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The Sandspur

ROLLINS COLLEGE ■ WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Blacklight Manta plays at WPRK on Halloween. Find out more inside.

PAGES 8-9

LIFE & TIMES

What are the best class schedules? And how much is too much, credit-wise?

PAGE 10

SPORTS

Find out the latest on Volleyball, Baseball, and Basketball. Plus get some good advice from Editor Danny Travis.

PAGE 15-16

THE STUDENT VOICE OF ROLLINS COLLEGE SINCE 1894

VOL. 114 ISSUE 08

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November 12, 2007

Rollins Professors Spend Time at Harvard



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

COURTESY OF ROLLINS COLLEGE

(TOP) Jennifer J. Petters Chair of Business Ilan Alon

(BOTTOM) Rollins College Assistant Professor of International Business Marc Fetscherin

Daniel Paulling the sandspur

Jennifer J. Petters Chair of Business Ilan Alon and Assistant Professor of International Business Marc Fetscherin, two Rollins College professors, have been selected as visiting scholars at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government. Alon is currently serving there now, while Fetscherin will be there next fall. "Being involved with Harvard is great for Rollins because it is a very prestigious school with leading researchers," Alon said. "It's great that Rollins is increasing its Harvard connection. Rollins' increasing connection with Harvard is a testament

to the gain in our reputation."

There are only two or three visiting scholars selected each year, and because of the nature of the position, there is plenty of competition. A visiting scholar is required to give speeches and seminars.

The greatest part of the program is the chance to research alongside Harvard professors, who are some of the most highly recognized in the world.

Alon's research project involves the re-unification of Hong Kong and China, which took place in 1997, and the impact on the resulting economy. So far, he has found there has been a slight crackdown in freedom for residents of Hong Kong, but the economy has outperformed pre-

vious economic expectations. Alon refers to this as a "two countries, one system" policy.

Fetscherin is quite familiar with Harvard, as he is one member of Rollins' increasing connection to the school. He spent six months there as a post-doctorate fellow in 2005 after earning his doctorate from the University of Bern.

Fetscherin does not know what he will be concentrating on next year, but is looking forward to the opportunity.

"This is a wonderful experience because it's Harvard," Fetscherin said. "It's an incredible University with great people and connections worldwide."

Alon is one of the leading experts on China and has

published 20 books and more than 80 peer-reviewed articles and presents at several conferences year about the country. He also has established the Rollins China Center. It is one of only 12 in the USA.

The China Center allows undergraduates, graduates, and faculty to learn about, discuss, and experience China.

"The China Center allows for an increase in the global footprint of Rollins," he said. "It goes perfectly with the College's efforts to internationalize."

Recognition for the Crummer Graduate School of Business and its professors is nothing new. Both the recently AACSB-accredited International Business program and the Crummer

Graduate School are gaining in reputation. For the third consecutive year, Rollins College was ranked No. 1 in the South of the nation and the MBA program was recognized by Forbes magazine as a great return on investment. The program is now ranked 37th in the nation, up 10 spots from last year.

Alon is proud of where the school is at now, but also where it will be in the future.

"Harvard realizes the incredible talent we have here at Rollins," he said.

"Promises" Sheds Light on Middle East

Omar Rachid
the sandspur

"God gave Abraham the land but the Arabs came and took it away," says Moishe, a young Jewish boy living in the Israeli settlement of Beit-el, not far from Jerusalem. "The Arabs surround us, but our Army protects us," he says, and smilingly adds that he doesn't mind if a soldier misses a shot and kills an Arab.

"The Jews say it's their land. How can it be?" asks Mahmoud, a Palestinian boy from the Muslim Quarter in the Old City of Jerusalem. "Prophet Mohammed flew from Mecca to Al Aqsa mosque in Jerusalem, in Jerusalem," he says as he taps assuredly the table in front of him.

Marta Barber - Miami Herald

In efforts to raise awareness and promote multiculturalism on campus, Hillel and the Muslim Student Association have partnered to screen the movie "Promises" on campus Nov. 15. The organizers of this event, Yoni Binstock and Fatema Kermalli, are preparing to provide Middle Eastern food, refreshments, and tables with hookah to attract as many people possible to raise awareness on the conflict in the Middle East.

Praised by both Jews and Arabs alike, the movie "Promises" sheds a different light on the situation between Palestine and Israel—the movie is narrated by a Jewish filmmaker who seeks the perspective of seven children and how their lives have been affected by this seemingly unending conflict.

"In war both sides suffer," one of the Israeli boys says. "Maybe there's a winner, but what is a winner?"

Since the creation of Israel in 1948 as a homeland for the Jewish people, there has been incessant violence in this particular region of the Mideast. The state of Palestine was partitioned in two, and ever since, the feat of having both Jews and Arabs coexist has never seemed

so distant. Both nations have been distraught with warfare, many citizens losing cherished ones to Palestinian bombings and Israeli military tactics. The six-day war, the Yom Kippur war, and the Lebanon war, have brought an immense amount of bloodshed to both parties in a region that is sacred to the world's three Abrahamic religions: Christianity, Islam, and Judaism. Reconciliation efforts have undergone immense progress with the recognition of Israel on behalf of some states such as Egypt and Jordan and it is movies such as these that further enhance cooperation among Israelis and Palestinians.

B.Z. Goldberg, co-producer and co-director of the film, was raised in Jerusalem and left Israel to study film at the New York University. When the first Intifada broke up, he went back to Israel to film news footage for NBC, CNN, NBC, Reuters TV, and Japanese TV. It is at this time when he developed the idea of creating a documentary film after having been subject to both Israeli and Palestinian violence in the hundreds of hours of newsreel he produced. Along with Justine Shapiro, he started meeting several children who would eventually be featured in the movie "Promises." In meeting these young children, Goldberg and Shapiro were touched by the fact how well-versed, articulate, and aware these youngsters were of the historical and religious implications of the conflict.

In partnership with Rollins Democrats, Rollins Model United Nations, and the International Student Organization, Hillel and the Muslim Student Association feature "Promises," a documentary nominated for an Oscar for best documentary for the invaluable lessons it teaches. The United Muslim Foundation has graciously bought the educational package of the film to screen the film on campus. Don't forget to join them at 7:15 pm in front of Mills Lawn this next Thursday.

Noise Pollution

Stephanie Ellenburg
the sandspur

At the Cornell Fine Arts Museum here on campus, the Rachel Simmons' exhibit will appear until December 30th featuring the series "The Dead Sea," "Anoxia," "Wonders (of the Sea)," and "Noise Pollution."

In a discussion panel held November 1st, Simmons' and her colleagues held an open discussion to students and staff members in order to describe the process of Noise Pollution and answer any questions. The panel was held in the room where her exhibition surrounded the audience and where a PowerPoint presentation was executed before any conversation began.

With the help from physics professor Thom Moore, Tom

Cook professor of philosophy and religion, and Dan Crozier of the music department, Simmons was capable of creating the images of "Noise Pollution." The images were translated into sound and there are headphones next to the art in order to hear what the waves in each of the pictures portray.

"Noise Pollution" demonstrates the effects of powerful sonar waves and other underwater noise pollution that are believed to cause marine mammals skeletal damage and also confusion in their navigation. Each piece of artwork has a sperm whale surrounded by the images of sonar waves and are beautiful works of art that signify a deeper meaning beyond what is visually seen.

Res Life Produces Global Citizens

Stephanie Ellenburg
the sandspur

This year the Rollins College Residential Life has been spreading new values and experiences to everyone living on campus. There are 33 Resident Assistants and 10 House Managers who have teamed up with the head of Res Life, Pablo Moran, in order to develop a new mission and set of values called the V-5. In essence the V-5 makes up 5 main principles for the RAs to concentrate on which are; learning, social justice, responsibility, collaboration, and leadership. These are the values established within the living community and every month a value is encouraged to be demonstrated by the RA.

To further contribute to the learning experience here on campus and in order to support the Rollins' mission of creating global citizens and responsible leaders, the organization of Res Life came up with the idea of LLC (Living Learning Communities). These communities are made up of many RCC classes where students can relate to one another and learn together. A good example is Ward Hall where most freshmen live and build relationships with those people sharing similar experiences.

Referring back to the values of the V-5, leadership, responsibility, social justice, collaboration and learning all uphold to the standards that residential life wants to create for Rollins students. In the LLC, leadership will be placed on the shoulders of the Resident Assistants but most importantly

will direct students to motivate each other while learning the skills within their RCC classes.

Responsibility is a value highly encouraged to students in order to be critical decision makers, respectful to themselves and others while also focusing on social justice of the V-5. The commitment in creating environments free from hate, prejudice and discrimination is another value where everyone is celebrated for who they are.

Residential life also focuses on the collaboration with other departments, faculty, students and staff in order to accomplish new experiences for the students. This includes the language house of Strong Hall where the learning community focuses on foreign culture. This brings up learning as a V-5 principle, where the Res Life encourages an educational experience outside of the classroom.

Focusing more on the LLC in Strong Hall, this is where the German and Spanish RCC classes are currently. This gives students the chance to live in a

"language house" where only German and Spanish will be spoken throughout the dorm. The goal is to create an atmosphere for foreign space that provides students with the wonderful opportunity to learn from each other as they work their language skills. There are two native speakers living in the dorm as Language Assistants as well as other international students contributing to the foreign culture environment.

"Both my beginning German RCC and Gabriel Barreneche's intermediate Spanish RCC live in Strong Hall," said Professor Nancy Decker, "along with tutors from both our German and Spanish partnered universities."

There is hope that this opportunity will continue in future years with other languages besides Spanish and German. This is a great way to fulfill the Rollins' mission statement in producing "global citizenship" and placing students in a situation to expand their knowledge on foreign language further.



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&

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Contributing Voices

Kindness Week at Rollins

Deborah A. Cumbus
contributing writer

Did you know that there is a World Kindness week? Indeed, November 12-18, an entire week dedicated to the practice of random acts of kindness! A reminder, as a global community, to be kind and to pass kindness on at every level - local, national and worldwide! Is it a lofty ideal or a realistic endeavor? Only you can decide.

Think about it - you can make a difference, one person, and one act at a time. Your inner voice may tell you "no, you can't," that it just doesn't matter. The reality is however, that you can make a difference and the difference starts with changing your inner voice.

With that in mind, November 14, 2007 has been designated as Rollins Kindness Day. It is not a new concept but Rollins Kindness Day evolved from a group project in Dr. Rick Bommelje's Leadership and Effective Communication class. The goal is to create a bold, compelling and impactful project that is SMART - Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Timely; but it also needed heart.

The project was titled "Reflecting Compassion" and the group committed to one random act a day. For three weeks each member of the group has experienced difference on a personal level. The goal is to "kick it up a notch" and challenge the Rollins community to take one day and make a difference.

It's easy and it's free. You need only extend a little extra kindness to a stranger - it can be as simple as letting them have a highly coveted parking space or as complex as helping a local charity, feeding the homeless, or standing up for someone who may not have a voice.

Then, because this is tied to a class project, you need to share your experience. Simply tell the group what you did. It is painless and you can see what others have done as well.

There are two ways, send an email to reflectingcompassion@gmail.com or post your act of the kindness on our myspace at www.myspace.com/reflectingcompassion. For more information about Reflecting Compassion you can also visit www.actsofkindness.com.

If any community can make an impact, it is the Rollins community!

Message from the Governor Charlie Crist

It is indeed a privilege to serve the people of the great state of Florida - my boss. I believe public service remains one of the greatest callings a person can follow.

This challenging and rewarding duty provides the opportunity to impact the safety, well-being and livelihood of Florida's 18 million residents. I recognize both the honor, as well as the awesome responsibility it is to serve with integrity, openness and a listening ear.

I encourage Florida's best and brightest university and college students to consider using their skills and talents to serve the people of Florida as a Gubernatorial Fellow.

The Gubernatorial Fellows Program provides leadership training to outstanding Florida graduate and undergraduate students.

By spending a semester in Tallahassee, you will gain valuable on-the-job experience and insight that will help you in whatever career path you choose as you learn first hand how state government works.

