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12-3-2007

## Sandspur, Vol 114, No 10, December 03, 2007

Rollins College

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### STARS Citation

Rollins College, "Sandspur, Vol 114, No 10, December 03, 2007" (2007). *The Rollins Sandspur*. 1848.  
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# The Sandspur

ROLLINS COLLEGE ■ WINTER PARK, FLORIDA

## ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Copeland and Cartel impress students at Rollins with their performance.

PAGES 8-9

## LIFE & TIMES

What's going on in winter fashion? Find out what the coolest colors, cuts, and patterns are this year.

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## SPORTS

The Rollins Tars end Volleyball season with a win.

SPORTS 14

THE STUDENT VOICE OF ROLLINS COLLEGE SINCE 1894

Vol. 114 Issue 10

[www.thesandspur.org](http://www.thesandspur.org)

December 3, 2007

## Rollins College Top Producer of Fulbright Scholars

Daniel Paulling  
the sandspur

Rollins College's reputation as a top-notch academic institution received another accolade recently. The school has been announced as one of the top producers of Fulbright Scholars in the 2007-08 academic year.

"We are very pleased that these graduates will have the opportunity to apply their Rollins education in this prestigious international program," said Rollins president Lewis Duncan.

Three recent alumni received the one-year Fulbright Grant. They are Alison Schill, a member of the Class of 2007; Elizabeth Buckley, a member of the Class of 2007; and Brooke Harbaugh, a member of the Class of 2006.

Schill and Buckley have already done their work as

Fulbright Scholars. Schill taught English in Germany, while Buckley went to South Korea to do the same.

"Being a Fulbright Scholar is an affirmation of my efforts as an undergraduate, an opportunity to explore another culture, and a challenge to continue setting academic goals for myself," Schill said. "I credit Rollins entirely with the achievement of this award because the faculty helped me through the entire process, from informing me about the scholarship, guiding me through the application, and writing superb recommendations."

The immensity of the award was not lost upon Buckley, either. "It is the opportunity

of a lifetime to explore a field of interest to me in a country that I would not normally have an opportunity to visit," Buckley said. "I am also pleased to be a representative of the U.S. and Rollins College to the people I will encounter."

Rollins is the only school in Florida listed in the Carnegie category of Master's Colleges and Universities. Only seven Florida schools produced any U.S. Fulbright Scholars for the 2007-08 academic year.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the United States Department of the State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. It began in 1946 and has allowed nearly 300,000 participants travel worldwide and observe

the differences in different countries' political, economic, and cultural institutions; exchange ideas; and embark on joint ventures of importance to the general welfare of the world's inhabitants.

There have been nearly 45,000 students from the United States to have earned a Fulbright grant. Students receiving these awards apply through 570 different colleges of universities.

Under the Fulbright U.S. Student Program, nearly 1,500 American students in more than 100 different fields of study have been offered grants to study, teach English, and conduct research in more than 125 different countries beginning this fall.

According to the Fulbright Scholars website, the

Program supplies future American leaders with the skills necessary to thrive in an increasingly global environment by providing funding for one academic year of study, research, or assistant teaching abroad.

The Fulbright program was created in 1946 to, according to the Fulbright Program website, for the "promotion of international good will through the exchange of students in the fields of education, culture, and science." It is the largest U.S. exchange program that offers opportunities for students and young professionals to undertake research projects or teaching assignments abroad.

PHOTO COURTESY OF ROLLINS COLLEGE

## Rollins and ECUST Establish Exchange

Daniel Paulling  
the sandspur

Roger Casey, Rollins College Vice President for Academic Affairs & Provost, were the major driving forces behind the agreement.

Greenberg proposed the idea of teaching a course in China; while on her sabbatical last spring, she taught a comparative religion course, "Love, Eros and Religion." Sixty-five students enrolled in this humanities course, which surveyed notions and practices of love cross-culturally, utilizing perspectives and methodologies from anthropology, philosophy and the history of religion.

