to see how quickly players and people around

the professional sporting scene reacted.

Kenny Smith, a former NBA guard who won two championships with the Houston Rockets and is now a color analyst for TNT got many of the NBA's best including Dwyane Wade, former Orlando Magic star Tracy McGrady, Central Florida native Amare Stoudemire, Kevin Garnett and LeBron James for a hurricane relief game.

The players ended up donating over \$1 million to the Katrina relief fund, and the ticket proceeds also raised an unbelievable amount.

As for the game, the 11,416 people that showed up were not disappointed as the West pulled away in the fourth quarter to win 114-95. Tracy McGrady led the West with 21 points. Afterwards many of the players stuck around to visit shelters and interact with the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

It was great for the victims to interact with professional athletes like that, and



**HOME SWEET HOME:** A New Orleans Saints fan welcomes the team to their home opener at Giants Stadium.

it's a good experience for the athletes to see what these victims are going through first hand.

For the NFL, football serves as the only escape for many people; whether they are victims, family, refugees or residents of New Orleans. The NFL took that into account and created a special

Monday night telecast dedicated to Katrina relief.

The NFL put together a telethon headed by former Denver Bronco legend John Elway. Among the operators that were answering the phone were Philadelphia Eagles Quarterback Donovan McNabb, Hall of Fame running back Marcus Allen and New York Jets center Kevin Mawae (who is a Louisiana native).

There was a special five hour long Monday Night Football telecast opening with the Giants and the Saints. It was the first "home" game for the Saints, since the Superdome was destroyed by the wrath of Hurricane Katrina. Playing at the Meadowlands, the Saints dropped their "home" opener 27-10, as the Giants forced the Saints into four turnovers and Tiki Barber ran for two touchdowns.

Overall, the Saints, Giants and the NFL Players Association raised \$2.4 million collectively on Monday

night. Also former multi sport star and current Baltimore Ravens defensive back Deion Sanders encouraged every athlete to donate at least \$1,000.

It's amazing to see how such a tragedy brings out the best in all of us, especially people in which money is the easiest resource that they can give. Shaquille O'Neal started his own Katrina relief fund to help Miami residents get on with their lives after the hurricane, which caused a significant amount of damage in South Florida.

The LSU athletic department used the Pete Maravich Assembly Center on campus to house some 8,000 refugees, until they could get shelter elsewhere. Many LSU football players housed some refugees in off campus apartments or dormitories.

It may seem like sports have nothing to do with the hurricane relief process, but it has played a vital role. What if there was no Superdome, or Maravich Assembly Center or Reliant Stadium? It's amazing how athletes have given their hearts out to benefit these victims. It seems like it would be an insult not to.

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# U.S. Open Finals: Federer vs. Agassi

■ Federer wins against Agassi in the highly anticipated U.S. Open Finals.

by Jami Furo

*the sandspur*

The U.S. Open hosted one of its most anticipated finals in history on Sunday, September 11. Roger Federer and Andre Agassi faced off in Arthur Ashe Stadium in a final to remember.

Federer won the match in four sets with 6-3, 2-6, 7-6 (1), 6-1. However, Agassi, at age 35 and after playing four consecutive five set matches, did not make the match as easy for Federer as some expected.

Federer, a Swiss player at the mere age of 24, is considered the top tennis player in the world at this time. Some even consider him to be one of the greatest players ever. The tennis world has come to expect a final that involves him and Andy Roddick in every major. It has simply come to be the norm. However, with the shocking disappearance of the young American Roddick in the first round, the entire shape of the tournament was changed, leaving room for other players to enter.

The match was unbalanced from the beginning. Federer is two inches taller and 11 years younger than the veteran Agassi. (In tennis years,