Approximately 12 students from across the state are selected to serve each year.

Eligible candidates are enrolled as graduate students or upperclassmen at a Florida college or university. Fellows are matched with projects, based upon their expertise and interest, to maximize both their learning experience and the contributions they make to state government. Treated as high-level staff, they are expected to participate, perform and contribute at that level.

By immersing students in key areas of government, including my office and state agencies,

these future leaders will walk away from their time as a Gubernatorial Fellow with an appreciation for public service, as well as a deep understanding of how state government is run.

In an effort to make the program open to all eligible students, all of Florida's public universities and many of the state's private colleges have graciously agreed to waive tuition for students participating in the program.

In addition to the time Fellows spend at their respective agency, they also meet once a week as a group to discuss their experiences with classmates. During these meetings they meet face-to-

face with prominent leaders, including myself, Lt. Governor Jeff Kottkamp, Cabinet officers, agency heads and top government officials.

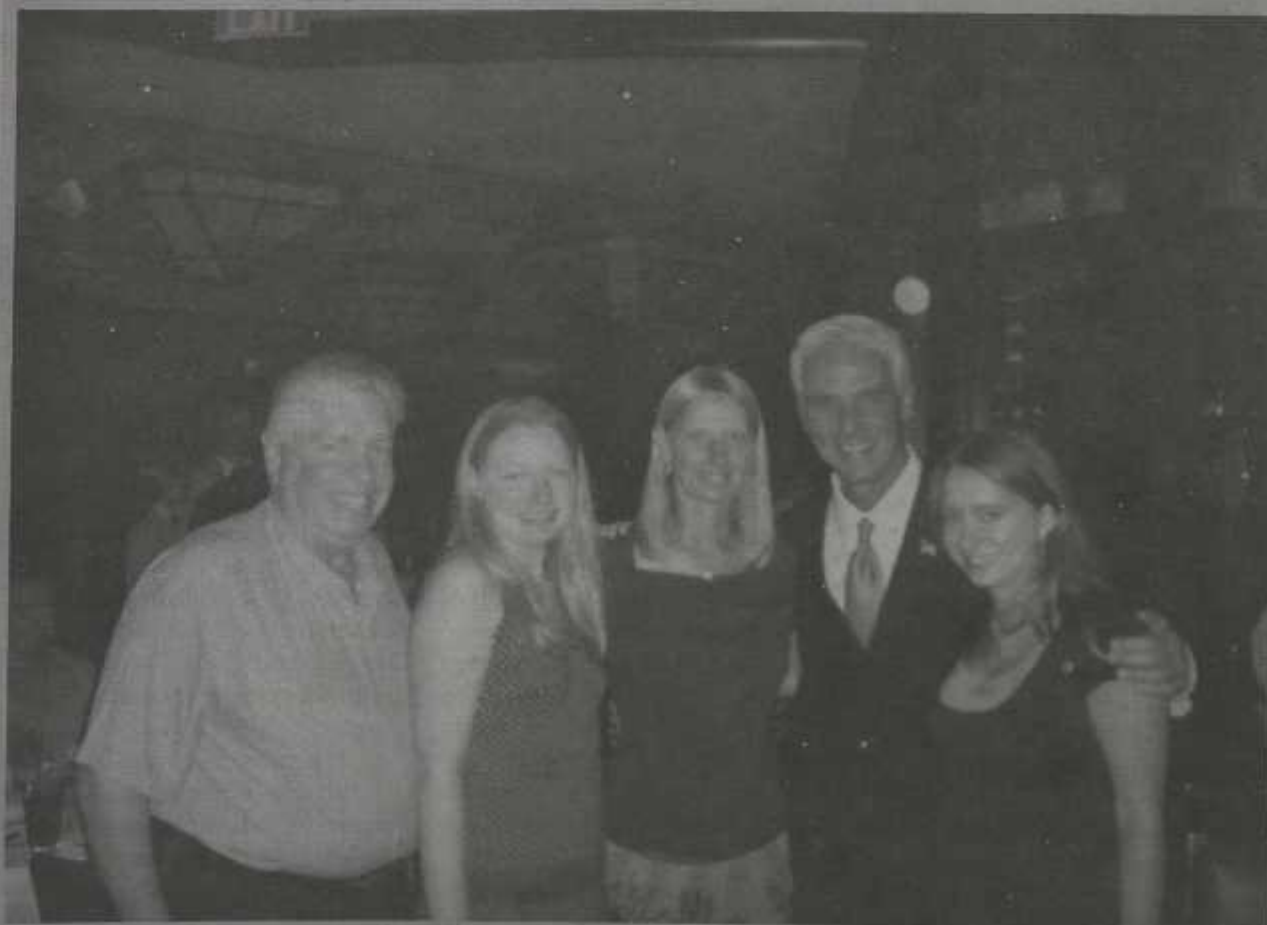
Applications are available online and are due by November 16, 2007. The 2008 Gubernatorial Fellows class will be announced on December 10, 2007, and the first day of the program is January 4, 2008. We are looking for students with outstanding academic achievements, leader-

ship skills, working knowledge of government and, above all else, the desire to serve the people of Florida.

If you are interested in serving your fellow Floridians in a way that is both meaningful and educational, I encourage you to apply today.

For more information about the Gubernatorial Fellows program and to obtain an application, please visit www.myflorida.com/fellows.

"What I learned about state government and how it works as a Gubernatorial Fellow opened the doors for many unforeseen opportunities," said Torey Alston, a Gubernatorial Fellow alumnus and graduate of Florida A & M University. "The real-world experience and professional development gained in this program is second to none. Weekly seminars and networking opportunities are all enriching activities that add value to the program. With the capstone trip of visiting the White House and meeting members of the Florida Delegation, it showed me the true benefits of public service and giving back to your community."



LINDSAY SIEGEL/The Sandspur
MEETING: Managing Editor Rochelle Siegel and photographer Lindsay Siegel meet Governor Charlie Crist at local restaurant in Orlando.

Holt News

4

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Higher Degree of Preparation

Diane Stafford
mct campus

About 1,488,000 bachelor's degrees are expected to be conferred by U.S. colleges and universities in 2006-2007.

Many graduates, immediately or eventually, will continue on to get master's or other postgraduate degrees.

I don't want to scare all those happy soon-to-be bachelor's degree holders, but here's what I sometimes hear from human resource officers: "A master's is the new bachelor's."

A bachelor's degree once met the minimum requirement for most white-collar jobs, but some employers now consider a master's to be the baseline for hiring.

Part of the reason is the increased specialization and sophistication of jobs, and part is because most employers have cut budgets for on-the-job training. They want people who are ready to jump in and swim.

At the same time, surveys indicate that the largest percentage of current and projected job openings require "only" an associate's degree or equivalent specialized training, especially in the growing information-technology, health-care and skilled-



Courtesy of MCT Campus
College Degrees: Attaining a college degree is becoming more important than ever.

trades industries.

The old wisdom, that more education equals more lifetime earning power, still appears to apply, but not for everyone.

I've met car service technicians who make more than \$100,000 a year and social workers with master's degrees who earn less than \$30,000.

In short, there's no direct education-to-income guarantee. But, fortunately for graduates at any level above high school, the job market for his year's crop looks pretty strong.

CollegeGrad.com says hiring of the bachelor's class of 2007 is expected to be up 7.3 percent over last year.

"Job Outlook 2007" on JobWeb (www.jobweb.com) says employers plan to hire 17.4 percent more new college graduates this year than last.

The consensus outlook calls for the biggest demand for bachelor's degree holders in accounting; business administration; computer and information sciences; electrical, mechanical and civil engineering; marketing and public relations; and finance and economics.

The teaching and nursing fields need workers with all relevant levels of education.

C the CAREER COACH

Marian Cacciatore

PREPARING FOR GRADUATE ENTRANCE EXAMS

QUESTION:

I am considering graduate school but am not sure about the standardized tests. Can you tell me about the different tests and give me advice on the best way to prepare for the tests?

ANSWER

Most graduate programs require a standardized entrance exam as part of the application process.

The first step is to research the programs that you are interested in and find out which tests and the minimum scores that they accept. This information is critical to getting "on track" for test success.

The possible standardized tests include:

Graduate Record Examinations (GRE) General Test is the test that is usually required for entrance to most graduate programs.

The test measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, and critical thinking and analytical writing skills.

You need to find out if the graduate program requires you to take the GRE subject tests in addition to the general GRE.

Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT) is for students interested in attending business school (MBA degree).

LSAT: Law School Admission Test.

MCAT: Medical Admission Test.

VCAT: Veterinary College Admission Test.

DAT: Dental Admission Test.

MAT: Miller Analogy Test

requires the solution of a series of intellectual problems stated in the form of analogies. Some graduate schools require this entrance exam instead of the GRE exam.

How do you prepare?

It is critical to prepare for the admission tests. Study books with practice tests are available at your local bookstore or library.

Many of the official testing websites offer a free download with practice tests. For example on the official GRE website you can obtain a free download of its PowerPrep software, which comes with two practice tests.

After you take each test you will receive a scaled score for the Verbal and Quantitative sections.

If you don't think you can prepare adequately on your own, you can also explore the availability of prep classes available through Kaplan and Princeton Review.

Finally Rollins College Career Services offers resources on the website. Check out: <http://www.rollins.edu/careerservices/careerrelatedwebsites/index.html>. You will find a helpful listing of online test preparation and study guides under the section called "Graduate Schoolbound".

Once you have passed the test you will need to focus on your personal statement and resume.

Did you know that Career Services are available to assist you with these? Email Marian today to schedule a convenient appointment at Mccacciatore@rollins.edu.

Extend Study-Abroad Opportunities To All U.S. College Students

Rep. Tom Lantos and
Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen
mct campus

The United States is failing to take full advantage of a valuable tool that should be used to enhance our standing in the world and to improve our national security: college-level study abroad programs that open the doors to all.

Only a small percentage of U.S. college students today study abroad. Those privileged few largely limit their travels to a narrow range of countries, mostly in Europe.

As a result, our foreign affairs agencies are hard-pressed to find recruits who have a firsthand understanding of critical cultures and languages such as Arabic, Chinese, Pashto and Dari.

But we are about to change that. The Sen. Paul Simon Study Abroad Foundation Act, which we hope to bring to the floor of both the House and the Senate for passage later this year, will vastly expand the talent pool of young Americans with global skills.

Inspired by the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission and the congressionally chartered Lincoln Commission, the Sen. Paul Simon Act will create a new government corporation charged with democratizing study abroad for American students the way that the GI bill democratized higher education.

It will create opportunities for students from diverse academic, socio-economic and ethnic backgrounds, and will significantly expand participation in study-abroad programs in nontraditional destinations, particularly in the developing world.

Through administration by a small, innovative, mission-driven government corporation, the program will pursue an unprecedented, cost-effective program model by leveraging private-sector resources and support.

The benchmark we've set in the legislation for this effort is extremely ambitious. It mandates the achievement of a nearly fivefold increase in the number of college students studying abroad within 10 years. If the goal is met, 1 million American students will study abroad each year.

At that level, almost half of undergraduate degrees (bachelors and associates) awarded annually in the United States by colleges and universities, study abroad will become a commonplace rather than an exceptional part of college education for American students.

The government corporation will also be charged with transforming the demographic composition of study-abroad programs to more accurately reflect the demographics of the nation.

It will reach out to students enrolled in community colleges

and minority-serving institutions.

It will also be responsible for ensuring that a vast new institutional capacity is built up by U.S. institutions of higher education to sponsor study programs in areas we need to understand better such as the Middle East, Africa and Asia.

Today, despite excellent preparation in a vast array of academic fields, most American graduates enter the workforce without substantive experience in living and learning outside their own culture.

Few have had an opportunity to gain a sophisticated understanding of another country or to confront their own assumptions about non-Americans. Few can speak the strategic languages that our foreign affairs agencies need so urgently — or speak any foreign language at all.