"The highlight of teaching was the fascinating cross-cultural dialogues that occurred during the course," Greenberg said. "I believe that I succeeded in initiating and encouraging reflection and critical thinking among the students about topics such as romantic love, spiritual experience, gender roles, family and community. This teaching experience was indeed very gratifying."

Kupetz taught his "Introduction to Management Consulting" class to 50 students. He thought it would provide a tremendous addition to the curriculum of Chinese students

enrolled in the MBA program at ECUST. Like Greenberg, he enjoyed exploring the differences between American students and their Chinese counterparts.

"Chinese and American students have more in common than one might think and certainly more in common than their differences," Kupetz said. "They were motivated, participatory, eager to learn and team-based problem solvers. Their willingness to use PowerPoint to present their ideas in English and the quality of their ideas was impressive."

For both Greenberg and Kupetz, the biggest obstacle in teaching was the language barrier. Since neither professor is fluent in Chinese — "I cannot speak a single word of Chinese," Kupetz said — they conducted class in English, even though nearly every other class there is in Chinese.

To get into one of these classes, students had to pass a test to make sure they could succeed in an English-only class.

The main challenge was negotiating the various degrees of English proficiency in the classroom," Greenberg said. "Overall, the students man-

aged with a good deal of effort on their part to keep up with the readings and lectures as indicated by their achievements on the final examination."

Kupetz said, "Perhaps the greatest challenge was making sure I was understood. I tried to repeat key points to make sure I was getting through."

The relationship with ECUST has helped Rollins expand its presence in China,

but Alon is hoping this agreement is just the first of many in the region. Rollins has already signed a similar agreement with the University of Shanghai.

"This allows for an increase in the global footprint of Rollins College," Alon said. "It complements the College's mission of internationalization perfectly."



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS



# Contributing Voices

## Rollins – New School – Namibia Partnership

Meredith Lohwasser  
contributing writer

Most of us know Namibia as the location where Brad Pitt and Angelina Jolie had their first biological child together. Few of us know that from 1884 until 1915 it was a German colony and that German is still one of the national languages of the country today along with Afrikaans, English, Herero and many others. Since its independence from South Africa in 1990, Namibia has struggled with issues regarding cultural barriers; the government has tried to build bridges between black and white, as well as between the different indigenous groups. Appropriately,

Namibia's motto is now "One Namibia – One Nation." One entity in Namibia that exemplifies the desire to eradicate cultural and ethnic differences in the country is the Waldorfschule Windhoek. Located in Namibia's capital

city, the Waldorfschule strives to break down those barriers between children so that they can "meet freely to learn, laugh and play."

Concerned Namibian parents founded the school in 2000 and worked to create two classrooms, a hostel, a teachers' room, a room for the secretariat, music classrooms and a conference room. In the future, they hope to add a village square, an amphitheater, science and workshop classrooms and a sports field.

The Waldorfschule Windhoek is dedicated eliminating barriers between the future of their country – their children – and is an institution that promotes the education of Namibian children no matter their color.