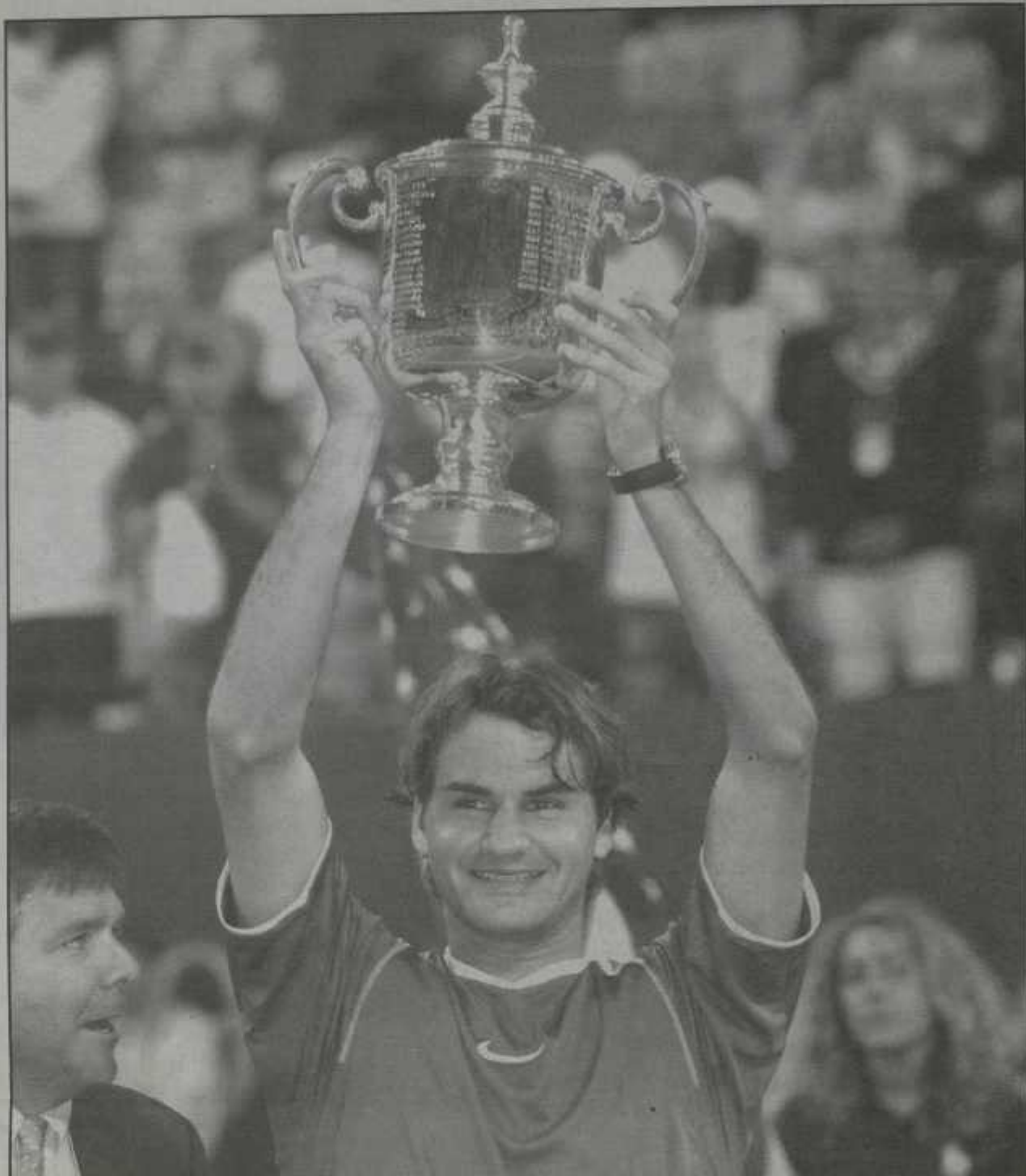
11 years might as well be an eternity).

Federer breezed past his quarterfinal match against David Nalbandian with 6-2, 6-4, 6-1. Agassi's quarterfinal match against the young James Blake was considered one of the best matches of the tournament, going five sets into the wee hours of the morning.

While Federer faced more trouble from Leyton Hewitt in the semifinals than he did from David Nalbandian in the quarterfinals, Federer still won with far less effort than it took Agassi to beat yet another young American, Robbie Ginepri. Again, Agassi won in five difficult sets with 6-4, 5-7, 6-3, 4-6, 6-3.

Spectators and announcers were not confident that Agassi would be able to hold up given his age, his competition, and his last few grueling matches. However, he still entered Arthur Ashe Stadium as a crowd favorite, a representative of the New York crowd's country and as a tennis legend.

The match was filled with long volleys and creative shots. Neither player let many shots go past them, even considering how much faster Federer is than Agassi. Federer broke once in the first set, then proceeded to finish it off. Agassi was not discouraged, though, and he took advantage of some key errors by Federer to break him twice in the second set, gaining him a



David L. Pokress/KRT CAMPUS

**FEDERER THE ACE:** U.S. Open champion Roger Federer holds the winners' trophy after defeating Andre Agassi at the finals on September 11.

comfortable victory for that set. The third set was the hardest fought, by far. No breaks were made, so the set was forced into a tie break, where Federer won comfortably at 7-1.