This state of affairs must change. Our nation's security, leadership and competitiveness hinge significantly on the international competence of our citizens.

We must act now to enact the vision of the late Sen. Paul Simon from Illinois who worked tirelessly to promote a public-private partnership to democratize and normalize study abroad. We must act quickly to pass and fund the Simon Study Abroad Act.

It is a crucial, long-term investment in America's leadership and security in the 21st century.

Write for the Holt News Section and gain a wealth of experience.

Contact the Holt News editor at
editor@thesandspur.org



Love at a Distance. Can it Work?

Geovanna Torres
the sandspur

It is said that absence makes the heart grow fonder, but does it really? Many people have differing views on the subject. Some people agree that having a relationship based on distance is hard, yet doable. Others are less agreeable. LongDistanceRelationships.com polled 200 people and the survey found that couples live an average of 125 miles apart while visiting each other 1.5 times per month. Phone calls are made every 2.7 days with the average call lasting approximately 30 minutes. The average expected separation is 14 months.

These statistics create a negative disposition in some people. "Distance does not make the heart grow fonder, it makes the heart lonely," states Jennifer Searle, a 35 year-old stay-at-home mom from Vermont, who was involved in a long distance relationship during her college days. "You can not maintain a meaningful relationship with a large amount of distance between you. The problem with being apart is not that you love the person any less, but that not being with them everyday leads to disillusionment. Communication suffers when there is so much distance between you and your loved one."

Vince Chavira, a 31 year-old student at Palmer College of Chiropractic in Santa Ana, California, has a more realistic approach to the subject, "[In order for a] long distance relationships to work, each party needs to maintain a level of communication." He shares his strong belief that honesty is essential

in any type of relationship. "A person should be truthful to themselves and [to] their partner. I think it is wrong to lead their significant other on a wild goose chase, if they have no intention of wanting to be with them."

Some people view long distance relationships with an optimistic lens, "Yes, it can [work]" says Teena T, a 20 year-old mass communication student in Nebraska. She can attest that a long distance relationship works. She has been in a long distance relationship with her boyfriend, Robert, who attends The University of Texas in El Paso. "It is not easy, but not impossible. I believe that long distance relationships can work as long as both parties genuinely care for each other, and of course, both need to have equal amounts of trust."

Dr. Gregory Guldner, a graduate of Stanford Medical School, and leading authority on long distance relationship at Purdue University's Clinical Psychology program, helps clarify questions regarding the success rate of long distance relationship. In Dr. Guldner's book *Long Distance Relationships: The Complete Guide*, he explains "Most people are interested in whether or not the relationship can simply survive the separation... [meaning if they] have a greater chance of breaking up than if they were geographically close...the most accurate answer is no one knows for sure...however, the majority of studies show no greater risk of a long distance relationship breaking up than any other relationship."

Dr. Guldner has published over 30 scientific articles in the

medical and psychology field, including numerous studies on sexuality, relationships, and long-distance relationships in particular. He combines scientific expertise, personal experience and extensive interviews with couples to report his findings.

In his book, Dr. Guldner further explains his findings. "Another way of looking at whether long distance relationships work is to examine the quality of the relationship."



He substantiates this statement by comparing studies on long distance relationships with those in close geographic proximity. "In our study we looked at relationship satisfaction, commitment, intimacy and trust. We found that on all measures the two groups were identical."

He continues by breaking down long distance relationships into four areas - demographics, personality of each person, support system for the relationship, and the quality of the relationship itself. "Research has shown clearly that [out] of these four components, demographics has the least to do with the success or failure of a long distance relationship."

Many people question in-

fidelity. Jennifer Searle worries that "the problem [with physical distance] is the lack of being with one another every day. Not seeing the other person for extended amounts of time leads to loneliness" she says. "Most people will experience loneliness, and will in turn, look for comfort from someone who is right there close to them."

This statement not only embodies the common concern of many people, but a common worry for couples. Assuming that a partner isn't physically close to keep an eye on them might cause one of them to have the wandering eye. Dr. Guldner researched the topic and concludes, "Studies showed that couples in long distance relationships had no greater risk of having an affair than geographically close couples...the risk is related more to the quality of the relationship, and the personalities involved than on mere opportunity."

The question still remains, why do some couples opt to maintain a long distance relationship? There are various reasons. Some couples start out that way; meeting Mr./Mrs. Right at a friends out-of-town wedding reception, business trip, or vacation. Other relationships start face-to-face only to be separated by an assignment, military duty or job offer.

One important suggestion in maintaining a long distance relationship is to establish communication needs and limits, allowing some wiggle room for flexibility. Communication can mean phone conversation, email, text messaging, video conference and instant messaging, in addition to writing letters, sending cards, and

care packages. These options in communication show thoughtfulness and love.

One way to ease the long-distance discomfort is to define your expectations in advance. Establishing ground rules defines many things for the couple: will the relationship be casual and non-exclusive or will it lead marriage? It is crucial that this topic be agreed upon so that each person knows how to proceed with the relationship.

In Dr. Guldner's book he shows in his findings that there are no significant results between how often a couple should visit and how likely they are to stay together, yet many couples agree that reunion is an important part of the long distance equation. Good planning, openness, flexibility and willingness to compromise are a few things to rely on when planning a reunion. It is also imperative not to expect everything to run perfect once the couple is together. The focus should remain on spending quality time together as opposed to having a perfect schedule of events.

If you decide you can cope with a long distance relationship, remember that patience, loyalty, trust, respect and love are the key ingredients for any relationship to work, whether it is geographically close or distant. It is ultimately up to the couple to determine the outcome of the relationship, whether it will thrive regardless of the miles between them, or if the relationship will eventually dissipate into a friendship. Emotional maturity and the ability to delay gratification play a major role in the eventual success or failure of any relationship.

Selfish Reasons To Be Selfless

Hundred of Heads
mct campus

Here's some advice about the other benefits of service from the book "Be the Change! Change the World. Change Yourself." (Hundreds of Heads Books, www.hundredsofheads.com, \$14.95), straight from people who've done it:

"Effective volunteering is like living a healthy lifestyle. If you stick with it, you will eventually see results."

When I first started volunteering at a transitional home, I was the only person who showed up. So I became the coordinator and stuck with it. Two years later, we now have 20 regular volunteers."

Ann Gregg
Boston, Mass.

"Volunteering is a lot like working out. You may dread the initial going-to-the-gym phase, but if you focus on how good you'll feel afterward, it's way easier to stay motivated. If I am not sure I'm going to be able to make myself get up and volunteer, I think of how great I feel after I do. Works every time."

Melissa Bieri
New York

Hundreds of Heads Books' survival guides offer the wisdom of the masses by assembling the experiences and advice of hundreds of people who have gone through life's biggest challenges and have insight to share. Visit www.hundredsofheads.com to share your advice or get more information.



Courtesy of MCT Campus
Volunteer: Helping the community is a selfless act that comes with many benefits.

"Volunteering allows me to feel less helpless. There are so many things going on in the world that are out of my control. I'd rather be active about them than sit here and whine and complain."

When I was a college freshman, the war was going on in Kosovo. I remember watching the news and feeling so disgusted with humanity. I knew there had to be something I could do. So I started a fundraising campaign on my campus.

Volunteering in Kosovo wasn't an option at that time, but I could at least raise money to help support the programs going on over there."

Rachel Mahoney
Astoria, N.Y.



"Friends are made by serving them or serving with them. Four people I served alongside at a nursing home became some of my closest friends. They were there for me when my mom ended up in a nursing home after her surgery went badly. When she died the day before finals, my friends from the nursing home were there to support me and take care of me, helping me get through finals, pack, and get home in time for the funeral. Life is fuller and more manageable when you spend a little time each week thinking about others instead of yourself. A life without service is no life at all."

Jessica Jones,
Bowie, Md.

"Service is a chance for me to be more than my deafness. Growing up,

it was always, 'There goes Michael, the deaf guy.' But now I've done so much else that people don't identify me that way. I'm a youth adviser."

I like to go rock climbing, and I'm weird! People now say, 'There goes Michael, he's the guy who helps us do this or that.'

Michael Aguin,
Los Angeles

Arts & Entertainment

6

EDITOR: JUSTIN BRAUN

AE@THESANDSPUR.ORG

Jimmy Eat World Maintains Popular Vote

Colby Loetz
the sandspur

Jimmy Eat World's newest Album, *Chase This Light*, has caused some controversy for longtime followers of the band. The Band, which has struggled over the past decade to loose its label as "emo," seems to be falling into a trend of creating more mainstream music with every album they release, (maybe with the exception of their last EP, *Stay on my Side Tonight*.) With *Chase This Light*, Jimmy eat World has seems to have finally slipped away from the "emo" scene and into mainstream rock. But is their new album too typical?

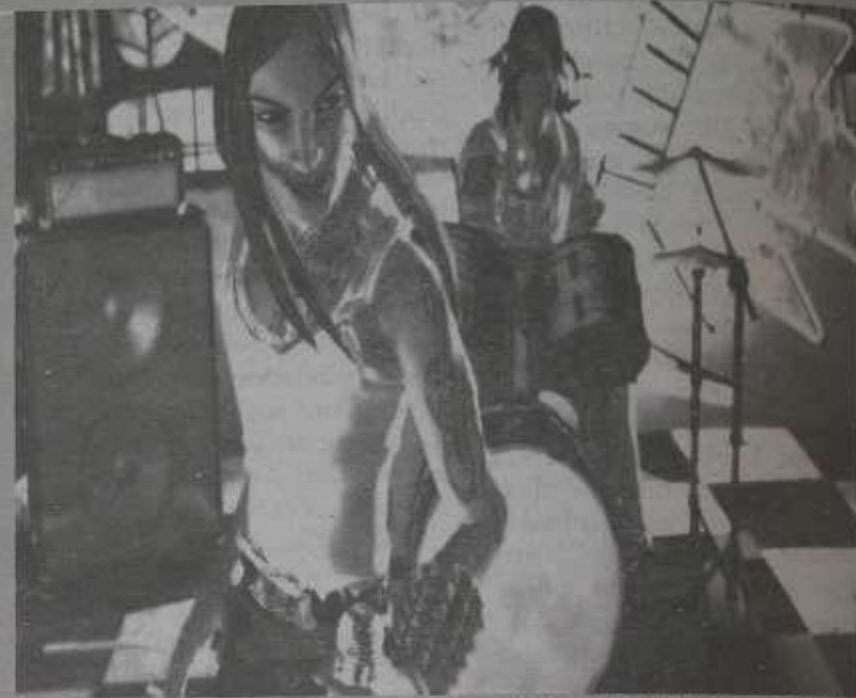
Some critics think so and are claiming that *Chase This Light* is too bland and is too

similar to other popular bands such as The Killers and The All American Rejects. They say that Jimmy Eat World has sold out with songs like "Here It Goes," in order to produce a safe record as opposed to an original and true to self record. But this is not possible with songs on the album such as "Gotta Be Somebody's Blues." With tracks like this it is undeniable that the band has ventured in a new direction and taken a clear risk in falling back into their "emo" reputation. I have to say that regardless of whether or not the music from their new album is too mild for what some expect from Jimmy Eat World, the band has produced an album full of appealing melodies and likeable lyrics that makes this album hard to turn off.

Despite the critiques, *Chase This Light* is a solid next step. The album is upbeat and uplifting, which is a nice counter to

the band's darker 2004 Album *Futures*. Jimmy Eat World may have lost some of their characteristic sound that we have grown to expect, but after looking at their progression toward pop rock music, this shouldn't come as too much of a surprise. And despite what other critics have stated, *Chase This Light* is unique and distinctive enough to sell plenty of records. With songs like the first single "Big Casino" and "Electable" we still hear influences from the band's previous album *Futures* infused with the sound from their classic 2002 album *Bleed American*.

This Album is too catchy to be overlooked just because the band has a changing sound. The songs on *Chase This Light* are infectious and hard to get out of your head after only one listen. For anyone who is worried that Jimmy Eat World has lost their sound, don't worry; this album is sure to change that



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

ROCK BAND: This is what Jimmy Eat World could look like if you created them on Rock Band.

and invoke singing along.