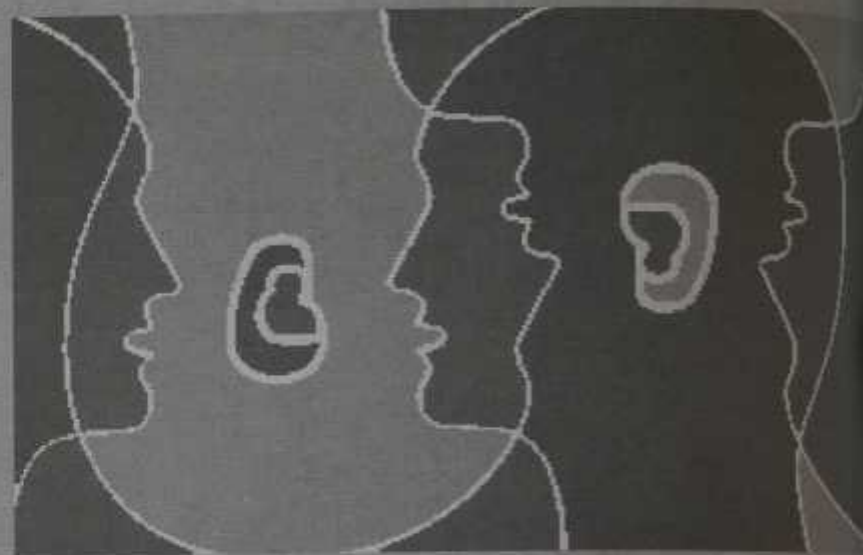
Frau Nancy Decker and her Rollins students have teamed up with Frau Sara Hoefler of New School Prep and her students, to send one Namibian child per year to the Waldorfschule Windhoek. The link began with a common interest in the German language; German is offered as a minor

at Rollins College and New School Prep is a local elementary school that offers after-school instruction in German.

The friendship between the two teachers and their common interest in German as a language has resulted in the Rollins – New School – Namibia Partnership, pitched to New School parents on September 19 by Frau Decker, Frau Hoefler and some Rollins students.

On October 18, Rollins students again traveled to New School, but instead created a field day for New School students about the program and about their studies of the African continent.

Since then, the two schools have teamed up for some memorable events promoting the program, as well as foreign language in general. At the beginning of the year, students competed to create a logo for the project and will eventually compete to create an official song.



Both schools also participated in World Language Day on September 26 – hundreds of biodegradable balloons symbolizing the many languages of the world were released into the air next to the campus center and later that night there was an interesting forum in Ward Hall at which many distinguished guests spoke.

The future of the program lies in the hands of the many involved students, elementary and college level alike.

This summer, Frau Decker

hopes to travel to Namibia, a trip she hopes to make into an annual event for students to participate in as well.

If you want to get involved with the Rollins – New School – Namibia Partnership, contact Frau Decker in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. If you just want to learn a little more about the program, please visit <http://languages.rollins.edu/firealarm/Namibia/> for the cause and donate today!

## Rollins Student Chosen as Presidential Fellow

Robert Hoffman  
contributing writer

Rollins College student Stephen Miller has been selected as a 2007-2008 Presidential Fellow as part of a program run by the Center for the Study of the Presidency (CSP). CSP is a non-partisan, non-profit organization; it was founded in 1965 with the aim of systematically examining past successes and failures of the Presidency and how they relate to current challenges and opportunities.

CSP has a number of programs for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as opportunities for professionals.

Examples of these various programs include the Foundation for International Understanding (FIU), the Na-

tional Consortium for Character-Based Leadership, and counsel positions for Governance and Policy in several different areas.

Of these opportunities offered by CSP, perhaps the most significant for undergraduate students is the Presidential Fellowship program. This selective program, inaugurated in 1970, offers 85 undergraduate and graduate students from leading colleges and universities the opportunity to travel to Washington, D.C. to learn about leadership and to work with mentors in public policy and government. Miller was the only student in Florida chosen for the program.

The program affords the Presidential Fellows a year-long opportunity to study the U.S. Presidency, the public policymaking process, and the relations between the country's highest Executive authority and Congress, our allies, the media, and the American

public.

Miller and the other Fellows will attend two conferences during the fall and spring.

At these policy workshops, Fellows discuss national issues with scholars and are briefed by senior government officials and nationally recognized public policy experts. The major requirement of the one year Fellowship is that each student research, write, and present an original paper on an issue of the modern Presidency.

Students are eligible to participate in two essay contests and compete for publication in our annual anthology of the best Center Fellows' Papers.

Miller, a junior international relations major, is a familiar face around campus. The native Ohioan is a recipient of Rollins' prestigious Cornell scholarship and a member of the Honors Degree program.