With Federer up two sets, Agassi finally got the appearance of being worn out. The past few matches

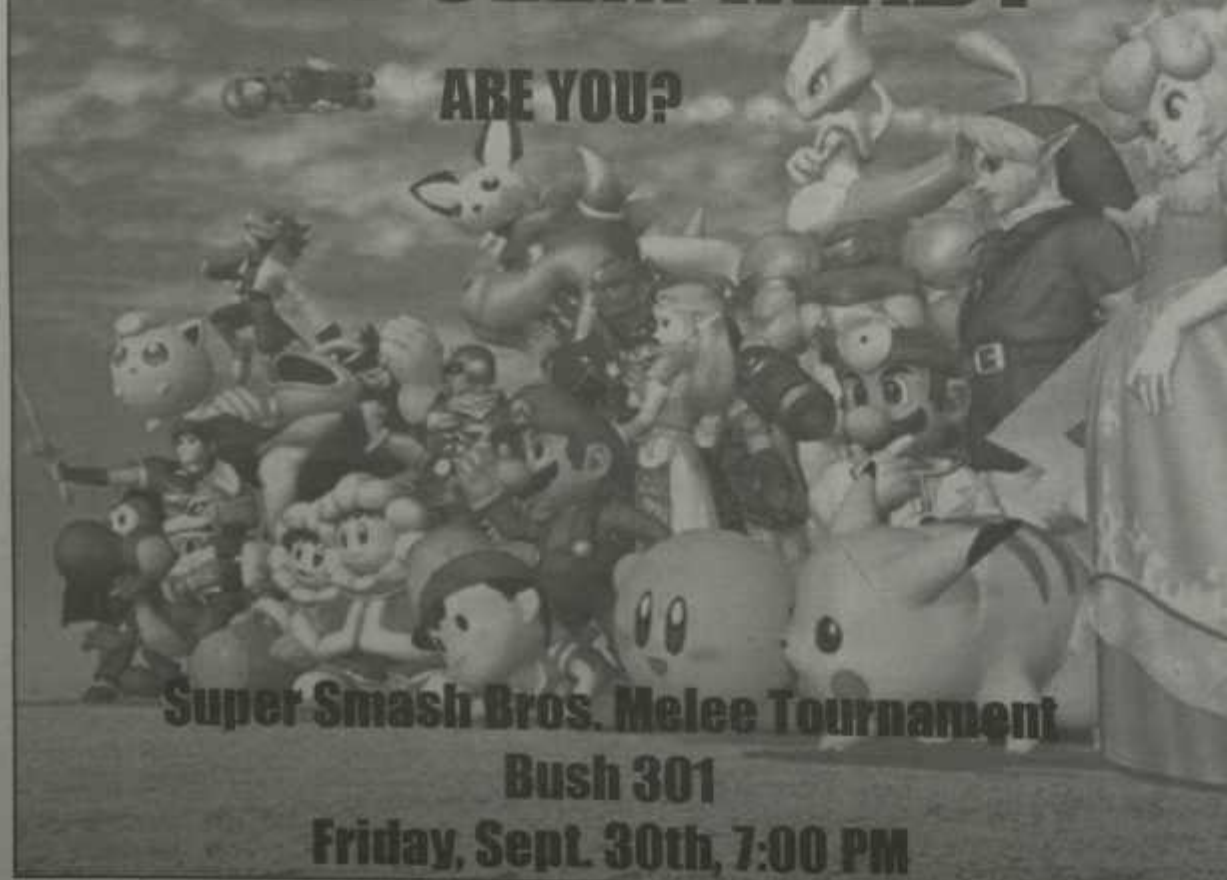
had finally caught up with him, and Federer easily took the match and the championship with six games to one.

The crowd cheered both players as they accepted their trophies, and both players complimented each other immensely as they were interviewed.

Agassi said that he never knew when his last U. S. Open would be. The crowd booed, wishing to see the legend again. However, he showed no signs of slowing down and no real signs of quitting. He will likely be back again next year for another try.

## THEY SEEM READY

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# Women's Soccer Pulls in Another Win

■ Women's soccer improves their record after Wednesday's game.

by **Angela Gonzalez**  
*the sandspur*

On Wednesday, September 14, the Rollins Women's soccer team had their sixth game of the season where they took on the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Eagles. The Lady Tars were fresh from their last victory at home and earned themselves another home field win.