Guitar Hero III: Legends of Rock Companion CD

Jimmy Colston
the sandspur

The new soundtrack features 10 songs, 7 of which are featured in the game, along with a short minute solo intro by Velvet Revolver and Guns 'N' Roses veteran Slash.

The seven songs that appear in the game's main setlist are "Cherub Rock" by The Smashing Pumpkins, "Kool Thing" by Sonic Youth, "Cult of Personality" by The Living Colour, "Miss Murder" by AFI, "3's and 7's" by Queens of the Stone Age, and a metal version of the Charlie Daniel's Band's "Devil Went Down to Georgia" covered by Steve Ouimette. "Prayer of a

Refugee" by Rise Against is also featured in both the CD and the game, but is only a bonus track available in the game.

The inclusion of 3 of the songs, Velvet Revolver's "Slither," Flyleaf's "Tina," and Marilyn Manson's "Putting Holes in Happiness" does not reflect their inclusion on the game's main setlist.

When used in an Xbox 360, the CD provides a code that allows Xbox Live users to download a pack of three songs that are playable on Guitar Hero III. Two of them, "Tina" and a remixed version of "Putting Holes in Happiness" are on the CD while the third, AFI's "Carcinogen Crush" is not.

The inclusion of Velvet Revolver on both the promotional CD soundtrack and in several

Guitar Hero III commercials is said to be because of an upcoming downloadable content release featuring three of their songs. An online fansite rumors them to be "Slither," "Messages," and "She Builds Quick Machines." No official confirmation on what songs or when they will be released has been announced from publisher Activision.

Overall, the selection of songs from the game is disappointing. All songs are recorded post-1990, something that doesn't make sense for a game subtitled *Legends of Rock*. The Smashing Pumpkins and Sonic Youth are the only bands with songs on both the game and the CD with any substantial musical merit and acclaim, with the rest clearly filler songs from bands

who weren't as difficult to deal with as Metallica for gaining copyrights.

The game's depth in musical variety and talent simply cannot be compressed into ten songs, only seven of which are from the game. What is on the promotional soundtrack is completely unrepresentative of the type of music Guitar Hero fans have been used to on any of the four iterations of the game, let alone their latest release.

A better choice would have been to release a multi-disc selection, or include some of the more prolific titles. Even if they had to skip over the songs that they couldn't obtain master tracks for in the main game, titles such as "Even Flow" by Pearl Jam, "One" by Metallica, or "Anarchy in the U.K." by

The Sex Pistols are classics that should have been included.

Currently, all the songs on the main setlist of Guitar Hero III appear for download on the popular online music store iTunes, but several of the bonus tracks do not show up. The only way for the music-savvy to access some of the more obscure songs is through peer-to-peer servers such as LimeWire or through torrent downloads.

Due to poor selection and misrepresentation of the game's music, this promotional CD should be avoided by all but Xbox 360 owner's looking for three new songs to add to their playlist.

Final score: 2.5/10

Saw 4: Variation on an Already Trite Idea

Stephanie Ellenburg
the sandspur

If you have not already seen any of the Saw movies then you might be a little lost watching "Saw 4" in understanding some of the events and characters within the movie. But, if you enjoy blood, gore and twists in a plot then go knock your socks off. All in all it was a disappointment from beginning to end. The same typical traps and twists happen again and again. I was basically dragged to the screening of the film by my boyfriend,

but I was still curious. However, I was awaiting the conclusion of the story knowing that there would be a great turn of events; again I was just let down.

As you may have seen from trailers on television, the Jigsaw Killer and his apprentice Amanda are both dead. Now, two FBI profilers, Agent Strahm and Agent Perez step in to uncover the remains of Jigsaw's latest tests upon the murder of Detective Kerry from the previous Saw. They arrive to assist Detective Hoffman who has been working on this case for some time along with others including SWAT Commander Rigg who was a close friend of

Detective Kerry. Rigg is then abducted and thrown into a game where he has ninety minutes to overcome a series of demented traps to save an old friend or face the fatal consequences.

The film opens with the autopsy of the Jigsaw Killer, John Kramer. During the examination of Kramer's body, an audio cassette was found in his stomach covered in wax. Detective Hoffman is called to the scene, where he plays the tape which states that even though Jigsaw is dead, "the games have just begun."

There are a variety of flashbacks that appear throughout the course of the film and

continue to lead the audience through the steps of uncovering the clues of Jigsaw's crazed mind. The bigger picture of why Kramer created the puppet and games is linked to his wife Jill who appears in the movie as a possible suspect. The FBI then goes on to believe that Rigg could be connected to Kramer while also pressuring Jill to confess to something she might not be apart of. All comes together in the final minutes of the film, but then lead you to believe there might be another Saw on it's way.

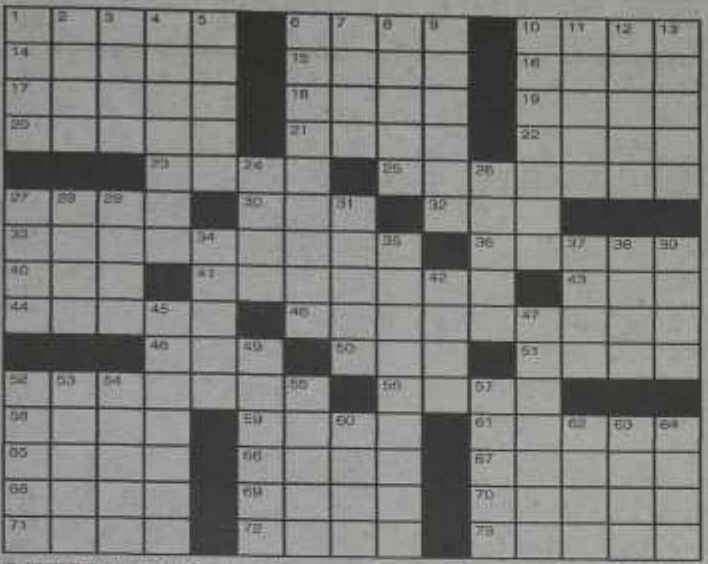


COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

SHARP! Hopefully the trend of inanimate objects starting in major motion pictures will end with the saw series

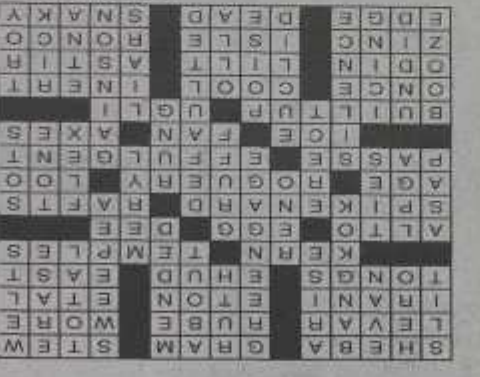
Crossword

- ACROSS
- 1 Come Back Little
 - 6 Metric unit
 - 10 Slumgullion
 - 14 Actor Burton
 - 15 Hick
 - 16 Was dressed in
 - 17 Teheran man
 - 18 Harrow's rival
 - 19 Etc.'s cousin
 - 20 Barbecue fool
 - 21 Barak of Israel
 - 22 Right on maps
 - 23 Composer Jerome
 - 25 Synagogues
 - 27 Chorus voice
 - 30 Omelet item
 - 32 Ruby or Sandra
 - 33 Ointment of antiquity
 - 36 Floating platforms
 - 40 Ripen
 - 41 Behavior of a scoundrel
 - 43 Old card game
 - 44 Out of fashion
 - 46 Resplendent
 - 48 Frozen surface
 - 50 Summer cooler
 - 51 Chopping tools
 - 52 Developed
 - 56 Unattractive fruit?
 - 58 Beginning of fairy tales
 - 59 Neatol
 - 61 Having no will to move
 - 65 Norse deity
 - 66 Lively melody
 - 67 Out of bed
 - 68 Brass component
 - 69 Skye or Wight
 - 70 Popell company
 - 71 Advantage
 - 72 Kind of bolt or heat
 - 73 Serpentine
- DOWN
- 1 Narrow fissure
 - 2 Deli offering
 - 3 Writer Hunter
 - 4 Capital of Thailand
 - 5 Get up
 - 6 Type of plum
 - 7 Naomi's daughter-in-law
 - 8 More or less
 - 9 Repaired
 - 10 Popeye's tyke
 - 11 Add up
 - 12 Wipe from memory
 - 13 Lash marks
 - 24 Casino town
 - 26 Actress Streep
 - 27 Pronto letters
 - 28 Org. of Webb and Wie
 - 29 Haberdashery items
 - 31 Brusque
 - 34 Standing upright
 - 35 Failed to meet obligations
 - 37 Pose like Charles Atlas
 - 38 Sound property
 - 39 Bartles
 - 42 Ladder step
 - 45 Failure to speak out
 - 47 Makes up ground
 - 49 Geometry pioneer
 - 52 Hooch
 - 53 Voided
 - 54 Cake coverage
 - 55 Composure
 - 57 Munchhausen and Ananias
 - 60 podrida
 - 62 Sicilian mount
 - 63 Moranis or Mears
 - 64 Ex-QB Aikman



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Solutions



Celebrity Buzz

MCT Campus the sandspur

The ever-touchy Prince apparently does not regard appropriation of his works — even by fans — as a higher form of flattery. And he's willing to assert his disapproval in court. Reuters reports that three fan sites dedicated to the pint-sized rocker say they have been served legal notice to remove all images of the singer, his lyrics and "anything linked to Prince's likeness." The sites in turn are ready to fight what they

consider censorship. "We strongly believe that such actions are in violation of . . . freedom of speech and should not be allowed," said a statement from the three sites — www.housequake.com, www.princefams.com and www.prince.org.

But John Giacobbi, managing director of Web Sheriff, which helps Prince control online use of his image and music,

said "this is not about freedom of speech." He called the forums "self-appointed representatives of the millions of Prince fans," and said "they only represent a tiny fraction of (his) global fan base."

EMBRACEABLE YOU Paul McCartney

has interrupted his unseemly divorce proceedings to kiss a woman other than estranged wife Heather Mills McCartney.

According to the Sun of London, which published photographic evidence, the friendly exchange between McCartney, 65, and Nancy Shevell, 47, a member of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority board, took place over the weekend in the Hamptons, the Long Island resort where both have homes.

OLD SCHOOL TIE

Tommy Lee Jones hasn't forgotten his old Harvard roommate and fellow Oscar winner Al Gore. Jones will cohost the Nobel Peace Prize concert for the former vice president and representatives of the United Nations' climate-change panel.

The AP reports that the lineup for the Dec. 11 concert includes Alicia Keys, Annie Lennox and Melissa Etheridge, who won an Oscar for the song "I Need to Wake Up," featured in Gore's environmental documentary, "An Inconvenient Truth."

Jones' cohost will be announced later, organizers said this week.

FLY, EAGLES, FLY

The Eagles' "Long Road Out of Eden" was confirmed as the top-selling album in the country, what with 711,000 copies sold in the United States, according to Nielsen SoundScan. In fact, the album — sold only through Wal-Mart and its affiliates — has this year's second-best first-week total, behind Kanye West's "Graduation" (960,000).

And the trade paper Billboard has agreed to acknowledge that. For the first time ever, Billboard has allowed an album available through only one retailer to appear on its charts.

GOOD NEWS FOR BRITNEY

Billboard also reports that Britney Spears' "Blackout" sold 290,000 copies, putting it at No. 2. That's the good news. The not-so-good news is that her first album in four years is also her first studio effort to not top the chart: 2003's "In The Zone," 2001's "Britney," 2000's "Oops! . . . I Did It Again" and 1999's "Baby One More Time" all started at No. 1. But there's more good news: Spears is the only woman whose first five studio albums have debuted in the top two slots on the chart.