Photo Courtesy of Rollins

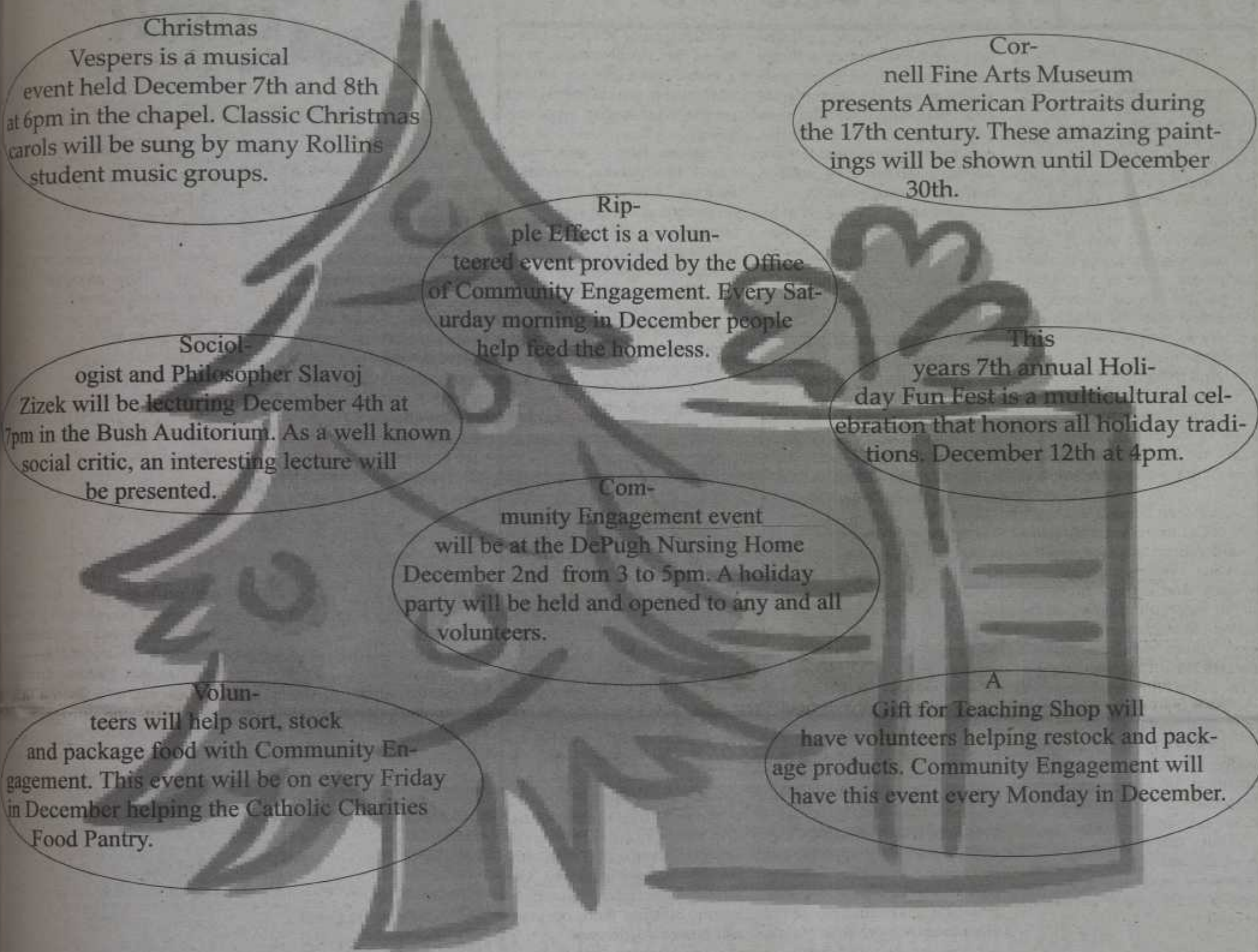
He has served on the college's Student Government Association for the past three years, serving as College Governance Chairman since 2005.