The Rollins defense played strong throughout the game and only allowed

the Eagles to make four shots-on-goal.

On the other side, the Rollins offense definitely came through earning 19 shots-on-goal for the game. But it only took two of those shots to take home the victory.

In the first half of the game, Jacquelyn Parsons received a pass from Laura Guild that she took up the field, straight to the goal box and right in past the Eagles' goalkeeper. Then later on in the first half of the game, Jeri Ostuw successfully put away a second goal for the Rollins team.

On another Guild assist, Jeri Ostuw was able to maneuver the ball in past the goalie and claim her

first goal of the season. The Tars defense kept the Eagles strikers at bay until the very end of the game when in the last minute of the game they were able to get a goal in past Francesca Nicoloso.

After this game the women have an overall, current record of 5-1 for the season and the Eagles now have a 2-4 season record.

The Lady Tars will go up against Barry University on Saturday, September 24, at Barry in their next conference game. The match starts at 4:30 p.m. and if you plan on attending make sure and sport some white. Hopefully the Lady Tars will be able to continue their successful season.



**ON THE MOVE:** A Rollins player prepares to score in Wednesday's exciting game.

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## Running for the Fun of It

■ The cross country team gets ready to prepare for their third meet of the season.

by **Kristina Aronson**  
*the sandspur*

Following its first two meets, Rollins cross country team took a week to regroup and put in more mileage in preparation for the Embry-Riddle Eagle Invite at Daytona Beach Saturday, September 24. Both the men's and women's teams extended run lengths and upped the intensity of their workouts as the mid-season marker quickly approaches.

Rollins is the only school in the Sunshine State Conference without cross country scholarships. As a result both its men's and women's teams are primarily made up of runners that run 'just for the fun of it' or as one freshman frequently says, "...so I can eat burgers and fries."

Although Rollins' lack of cross country scholarship runners often means that the team finds itself towards the bottom of the results at meets, the fact that it is not all about winning adds a low-pressure element to the team.

Lack of pressure allows each runner to compete against himself or herself in each race, striving for a personal best time, while knowing that

the team will be there cheering at the finish line. Teammates are much more likely to be encouraging than on a high powered team where runners are often more concerned about beating each other, then they are about cheering their teammates on.

Cross country is a unique sport in that it is highly individualistic, yet each runner's success contributes to the team's success. In a race the top five runners are 'scored' according to their placing. Consequently, the team with the lowest score is the winning team, so it is important that all five of the top five runners do well. Should four runners run well and the fifth do poorly, it can easily push the team down in the results.

A twist is thrown in the scoring system with the sixth and seventh runners. Ultimately their duty is to defer points, which means that while they do not accumulate points for their respective teams, they can hurt other teams by finishing before the other teams' first through fifth runners. This causes the runners that runners number six and seven beat to accumulate more points, inversely affecting their team's point tally.

Although not always easy to grasp at first and time consuming to add up, the cross country scoring system is relatively simple and straightforward.



# A New Face Joins the Rollins College Athletics Dept.

■ John Portland joins the athletics staff in operations, game day, and promotions.

by **Angela Gonzalez**  
*the sandspur*

For those of you gym addicts, you've probably noticed the new face swiping you in and distributing towels at the front desk of the Alford Sports Center.

And in case you haven't become acquainted with him yet, his name is John Portland.

This is John's first semester here at Rollins as the works under many titles such as Operations Manager, Game Day Manager and Promotions Director.

Along with checking in gym patrons and running the front desk, John also handles the general upkeep of the sports center as well as keeping up the Cahall-Sandspur soccer field and the Barker Family Stadium.

He also is in charge of the maintenance of the Alford boathouse.

During the basketball season, John will be organizing all the halftime promotion events. In previous years, Operations Manager and Promotions Director had been 2 different positions however this year, John was hired to fill both jobs.

John was born in Denver, CO under the sign of Aquarius. He hails from State College, Pennsylvania and he went to college at Penn State College to pursue a degree in Business.

In 2004, he completed his Master's degree in Higher Education there. He moved down to Florida in June to take the position at Rollins.

As for his future aspirations, John would like to continue working in sports and become an Athletic Director. So make sure and welcome John to Rollins the next time you find yourself at the gym.