BAD NEWS FOR BRITNEY

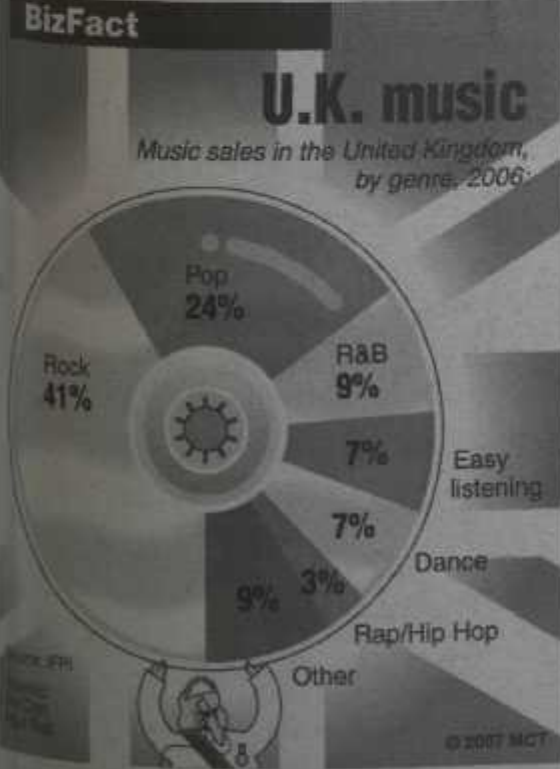
Adding insult to injury, Britney Spears has been ordered to pay \$120,000 in legal fees to ex-husband Kevin Federline, who was awarded temporary custody of their young sons, the presumably adorable Sean Preston and Jayden James.

The AP reports that Superior Court Commissioner Scott M. Gordon ordered the pop star to pony up the cash to help with the \$154,500 Federline owes his attorney, according to court papers.

What figured in the decision was "the notable disparity between the parties' income," the ruling said.

Court papers released last week show that Spears makes roughly \$737,000 per month and spends lavishly on clothes and entertainment. K-Fed lamentably "indicates that he does not earn any income," the ruling said. Worse, the \$20,000-a-month spousal support he gets from Spears is due to end Nov. 15.

Which will leave him with 15 grand a month in child support to get by on.



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Rock: Candy for College Students

Blacklight Mantra melts faces on Halloween

Christopher Garlock
the sandspur

Halloween would be a time where I would ordinarily reward myself by stuffing my face full of Hershey's, lollipops and unknown, but hopefully, safe gummies.

Instead, this year I was being rewarded with the privilege of attending local band Blacklight Mantra's live WPRK 91.5 studio performance. Let me begin by saying this: under no circumstances will I ever trade even a lifetime supply of Halloween candy for the experience I had that night at our underap-

preciated radio station.

My only regret that night was arriving at the halfway point of the show in order to watch the final part of a trilogy of a certain show on Comedy Central. T

The good thing about regrets, though, is that they teach you something. That night, I learned I could watch reruns of a television show, but that there are no reruns of an incredible live performance.

Blacklight Mantra, made up of bassist/trumpeter and Rollins senior James Bruner, guitarist John Zapato, percussionist Adam Browning and keyboardist/vocalist Matt Mendel has only been operating with their current lineup for a mere month

and a half.

This speaks volumes, because had this fact not been known, and forgetting their relatively young age, one would have assumed by the quality of their show that they had been playing together for years and had already developed the sort of telepathic acknowledgement of each other that only a tightly knit and experienced group possesses.

Accordingly, Mantra itself feels "this is the most cohesive we have been as a band yet, [though] it is always an ongoing process to get better than we are." Nonetheless, Zapato's magic fingers fashioned slick licks, easily complementing Browning's incredibly solid drumming, not to mention Bruner's inspired, groove-inducing bass lines, and newly inducted Mendel's masterful key-pounding and earnest lyrics harmoniously rounding out the sound.

After a mid-set radio interview, Mantra came back playing "Old as O.D.I.S." Lead and rhythm guitar intertwine with bongos in this unruffled and amiable song, facilitating recollection of affection.

Indeed, the song undoubtedly does just that for the musicians, as O.D.I.S. stands for "outdoor insulated shed," the band's practice facility where creativity flows. Their last song of the night, "Changing Channels," was the first time they have ever played it in public with their current lineup, in addition to being quite possibly one of the most memorable things I have ever encountered.

Being in the same cramped space with them and around 15 other people, I could literally feel every beat and chord pulse



JB Braun/the sandspur

Bone Rattling: With driving bass, James Bruner melodically massages the soul.

through my body as if it were alive. Using their uncanny telepathy, each Mantra member soloed and then humbly traded it for accompaniment to allow another to solo, the band seamlessly transitioning each time.

As 11:00 pm came and went, the station was forced to cut their broadcast and switch to its regularly scheduled program, though Mantra was still fully rocking their epically elongated final song. I am sure I do not stand alone in feeling lucky to have been part of the small audience who caught, in person, the last five un-broadcasted minutes of a spectacular piece.

"I loved all the people who came out to the studio to party

with us, and it felt good to get the music out to a different part of audience," Bruner said. "I want to be the next big thing hit your ears. We want to only be great songwriters, keep you guessing what's coming next."

If you missed this concert, I am sorry; but, do not lose hope. In addition to shows around the area, Blacklight Mantra is playing again on campus Nov. 16 at 11 p.m. Do yourself a favor and check the band out as soon as possible. You wish to see a band focused on the music and plays from the heart. I 100% guarantee you will not be disappointed.



JB Braun/the sandspur

Piano Man: Tickling the electric ivories, recently recruited Mantra member Matt Mendel fills WPRK with poetry.

Psychodelic Drumming

Coiby Loetz
the sandspur

Last weekend I went to the Blue Man Group with my parents for family weekend. After a full day of rides and fun at Universal and dinner in CityWalk, we went over to the Sharp Aquos Theater to catch the 8:00pm Blue Man Group showing.

The show is two hours of comedy, "non-traditional" music ensembles and visual effects which are all preformed by the infamous three bald blue men and an onstage band. The blue men had the entire audience captivated even though they never uttered a single word. The blue men had multiple audience participation moments that made the show feel fresh and one-of-a-kind rather than just one of the hundreds that they put on every year. Because

of this, and the fact that I could never fully express the first hand experience of actually watching the performance in this article, that I don't feel I am spoiling the show by telling you the following about my experience.

The show began with a few humorous statements reading across one of three digital scrolls placed around the stage. The audience was informed that we had some special guests in the audience including one man who helped map the human genome, as well as one woman who was celebrating her birthday. After these "shout-outs", the blue men appeared and began a percussion number during which paint was flying off their drums, making this portion of the show as visually stunning as it was auditorily pleasing.

After a series of musical numbers involving unusual instruments including the human body and some unconven-

tional artistic expressions, the group searched the audience for their first participant. A hilarious dinner scene ensued with a young woman they had enlisted who had the audience practically in tears by the end of the skit from laughing so hard. Soon the group enlisted the help of another audience member that they covered in blue paint and blindfolded so that they could use his body to paint a huge canvas without the volunteer ever knowing what had happened!

But what would a show be without fancy lights? We saw everything from black lights and glow-in-the-dark objects, to silhouettes, and colorful visual effects that helped to hold our attention throughout show. For one number the men dressed up in flashing light suits and preformed an amazing musical number with only colorful flashing "light saber" contrap-



COURTESY OF BLUE MAN GROUP

PADAPADAPADA: Extremely sweaty in their nylon paint, Blue Man Group sticks out some tasty licks.

tions as their instruments. As the night went on, every spectacle got more amazing than the last.

The finale had everyone in the audience connected and ended the night in a very fun manner. This is the one part of

the show that I have decided not to disclose any information about because it is something that I hope you will experience for yourself. All I can say about the finale is that it had everyone laughing and too were blue in the face.

entertainment

The Absinthe Trio features
Rollins Faculty

Groove to the Beat: Vocalist Yuki Smith jives to the music and so can you. Absinthe Trio plays at Taste Restaurant every Wednesday.



Drummer Rion Smith, the pulse behind the trio, kicks out extremely technical beats.



The Absinthe Trio is joined by trumpet player Joe Meadows (right)



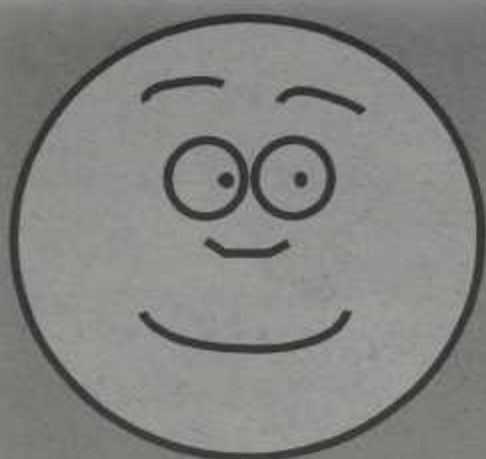
Guitar and synth composer/player Bobby Koelble, of Rollins College Adjunct Professor, seriously shreds during his greatly anticipated faculty recital.



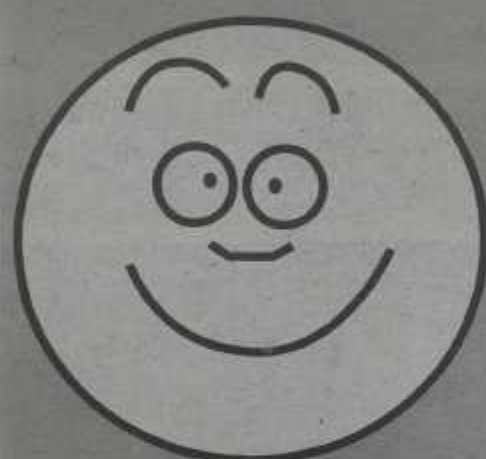
Yuki Smith's voice caresses the audience in classic jazz pieces like Chick Corea's *500 Miles High* and Duke Ellington's *Caravan* with a smooth, delicate style. (left)

On Thursday, November 1, the Tiedtke Concert Hall was blasted with the futuristic jazz/funk/fusion rock of The Absinthe Trio. Find them at: *Taste Restaurant College Park, Edgewater Drive, Orlando: 717 West Smith St. 10pm-2am*

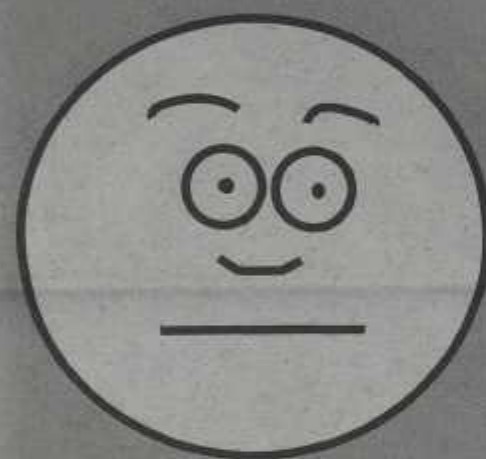
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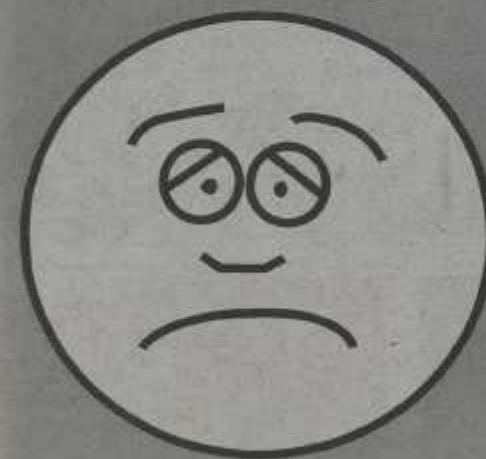
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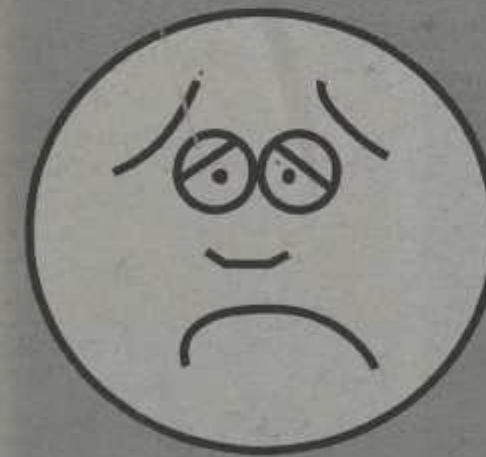
**10 Credits
HURTS
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**15 Credits
HURTS
LITTLE
MORE**



**20 Credits
HURTS
EVEN
MORE**



**25 Credits
HURTS
WHOLE
LOT**



**30 Credits
HURTS
WORST**

No Pain, No Gain: Class Schedules

Jimmy Colston
the sandspur

With scheduling appointments with advisors well under way, students all across campus are scrambling to put together the best possible schedule. While some are picking classes based solely on major requirements or favorable teachers, others are giving more than some consideration to time slots.