He plans to complete an internship in Washington D.C. in the spring to continue the studies which he began through the Presidential Fellowship program. His goals after graduating from Rollins include attending law school.

When asked about the Presidential Fellowship program, Miller responded, "I'm very excited to represent Rollins as a Presidential Fellow. I have enjoyed studying the modern Presidency and working with students from top colleges across the country. This is just another example of the great experiences that Rollins liberal arts education offers to students."



# Holiday Calendar



**Christmas**  
Vespers is a musical event held December 7th and 8th at 6pm in the chapel. Classic Christmas carols will be sung by many Rollins student music groups.

**Cor-**  
nell Fine Arts Museum presents American Portraits during the 17th century. These amazing paintings will be shown until December 30th.

**Rip-**  
ple Effect is a volunteered event provided by the Office of Community Engagement. Every Saturday morning in December people help feed the homeless.

**Sociol-**  
ogist and Philosopher Slavoj Zizek will be lecturing December 4th at 7pm in the Bush Auditorium. As a well known social critic, an interesting lecture will be presented.

**Com-**  
munity Engagement event will be at the DePugh Nursing Home December 2nd from 3 to 5pm. A holiday party will be held and opened to any and all volunteers.

**This**  
years 7th annual Holiday Fun Fest is a multicultural celebration that honors all holiday traditions. December 12th at 4pm.

**Volun-**  
teers will help sort, stock and package food with Community Engagement. This event will be on every Friday in December helping the Catholic Charities Food Pantry.

**A**  
Gift for Teaching Shop will have volunteers helping restock and package products. Community Engagement will have this event every Monday in December.

## Attitudes

Lindsay Siegel  
the sandspur

Do you like to watch people dance? If so, then you should come attend the Rollins College Dancers for the annual Attitudes dance show. There are many different styles of dancing that will be done including the Rollins Step Team, Beat Crew, and Belly Dancers. The choreography is by Casper and the Magic Dancers. This event is co-sponsored by the Rollins theatre department players. Annually this is a highly attended event, so don't miss your chance to come and see the magic of Rollins dancing. This event will really get you in the mood to move with the music and be part of the action.

Name: Attitudes 007  
Host: Rollins College Dancers  
Date: Friday, Dec. 7, 2007  
Time: 8pm-10pm  
Location: Gym

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## Holt News

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EDITOR: GEOVANNA TORRES  
HOLTNEWS@THESANDSPUR.ORG

## Happiness is ...

Harry Jackson Jr.  
*mct campus*

It's no accident that "the pursuit of happiness" is integral to the Declaration of Independence. Experts say happiness is as much a capstone for individuals as it is for the United States.

Since World War II, each successive generation has made happiness more of a priority. People are placing careers, income and material wealth secondary to simply feeling good about their lives.

And that's not a bad thing. Experts define being happy as having positive emotions most of the time. Positive emotions are healthy, prolong life, make living pleasant and feel good.

A researcher at the University of California at Los Angeles found a direct link between the nervous system, the immune system and other functions in an emerging field of study called psychoneuroimmunology. Studies have nailed down the effects of laughter, happiness, stress and bad feelings on the immune system and other biological systems.

In short, happy people and people who laugh a lot generate chemical health benefits that help them live longer and have more fun while doing so.

But that's the clincher: how do you generate positive emotions, and how do you know when you've generated enough?

## A MEASURE

Psychologists gauge how happy a person is by comparing positive and negative emotions over a period of time, says Randy J. Larsen, chairman of the Washington University Department of Psychology.

"The happier you are, the fewer bad days you have," Larsen says. "An average person has seven of 10 good days, while a really happy person may have nine of 10 good days on average."

Dr. Miggie Greenberg, assistant professor at St. Louis University School of Medicine's Department of Psychiatry, says the level of control a person feels can be a measure of happiness.