Courtesy Crummer Graduate School Photography

# Volleyball Sweeps Weekend Tournament

■ Volleyball team sweeps the Bentley Invitational in Massachusetts.

by **Juan Bernal**  
*the sandspur*

The Rollins College Ladies Volleyball team continued to post impressive performances, the latest coming at the Bentley Invitational hosted by Bentley College in Waltham, Massachusetts, just outside of Boston.

The Tars failed to drop a set, sweeping three games from the Bryant Bulldogs (Rhode Island), the Bentley Falcons and the New Haven(Connecticut) Chargers.

On Friday night in the Tars' opening match they faced Bryant. Earlier this season, the Tars faced Bryant in an epic five set marathon at Florida Southern in the first weekend of September, and prevailed. With the Bulldogs anxiously awaiting the rematch, the Tars put the pedal to the metal and never took it off.

The rematch did not produce nearly as much suspense or drama as the prequel, and the Tars dominated in straight sets 30-18, 30-26 and 30-17. The Tars were led by diaper dandy (slang for freshman) Lacey Malarky, who led the Tars fast setting offense with 40 assists.

Caner, who missed the first game with an injury, led the Tars offensively with 17 kills. Kim Cline led the defensive effort as she recorded 20 digs.

On Saturday, the Tars faced the host Bentley Falcons and the New Haven Chargers. Their first match was against the Falcons, who had a 7-1 record coming in. The Tars struggled



Steve Miller / The Sandspur

**READY TO PLAY:** The volleyball team gets pumped up to compete during a tough weekend of play.

to get on track, falling behind at various points in the first set.

But the Tars used the perseverance and their ability to come back to their advantage, and using those two intangibles, they rallied to win the first set 30-28.

In the second set, the Tars got off on the right foot and the Falcons never really posted a challenge and just like that the Tars were up two sets, taking the second set 30-20. The third set was hard fought, but the Tars were able to pull out the set and match winning 30-28, 30-20, 31-29.

Freshman Stephanie Nichols led the Tars on offense and defense with 15 kills and 11 digs. Julia Caner also contributed 11 digs defensively. As a team the Tars had 8 total team blocks.

To round out the Saturday slate of games, the Tars faced one final test in the New Haven Chargers. The Chargers quickly experienced the Tars offensive force, and fell behind by two sets with the Tars taking them 30-24, 30-18 respectively.

In the third set, the

Chargers tried to make a late game comeback, but the Tars were able to successfully close out the set and the match as they defeated the Chargers 30-24, 30-18 and 34-32. Stephanie Nichols and Allison North led the Tars on the attack, each with 10 kills. Kim Cline had 13 digs to lead the Tars defensively.

Overall Rollins Head Coach Sindee Snow sounded pretty enthused and impressed with the performance, giving praise to the two outstanding players in the tournament. "Stephanie Nichols was awesome at the outside position and Allison North continued to play very aggressively throughout the tournament. She was a big factor in our success. Kim Cline was very good on defense.

"The trip in itself was an awesome experience; it was good for our confidence and team-building. It was a huge success winning on the road and hopefully the momentum that we obtained on this trip will carry on into our trip with Florida Southern."

## ROLLINS COLLEGE - CAMPUS CALENDAR

| Friday 9-23  | Saturday 9-24   | Sunday 9-25  | Monday 9-26                                      | Tuesday 9-27  | Wednesday 9-28   | Thursday 9-29  |
|--|---|--|--|---|--|--|
| Rollins College Day<br>Rita's Fountain<br>9am to 11am          | Soccer vs. Barry Home<br>4:30pm Women's<br>7pm Men's<br>5:30pm Tailgate | Starting Here,<br>Starting Now<br>Annie Russell Theatre<br>4pm | Men's Golf<br>Coker Invite<br>Orlando<br>All Day | Rollins Wakeboard Club<br>Warden Dining Room<br>6pm | Starting Here,<br>Starting Now<br>Annie Russell Theatre<br>8pm | Amnesty Int'l<br>CSS Economics Lounge<br>7pm                   |
| Starting Here,<br>Starting Now<br>Annie Russell Theatre<br>8pm | Starting Here,<br>Starting Now<br>Annie Russell Theatre<br>8pm          | Tennis<br>Wilson/ITA Invitational<br>Fort Myers<br>All Day     |  | College Movie Fest<br>Dave's Down Under<br>9pm      | Men's Soccer vs. Lynn Home<br>7pm                              | Starting Here,<br>Starting Now<br>Annie Russell Theatre<br>8pm |

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