Some of the best possible schedules in terms of time slots are coming from the Class of 2011. Freshmen honors students Zach Lee and Kyle Magee have put together a schedule that sets them up to have no classes on Friday.

Magee and Lee, both with the same schedules and majors for next semester, are set to take Intro to International Politics, Problems with Political Thought, 17th Century Revolutions (an honors seminar), and Economics in Historical Perspectives. This totals 16 hours with classes only meeting Monday through Thursday with the earliest time slot being 9:30. The only difference between their two schedules is that Lee has an extra credit hour of Swimming, fulfilling a BPE requirement.

Lee says his schedule is ideal because "[the schedule contains] a three day weekend

every weekend while fulfilling a requirement for my honors degree program and the other three classes going towards my two majors and minor that I am working on." Lee and Magee both are majoring in political science and economics.

This comes a semester after Lee had a schedule that did not contain any classes on Tuesday or Thursday. Having multiple days during the week free allowed Lee to obtain an on-campus job with ease his first semester, and allowed him to have large blocks of time in the middle of week to focus on readings and essays for his classes.

Both Lee and Magee are confident in obtaining this ideal schedule for next semester because of their status as honors degree students, and Lee's status as a Cornell Scholar.

Although both students were not able to boast late starts as many students are able to do with just afternoon classes, Lee said "[9:30 is not a] bad time to start class. That way, we are able to get out by 12 on Monday and Wednesday, and by 2 on Tuesday and Thursday and have the rest of the afternoon free to finish homework so we can have our nights free."

**Students Choose
Schedules Based On:
Major Requirements
Gen Ed Requirements
Favorite Professors
Scheduled Nap Time
Ability to Sleep-in
Three-day Weekends
Entire Days Off**



Senior Spotlight

Nikki Fiedler
the sandspur

Name: Sarah Connelly

Major/Minor: I am double majoring in Biology and Mathematics with a Minor in Australian Studies.

Hometown: Hidden Valley, PA

What are your extracurricular activities?

I am actively involved in my sorority and on the Academic Honor Council. I will be a Rho Gamma for Women's Formal Recruitment in the Spring and I currently have an internship with International Assets Advisory. In addition, I am a member of Phi Eta Sigma and the National Society of Collegiate Scholars and I am a former Rollins Cheerleader.

What do you plan on doing upon graduation?

I've thought about a lot of different options however, I still really don't know what I am going to do upon graduation. Ideally, I'd love to find a job that would pay for me to travel the world for a few years... if anyone knows of anything let me know! What I'll probably end up doing is taking a year off and then going to graduate school or some form of higher education, possibly in a health related field.

Your favorite class at Rollins and why:

I've taken so many great classes at Rollins that it's hard to pick a favorite. I think that it would be a close call between Australian Art with Graham Marchant and any mathematics course with Dr. Jay Yellen. I really enjoyed the numerous excursions to museums, artists' studios, and drawing trips we took with Graham that led to our understanding of art that is quintessentially Australian. I took three classes with Yellen and loved his overall enthusiasm each topic, plus the occasional hand-waving arguments.

Favorite thing about Rollins:

The small class sizes at Rollins really give students a great learning opportunity to receive personalized attention and establish student-professor relationships that would not be possible at large universities.

Least favorite thing about Rollins:

Since Rollins is such a small school, there are not that many available class times so it seems that I can never take all the courses I want because of scheduling conflicts.

What is a random fact that people might not know about you?

I love coffee and I go to Dianne's Café every morning to get a peppermint mocha before class.

What advice would you give underclassmen?

Go abroad for a semester!!! I studied abroad in Sydney, Australia and it was absolutely amazing and would go again in an instant if I could!!!

Tuned in to ipod, Tuned out to the world



Ipods and MP3 players allow students to close off the outside world and the earbuds may even act as a "Do Not Disturb" sign to other students nearby.

Abigail Leichman
mct campus

When Josh Adams sees other students at Manhattan's School of Visual Arts each plugged into an iPod, he figures they're being antisocial.

"I feel like they're trying to shut people out, maybe even unintentionally," says the 18-year-old Manhattan resident.

For New York University student Dante Lima, it's entirely intentional. With his ear buds in place, he's never bothered by sidewalk hucksters.

"If you want to get away from them, just start listening to your iPod," says Lima, 20. "They don't approach people with headphones on."

Wearing headphones has become the modern equivalent of wearing a "Do Not Disturb" sign around one's neck.

Perhaps that's no surprise. The MP3 player is only the latest in a number of gadgets—starting with the Sony Walkman, leading to the cellphone and now the iPod—that give people the ability to close off the outside world.

Shoppers chat on their cellphones, stopping only to talk briefly to a cashier. Children watch films on the car's DVD player instead of playing license-tag bingo. Airline passengers watch movies on laptops or answer e-mail on BlackBerries rather than chatting with the person in the next seat.

But is tuning out the rest of the world good for us?

"We're living in a world where technology is a huge part of our lives, but it can be a blessing and a curse," says Jacqueline Whitmore, author of "Business Class: Etiquette Essentials for Success at Work" (St. Martin's Press, 2005).

"Some people think this technology can make us more productive," she says. "But it's not helping us with social skills. It's alienating us from other people."

Adams, who has downloaded 2,300 songs into his own iPod, admits he used the device to duck conversation in high school. These days, he says, he's plugged in less often.

"Being in college promotes being more social," he says.

"Now I normally listen when I'm going to school or coming home, to make the time go by. But if someone asks me something, I always answer them. I don't have it on so loud that I can't hear the people around me."

Many users of portable MP3 players say the devices help them relieve stress or, particularly at work, concentrate.

A New Jersey manufacturing foreman says that even 40 years ago, many of his plant's employees listened to music during work. Some of them still prefer radios to MP3s. Younger workers' iPods keep the music from bothering others, he says, yet may be distracting to the user.

"The younger people are more wrapped up in their music rather than using it as background," he says. "We've encouraged iPods if they do want to listen to music, but they have greater concentration if they don't."

If MP3 players help you tune out noisy co-workers or help you relax while waiting for a doctor's appointment, then what's the harm in cocooning inside your own technological bubble?

The danger, says one sociologist, is that we start losing touch with the people in our lives—even if it's just the cashier—because we won't get off the phone or take off headphones to exchange pleasantries.

Studies show that these mini-conversations—with the same woman at the coffee shop each morning or the regular banter with the guy who owns the gas station—are important to our psychological well-being.

"If you have a regular routine and you go back to the same places, your day can be filled up with these short contacts with people you see regularly," says Richard Lachmann, sociology professor at the University of Albany. "People who don't have that are really missing something."

Evidence suggests, says Lachmann, that these interactions help us cope with the stresses of everyday life and give us a feeling of community that is "as much good as having a bunch of cousins who live nearby."

"If people lose that," Lachmann says, "it's going to become a big problem."

Still, the fuss about the iPod strikes some as much ado about nothing.

Although he admits that "we go around in a kind of fog of technological insulation," cultural historian Timothy Burke says most Americans already avoid making eye contact on planes, trains and, in particular, elevators.

"Before the iPod, in subways or on buses, people carried books or newspapers. Or they looked at the ground," says Burke, a professor at Swarthmore College.

"In that way, there's nothing novel about the iPod. It's just one more way of controlling the social space around you."

Bruce MacKenzie, 44, argues that iPods allow that phenomenon to be taken to extremes.

Riding the ferry to and from Hoboken every day, he notes, "Everybody's in their own world, with those things in their ears blocking out the sound. Often I give a greeting and there's no reaction because they don't even realize I'm sitting next to them."

He prefers to use his own iPod to enhance already allocated "alone time."

But while MacKenzie dislikes the way MP3 players "silo people rather than making them part of a collective," he relies on the devices more and more in his work as senior vice president for entertainment marketing at Manning, Selvage & Lee.

"We're finding it's impossible to reach target markets anymore through traditional means," he says.

"We're using alternative media, whether iPods or cellphones, to deliver branded messages in ways that interest people."

He finds it ironic that one of his projects, the federal government's VERB anti-obesity campaign, encourages kids to turn off their iPods and computers for one hour a day of physical activity—but must use those very devices to deliver the message.

"That's where (kids) spend their time," MacKenzie says with resignation. "Even in the golden age of television, potentially you'd interact with those around you. Now you're in your own little universe."

Opinions

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12

No Child Left Behind, Except the Smart Ones

 Janice Haramis
 contributing writer

In his State of the Union address in January, President Bush called on Congress to reauthorize the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) saying, "We must increase funds for students who are struggling and make sure these children get the special help they need."

But this program, as it is currently implemented, ignores another group of students that are struggling: gifted children.

NCLB was enacted by President Bush in 2002 with the goal that every student will be perform at grade level proficiency by 2014. It requires schools to focus on tests that are based on these standards, accounting for every student's performance, assuring that only highly qualified teachers are in every classroom and challenging the students' academic standards in reading, math and science.

The official site for NCLB says, "Under No Child Left Behind, the future is brighter

for every student." This statement alone assumes that NCLB focuses on providing educational opportunities for every minority, disabled, impoverished and gifted child.

Yet, the reality is that every student is not treated equally in the public school system and the NCLB program is ignoring our nation's brightest children.

The NCLB budget right now is \$24.5 billion, where only 3% of that money is allotted for gifted programs.

While the education of our young minds is one of the greatest tools for success, squandering the possibilities for growth by holding our best young minds to a minimal level is appalling.

The year after President Bush signed the bill in 2002, Illinois cut \$16 million from gifted education, Michigan cut funding from \$5 million to \$500,000 and many programs were cut from schools altogether.

James J. Gallagher, a senior investigator at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute at the University of

North Carolina at Chapel Hill, authored the 2004 Roeper Review article, No Child Left Behind and Gifted Education. In this article, he raises some interesting questions.

"What are some of the unintended consequences of this legislation? First, what is going on in the classroom as a result of this legislation?" writes Gallagher. "From all accounts, many teachers have put aside their curricula in favor of preparing their students to take these 'high stakes' tests.

Therefore, students perform extensively on exercises that may look remarkably similar to the test questions they are expected to get. Since the tests have to be placed at a fairly basic conceptual level, that means the needs of gifted students are even more ignored or brushed off than they have been before."

Teachers and schools are rewarded with our tax dollars when their students perform well on these standardized tests. With those incentives, why would a teacher want to nurture a gifted student? Heck, some of them even enlist their

smarter pupils to help the not so smart ones.

Under NCLB it has become more important for our schools to rectify deficiencies than to cultivate gifts; a system which, in practice, disgusts me.

My sister used to attend Point Pleasant Middle School in New Jersey where she was placed in gifted classes. Because her school underwent major budget cuts from the state and did not perform up to reward level under NCLB, it cut its gifted program.

After the cut, she was placed back into her grade-level classes, where she was bored and unchallenged. As she waited to be challenged, she became frustrated and unmotivated with her schoolwork. If my father and step-mother hadn't enrolled her in private schooling this year, she could have easily become a lost talent.

The U.S. Department of Education states that the No Child Left Behind Act is working. It reports a slight narrowing of the racial achievement gap over the past three years. Further research reveals that this

narrowing is due to a decline in overall reading scores, not to improvements in minority student performance. This is not progress.