"Rather than happiness, I would like to think about optimism," says Greenberg. "If we were happy all the time we'd be bored. We purposely seek out scary movies, sad books; we look for experience that isn't necessarily happy."

"But when we look at it as optimism, the key to happiness is feeling a sense of internal control. We can manage our internal world—it's somewhere we can get some respite and internal control."

People who are optimistic have more control, a better handle on life, live longer, persevere more, have more friends and generally are happier, Greenberg says. Paradoxically, pessimistic people tend to have a better grasp of reality—not that that's necessarily healthy.

Greenberg echoed what all of the mental-health professionals said: Before seeking happiness, clear up clinical depression. That's an illness, she says, not a sadness. This means see-

Happiness is morning and evening  
Daytime and nighttime too.  
For happiness is anyone and  
anything at all  
That's loved by you.

Charlie Brown



ing a professional, maybe even taking medication and having short- or long-term mental-health therapy.

## THE STUDY OF HAPPINESS

The focus on happiness has prompted the mental-health community to take a new look at what it is. The findings so far: Happiness is more than simply not feeling bad, says Larsen.

Before the 1980s, mental-health care involved trying to fix what was wrong. But in the '80s a new discipline emerged: "positive psychology," the study of what people do right.

"Now we study what keeps people from maximizing their potential," Larsen says. "What keeps people from being happy, and not just not depressed."

One of the striking findings: Nothing that was thought to cause happiness really does.

## MONEY DOESN'T BUY IT

Wealth is a source of comfort, not happiness, experts agree. "The dominant view in Western society is that happiness is having what you want," says Larsen. "A lot of people in America believe that they'll be happy when they get that first million, that Porsche Targa convertible."

Surprise: "All the research shows that doesn't work."

People who suddenly become wealthy tend to sink to their same level of happiness as before the windfall. In addition, wealthy people tend to be no more or less happy than anyone else.

Larsen recalled that a study

in Michigan of lottery winners found that people who won got a mood spike, but six months later were no different than people who hadn't won anything.

Researchers also have found that gender, education, religion, race and age make no difference when it comes to happiness. In other words, happiness had little to do with external circumstances.

The one exception is for people living in poverty. Larsen says that people who can't meet their basic needs will have trouble being happy.

Larsen considers the lack of a demographic effect on happiness a good thing.

"Demographic conditions are very difficult to change," he says. "What if you found wealth was related to happiness? The prescription would be to go out and make a million. Not everyone can do that."

## SIGNALS TO HAPPINESS

Joanne Waldman says people who ask her how to be happy tend to be people who lack balance.

Waldman is a life coach who helps people plan retirement, careers and other life endeavors.

Executives often speak to her about spending 80 percent of their waking hours working.

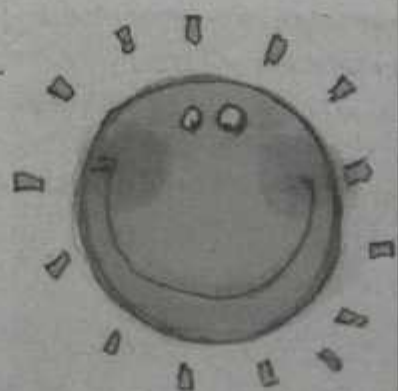
"If they're not spending any time on themselves, can they truly be happy?" she says. "Obviously, this didn't make them happy. Starting work on yourself makes a difference."

In searching for a person's road to happiness, Waldman asks questions such as, "What's the happiest time of your day, of your week, of your month, of your year? Answering that is the first step to getting in touch."

She asks clients to define what they consider being happy. "That means getting in touch with what they value."

Unhappy people are often those who aren't living their values, she said.

This doesn't mean packing up, leaving the family behind and running away to live on a beach, she says. "But maybe if you have kids now and you can't leave a job, you can start planning for when the kids are gone and you have time to work on yourself."