Our country is experiencing developmental competitiveness from China, Japan and European countries. Many would argue that nurturing especially bright children is the key to bolstering American development.

I fear that if our educational system continues to stick children in classrooms where they are not engaging in challenging and relevant instruction, it will hinder our country's progress. Any simple economic model will tell you that we must maximize our resources— in this case, our brightest students— in order to maximize our potential for growth. NCLB is hindering that opportunity for our country.

Janice Haramis is a student in Professor Singerman's journalism course.

The Different Struggles of Parental Relations

 Omar Rachid
 the sandspur

The strangest thing started happening to me last week. I was rushing to my 9 am class and I stopped as I was passing Orlando Hall, I had seen a tall man with a blue plaid dress shirt and khaki pants. I could have sworn it was my father.

I came to my senses when I realized he's back home, in Valencia, Venezuela. I told my parents about this when we spoke later that afternoon and I laughed because it was funny that I actually believed for a second it could have been him, despite the fact that he's a four-hour flight away.

While I know the first time I'll get to see him, along with my mother and brother since I came to Rollins in August, won't

be until December, not everyone is in the same situation. For the most part, parental relations with college students are determined by geographical proximity.

Floridians are the first to get sick of their parents. This might not happen right away, but it happens to them before it does to out-of-state students and international students. A majority in Rollins, people in this group do not feel as homesick because there are very few impediments to visiting their parents or going home.

Many do not do laundry and drop by Saturday morning to leave by the end of the weekend with their laundry all folded and ready to use the next week—all the while taking advantage of their parents who will do anything to see their kids. It is always harder for the

parents because the house feels empty with a vacant room.

Those out-of-state will probably not see their parents every weekend; as most locals complain, but many will book flights for fall break and Thanksgiving to go home for a few days. What's most interesting is that when we have Family Weekend, it is the parents in this group who most frequent this event.

The same can be said for when freshmen registered on move-in day, the first to be on campus were probably those furthest away—those who flew in the previous day and were here by 9 am. They can feel the distance, but its healthy distance because it is far enough to feel independent but close enough to travel in the morning and be in time for lunch at home.

International students deal

with the extremes. If you can be home in a non-stop flight from Orlando International Airport within a few hours, you are more emotionally belonging to the out-of-state group. If it takes a couple of flights and sometimes an overnight stay before you can be back to sleep in your bed then the few times you will get to be home are probably winter and summer break.

Those lucky enough whose flights do not exceed a thousand dollars could probably leave for Thanksgiving and spring break as well. People in this category feel the extremes, home will be very much missed, the food is not the same here and it may be the first time for many to be gone from home for four months at a time.

What many here complain about is that after 4 months of near-to-complete indepen-

dence, going back home for a few weeks is a shocker. International students have been so used to the 'new' life at college that going back to 'old' ways will be shocking.

People in these different groups will have trouble relating with each other about their parental relations. The girl from Tampa is tired of seeing her parents every Saturday while Lindi from South Africa has trouble dealing with the fact that he won't be seeing his family until the summer of 2009.

Parents are an underestimated resource, they can be better than our mentors for advice and everyone needs a healthy relationship with their parents for both financial and emotional stability.

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Supreme Court Soap Opera

Brittany Fornof
the sandspur

ages punishment in this case qualifies as a "state-sanctioned penalty for intimate conduct", which wouldn't be justified since the Supreme Court abolished state sodomy laws in 2003.

Although the couple, Jerry and Sandra Fitch (the two married shortly after Valentine filed for divorce), claim that they want to keep the situation low-key, they have recently made an appearance on the Today show stating their defense.

When host Natalie Morales asked them if they saw anything wrong with their adulterous behavior, Jerry Fitch is said to have stated, "With Sandra and I? Nothing wrong here."

The story seems too twisted and appalling to be true. The wife of a plumber has an affair with a multi-millionaire, and she becomes pregnant with his child. The plumber sues the millionaire in accordance with Mississippi's alienation of affection law and receives \$750,000 in compensation for his loss.

Now, the unfaithful couple has filed an appeal to the Supreme Court asking for a lesser punishment. What has the world come to?

This Supreme Court case sounds more like a Monday afternoon soap opera than a debate of law. However, one must admit that if the abandoned plumber is able to make off with ¾ of a million dollars in this repulsive situation, then more power to him.

Certainly, it won't take the sting of lost love and a spouse's unfaithfulness away, but it might make the whole situation a little easier to swallow. Although Fitch's lawyers may have a justifiable case regarding the punitive damages to present to the Supreme Court, let us hope that his appeal gets denied. The bad guy gets the girl in the end.

So why should we want him to keep his money too? Let the chips fall where they may, for there should be consequences for their actions.

Unequal Religious Rights

Julio Carrion
the sandspur

"May we have now a moment of silence" the speaker declares to the large crowd gathered at the University of South Carolina days after the tragic loss of six of their students in a house fire.

For a few moments there is utter silence, the only noises that arise from the crowd is the occasional sob and a number of hushed prayers, as the crowd pauses in remembrance of those lost.

Moments of silence and reflection are a crucial part of many ceremonious events within our nation, in particular in the way we handle times of mourning. But such moments can be used in other ways such as in the business world for signaling either the beginning or end of the day or in schools in a similar fashion.

However these moments of peace and quiet are often the source of much noise and conflict as shown by the debate taking place in Illinois over the merits of the moment of silence. As of October 12, the Illinois state government voted 74-37 in favor of requiring students to observe a moment of silence at the beginning of each day in class.

This measure, which although supported by the majority of constituents was vetoed earlier by the state's governor, has sparked a heated debate. The line has been drawn in the sand with neither side willing to back down. The crux of the issue is what is the presumed meaning of the moment of silence and if it might violate someone's rights.

Many who are opposed to this say this is a "dangerous

step backward for the country" and "this will only lead to the shoving of religion down our students' throats!" Some go far to say this is a vast right wing conspiracy or some type and all of them have in common that this will be damaging to the students.

Please forgive my laughter at most of these allegations, in a simple gut reaction I fail to see how 15 minutes of silence can constitute a "dangerous step backward for the country."

Truth be told, moments of silence are in concept with the politically correct modern day variant of prayer, it is a historical fact, but in the way they operate they are quite different.

In the traditional model of moment of prayer the speakers leads the crowd or group in a prayer (to whatever religion the majority of group follows) and range from relatively short prayers of thanks to longer prayers concerning times of mourning, etc.

In a moment of silence the speaker is silent along with the rest of the group, after all it is called a moment of silence! Should they pray it is their choice (not to mention 1st amendment right) or should they yawn out loud, it is again their choice. Both moments operate rather distinctly than one another but have one thing in common, something that I believe is the reason why those oppose it find it so threatening; it gives a student the choice/chance to pray.

Some of the arguments stating that this will lead to confusion are largely unwarranted; they often say that the "mere sight" of a student bowing his head or putting his hands together could confuse a non-religious student. To that allegation I reply that we live in a society full of many different religions and faiths and that such an oc-

currence would be a great way to begin educating students about the impact of different faith and religion on the world as a whole.

Discussion, debate, and fair presentation are something that modern academia is supposed to espouse. There are also many examples of religious accommodations made to other religions around the nation, such as the playing of Muslim prayers over the P.A. systems of several Detroit public schools, the inclusion of prayer rooms in those schools for those who practice Islam, and days off for pagan students who celebrate seasonal events like the solstice in several universities and high schools.

My question is if they have the right to practice their religion at public schools why not give equal opportunity for Christians and Jews to pray within these moments of silence? Why not give everyone else a time to think for themselves?

As the debate continues we as a people still in large part hold true to the moments of silence as a time where an individual can take time to take a greater look over themselves and spend time in a moment of reflections, to hit the pause button of a fast-forward world and put things in order within themselves.

And for many should they desire to, it is a time of faith and prayer or if they wish a time take a nap during those fifteen minutes, both which are perfectly fine. Moments of silence are private times where you decide what you want to do and think, no more no less. It is up to the student to make the choice over what he or she gets from that time.

FEMA Commits Another Embarrassing Blunder

Daniel Paulling
the sandspur

What is a government agency supposed to do after making the news in perhaps the very worst way? Why, take the true reporters out of the equation and let your media relations folks make up its own news. At least that's the thinking, if you're part of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, or FEMA. FEMA staged a fake press conference on Tuesday, Oct. 23. The conference dealt with the California wildfires and FEMA's ability to help the people in the

area. The "reporters" were actually members of FEMA's media relations department. The idea was perhaps the stupidest thing in the history of government.

The agency told reporters about the conference 15 minutes before it was scheduled to begin. For anyone familiar with Washington D.C., this was not enough time for someone to scramble out of the newsroom and attend. They also provided a 1-800 call-in line, but reporters were only allowed to listen, not actually to ask questions.

How could anyone actually ever think this situation could turn out well? FEMA allowed

several media outlets — Fox News included — to broadcast portions of the conference. Members of the media, after having only 15 minutes to respond to the call, had to have known that something was staged.

It was obvious that the true nature of this press conference would be leaked. That much is for certain. Why would anybody serious suggest this in a meeting as a good idea? Are they seriously that stupid?

The questions asked were such burning ones as, Are you happy with FEMA's response. The answers given were as banal as, "I'm very happy with

FEMA's response so far. This is a FEMA and a federal government that's leaning forward, not waiting to react. And you have to be pretty pleased to see that."

Of course, things wouldn't be so bad, if it wasn't for the Hurricane Katrina situation. FEMA was too understaffed and underprepared to handle a catastrophe of that magnitude. What made it bad was the praise that George W. Bush bestowed upon Andrew Brown, then-director of FEMA. Brown became a target of political comedy shows and subsequently relieved of his duties.

But, because of this fake

press conference, FEMA is once again the target of the Steven Colberts and Jon Stewarts of the world. Of course, this would not have happened, this could have been avoided, if someone actually thought about the consequences of their actions.

There is one bright side to this entire debacle, however. At least the media relations folks are getting a chance to do what they were truly hired for. Rather than asking staged questions, they're answering real ones.

Sports

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14

Tars End Volleyball Weekend
With WinCorina Evans
the sandspur

The weekend proved eventful for the Tars with their matches against Sunshine State Conference rival Nova Southeastern University, Lynn University and Barry University. Friday and Saturday's matches ended in disappointing losses for Rollins, but the team was able to round out the weekend with an impressive win on Sunday.

On Friday, the Tars came out strong, winning the first game 30-26 and dominating with an impressive 10-3 run. The Nova Southeastern Sharks took the second and third games 30-23 and 30-20, but Rollins came back to win the fourth game 30-26. Things looked promising early in the fifth game, as the Tars initially led 12-8, but the Sharks put a decisive finish on things with an 8-2 run, leaving the fifth game's score at 16-14

and the match score at 3-2. It was a tough loss for the Tars, but a successful match for senior captain and defender Kim Cline, who broke the Rollins career record for digs with 1,722 total and 21.

Saturday's match against Lynn was a tug of war, with Lynn taking the first and third games and Rollins taking the second and fourth games. Lynn took the fifth game for another 3-2 loss for the Tars (30-17, 28-30, 30-21, 21-30, 15-12). However, the Tars put up a good fight, with three players tallying double-doubles (kills-digs). Offensive junior Stephanie Nichols had 18 kills and 11 digs, senior Christina Reinders had an impressive 17 kills and 23 digs, and senior Lorena Orlandini had 14 kills and 4 solo blocks. Junior Lacey Malarky, who is currently in second for Rollins All-Time Assists with 3,074 total had 54 assists on Saturday.

After Friday and Saturday's losses, it was great for the Tars

to end the weekend on a high note, with a 3-0 win over Barry University. The Tars came out determined for a different outcome than their two previous matches and played a decisively, winning 30-24, 30-24, 30-22 and allowing the Barry Buccaneers only five leads the entire match. Nichols and Reinders tallied double-doubles, Nichols with 14 kills and 10 digs; Reinders with 12 kills and 15 digs. Orlandini had another impressive match with 11 kills, 9 digs, and 3 blocks and Malarky had 36 assists and 2 kills of her own.

The Tars overall record now stands at 18-16, with a Sunshine State Conference record of 5-9. The NCAA South Region Tournament begins on November 15 and runs through November 17. Hopefully the Tars will be able to surprise some of the tougher teams in the South Region.

Nine Nuggets of
Knowledge from
Your Sports Editor

As your sports editor, I feel that it is my job to educate you in the world of sports. This is for your own good. In the near future, you will be at a cocktail party. An attractive person will approach you and strike up a conversation about current sporting events. Now you won't freeze up in front of your potential soul mate. Things will happen, and you can take these gold plated factoids straight to the bank.

-Danny Travis

1. The Tennessee Titans are the worst 6-2 team in the NFL. Not just for this season, but in the history of the NFL. Vince Young is just as terrible as his receivers, the only thing keeping them in contention is the fact that they only allow 66 rushing yards per game.

2. Barry Bonds' own idiocy is only bringing more hatred his way. He claims he will boycott the Hall of Fame if the record breaking ball is put in with an asterisk. The people decided that you are a fraud and you are just going to have to live with that.

3. The most amusing thing is listening to talking heads laud the New Orleans Saints, saying that their resurgence was inevitable and they knew it all along. The Saints will not make the playoffs.

4. Even though the East is the new West in the NBA, the Orlando Magic will improve upon their playoff embarrassment last season. Don't be expecting the finals, but they should advance beyond the first round.

5. In an attempt to run up the score on the Baltimore Ravens, Patriots quarterback Tom Brady will have his Anterior Cruciate Ligament torn at the hands of Ray Lewis.

6. Despite their abnormally smooth start, the New York Knicks will not make it to the All Star break without another sexual harassment scandal involving Isaiah Thomas and a young female intern.

7. For Week 11, put some money on the Cleveland Browns over the Baltimore Ravens, no matter what the spread is. Steve McNair is playing like the old man that he is, and Derek Anderson will pull himself out of this miniature slump that he is having.

8. Joe Torre is still just a baseball manager people. He puts names on a sheet of paper in an arbitrary order, and for the past years, those nine people have been pretty good. In LA, not so much.

9. In National Hockey League news... oh, never mind.

*note: Most of these nuggets of knowledge are in fact just wishful thinking and/or grounded in pure fiction, but remember these statements and predictions are coming from a professional amateur sports editor.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

GOOD OR BAD? Drew Brees and the Saints started off terrible, surprising everyone. They have now bounced back, but expect them to plummet as they will not be able to keep up with the Bucs in the NFC South.

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Alex Rodriguez Opts to Opt Out

Daniel Paulling
the sandspur

The news of Alex Rodriguez opting out of his 10 year, \$252 million contract should come as no surprise. The timing of the announcement, during the eighth inning of Game Four of the World Series, should also come as no surprise.

We should know by now that Rodriguez is only a mercenary and that Rodriguez's agent, Scott Boras, only cares about himself and nothing for the grander good of the game of baseball.

Rodriguez, who has long cited a personal desire to win a World Series championship sometime during his career, signed his mega-deal before the 2001 season. He left the Seattle Mariners in search of a team that could help him reach the promised land.

His move took him from a team that won the American League Wild Card and 91 games in 2000 to the Texas Rangers, a franchise coming off a season in which they lost 91 games and finished a whopping 20.5 games out of first place. That was definitely a step toward the money, not a step in the right direction.

After three losing seasons in Texas, Rodriguez forced the Rangers hand to trade him. And the only teams that could

take him were the bigger market clubs that could afford his contract but were reluctant to dole it out during the free agent bidding process. These were the clubs that afforded him the best chance of winning a World Series; not the Rangers. In other words, Rodriguez had his cake and ate it, too.

And we all know that Rodriguez hasn't won a World Series since becoming a member of the New York Yankees. He hasn't even appeared in one.

All he has done, in fact, is hurt his stature as one of the best players in the history of baseball. Rodriguez has hit only .279 in 147 postseason at bats. If you project his home run and runs batted in totals from the postseason over 162 games, he would have 29 home runs and 70 RBIs. Those come nowhere near his 162-game career averages of .306, 44, and 128 during the regular season.

Boras himself is not exempt from any sort of wrongdoing in the handling of Rodriguez's opt-out clause here. Here was his explanation.

"Alex's decision was one based on not knowing what his closer, his catcher and one of his statured pitchers was going to do," he said to reporters after the announcement. "He really didn't want to make any decisions until he knew what they were doing."

Now, wouldn't it have made more sense to wait the 10 days Rodriguez is allowed after the World Series before deciding whether to opt out or not rather than before the World Series even ended? What if the Yankees managed to re-sign one of those two free agents and Andy Pettitte exercised his player option for 2008?

The Yankees are surely negotiating with all three to insure their return for next season. However, they are not allowed to formally announce anything, due to Commissioner Bud Selig's gag rule that does not allow any teams to make major announcements without being fined.

No, this was just Boras at his worst. He wanted the lime-light. He wanted to ruin what should've been the best weekend of the baseball season, the underdog Colorado Rockies facing the eventual champion Boston Red Sox in the biggest series of the year. He wanted to hear his name and his client's name mentioned the morning after the World Series ended.

Boras at his worst is a guy who writes a 60-page book about his star client, but then says that Rodriguez's postseason batting average is clear over .300, which happened on the television show "Rome is Burning." It was, at the time, only in the .280s. This is a guy who says that 40% of his clients don't take

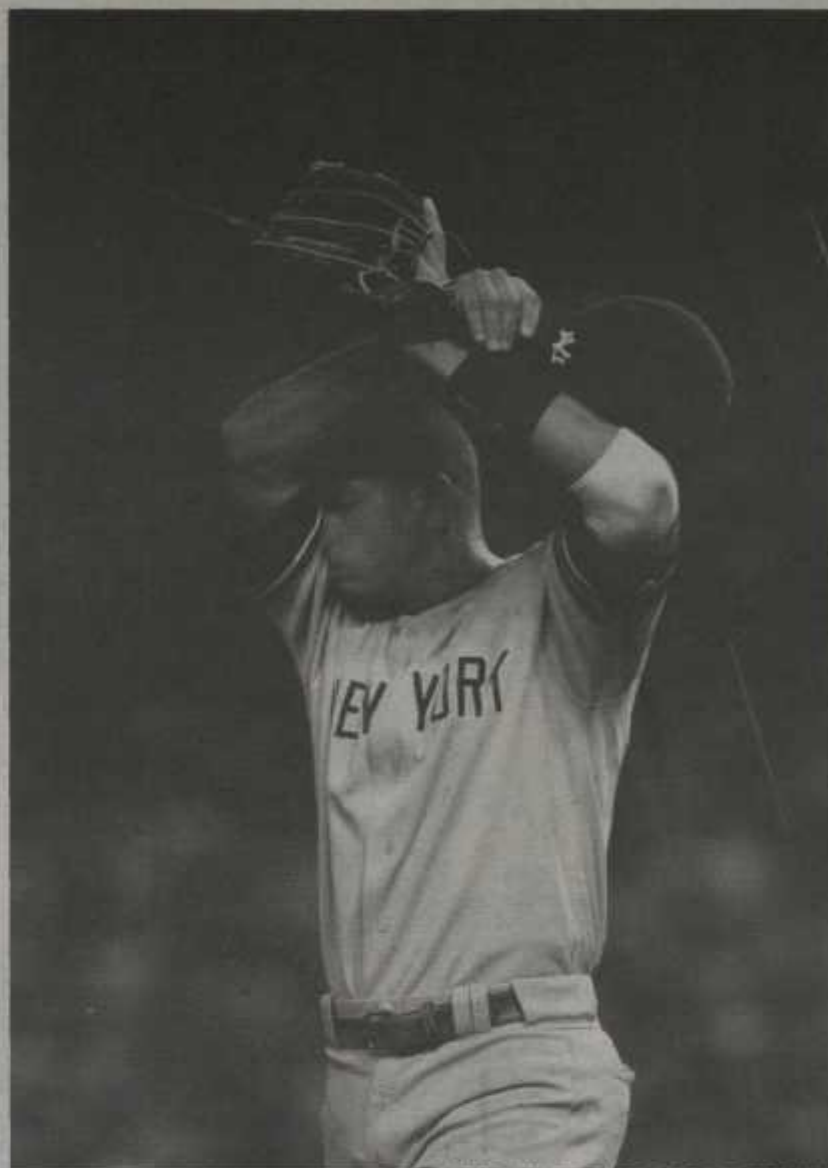


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

"LOOK AT ME!" Alex Rodriguez and his agent decided to make a career announcement during a World Series Game. Was that ethical? You be the judge. Actually, you can judge Alex Rodriguez all you want, as he laughs straight to the bank.

the highest offer, but who then says that Rodriguez won't sign for anything less than \$350 million with the New York Yankees. Ri-dic-u-lous.

Any way you look at it, this is the perfect marriage. Alex Rodriguez is a mercenary who

cares solely about money and not enough about being productive when the calendar turns to October. What better person for Rodriguez to turn to in times of need than an agent bent on sucking every dollar possible from a franchise?

NCAA Men's Basketball Preview

Jimmy Colston
the sandspur

The first preseason polls have been released for the 2007-2008 NCAA Men's Division I Basketball indicating the upcoming start of the season.

Both the USA Today/Coach's Poll and the Associated Press poll picked identical top tens. The North Carolina Tar Heels topped both polls receiving the majority of first-place votes, with UCLA and Memphis rounding out the top three of both polls garnering the remaining first-place votes. This is the sixth time in history that North Carolina has been the preseason number one team.

Rounding out the top ten of both polls were Kansas, Georgetown, Louisville, Tennessee, Michigan State, Indiana, and Washington State.

The top-ranked Tar Heels are returning three starters and eight total players from last year's Elite Eight team. This includes star junior-center Tyler Hansbrough and sophomore guard Ty Lawson.

North Carolina's legitimacy will be tested early and often. Their 2007 schedule includes

home games not to be overlooked with Davidson and Old Dominion traveling to Chapel Hill. After four home games, North Carolina heads on the road for four straight games with matchups against 2007 national runnerup Ohio State and preseason #22 Kentucky. This is all before they head into conference play in the perennially strong Atlantic Coast Conference.

Memphis coach John Calipari can boast a similarly tough schedule despite participating in a post-conference realignment Conference USA. The Tigers return all five starters from a regional final team, but they more importantly return their high-profile coach who received offers from top conference schools.

UCLA returns four starters from its 2007 Final Four team, a team that lost to eventual champions Florida.

In the Associated Press poll, spots 11 through 15 were filled by Marquette, Oregon, Duke, Gonzaga, and Texas. Texas A&M, Arizona, USC, Arkansas, and Kentucky round out the top 20. The final five teams in the poll are North Carolina State, Pittsburgh, Stanford, Southern

Illinois, and Kansas State.

This is the first time since 1993 that Kansas State men's basketball has been ranked in the Associated Press poll.

The national champions Florida Gators and runners-up Ohio State Buckeyes are both absent from the first poll, along with 8 other teams that were in the top 25 at the end of the last season. Both Florida and Ohio State were plagued by graduations and NBA departures, but Ohio State is still on the edge of being ranked returning some key players and adding Canton freshman Kostas Koufos.

The Pac-10 boasts the most preseason ranked teams (6: Oregon, UCLA, Washington State, Arizona, Stanford, USC) with the Big East and Big Twelve both coming in with four teams.

Southern Illinois, Gonzaga, and Memphis are the only three representatives from mid-major conferences. Other mid-major teams expected to make an impact include Davidson, Butler, Xavier, Virginia Commonwealth, Bradley, Brigham Young, and Old Dominion, all of which received votes in the preseason polls.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

TIGER ROAR: Coach John Calipari hopes to coach the University of Memphis into the Final Four. For the past two years, the Tigers have been ousted in the Elite Eight.

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