# the CAREER COACH

Marian Cacciatore

## UPCOMING LOCAL CAREER FAIRS

## Question

I am graduating in May and wondering when any Career Fairs will be on campus? I am anxious to find my first "real" job.

## Answer

You are in luck! In the beginning of 2008 there are three college related Career Fairs that you can take advantage of:

UCF will host a Career Fair on Monday, February 4, 2008 from 10:00 AM to 3:00 PM in the UCF New Arena. Rollins students are welcome to attend.

On Friday, February 22, 2008 the Central Florida Career Fair hosted by the Colleges of Central Florida Career Consortium will be held from 11 - 3 at the Downtown Tampa Hyatt Regency. Rollins students are also welcome to attend this event.

Then on Thursday, March 27th, Rollins College will have host a Career Expo from 11:00 a.m. -2:00 p.m in the McKean Gymnasium.

Employers will be there to

recruit for Full time, part-time and internship opportunities so all Rollins students are encouraged to attend.

In preparation for this Career Fairs I encourage you to:

- Make an appointment to make sure your resume will stay at the "top of the pile". Remember, this is a marketing and promotional piece on you!

- Prepare your "elevator pitch". This is a 60-90 second introduction that is designed to make a positive and lasting first impression.

- Become comfortable with targeted selection interview questions.

Career Services is available to assist with these and other action items. Our goal is to prepare you so that you will be confident and prepared. Stay tuned for future details!

Are you interested in contacting Marian? Email her at [mcacciatore@rollins.edu](mailto:mcacciatore@rollins.edu) or call her at 407.647.1386.

## At Job Fairs, Goodie Grabbing Is a Bad Move

Diane Stafford  
*mct campus*

A job fair isn't an excuse to "trick or treat" from table to table.

This is the time of year when campus career centers are beginning to hold job fairs for graduating students. Job fairs dot the calendar outside the ivied halls as well.

Typically, employers come with goodies, pens, mini-flashlights, candy, stress balls, magnets, all kinds of merchandise imprinted with their logos to help job shoppers remember them.

The stuff is there for the taking, but fair attendees shouldn't grab so much that they look like they went shopping.

Job fairs are a first look at each other. Job offers are rarely, if ever, made on the spot. But, as a first-step vehicle for employers to collect qualified resumes, job fairs shouldn't be treated too cavalierly.

A handful of candy is unlikely to make or break a job candidacy. But what if the person staffing the booth takes an immediate disdain to the goodie grabber and deep-sixes his or her resume on the spot?

It's little things like that, and bigger things like these, that make first impressions:

1. Dress professionally, or at least neatly, cleanly or in the manner of others who hold that job.

2. Be polite to everyone.

3. Don't eat or schlep beverages around with you.

4. Pare down the things you're carrying to a folder with an easily accessible stack of resumes so that you don't have to fumble or juggle possessions.

5. Have a one-minute spiel ready to tell recruiters who you are, but don't expect to go into much depth with the representatives from any organization. A job fair isn't the place to review your life history or goals.

6. Target the employers where your experience, course work or interests make you a good fit.

7. Keep a record of whom you left resumes. Get business cards if you can; it will help to have names for follow-up correspondence.

And students, just because it's only the fall, don't think it's too early to start preparing for what you're going to do come May.



# THE EPITOME OF A GREAT TEACHER

Geovanna Torres  
the sandspur

Staring at the collection of colorful buttons, witty bumper stickers and humorous quotes plastered on the office door of Celando Hall office #107, I waited to speak to English professor, Dr. Maggie Dunn.

I entered her room and found myself surrounded by an array of vintage memorabilia, an endless sea of books, and many other unique souvenirs that define her fun, easy going, and eclectic style.

Dr. Maggie Dunn is the brainchild behind ArtFeast, an annual event celebrating the concept behind the Cuisine (and/as/in) Art course. This writing course in popular culture focuses on food in literature, film, visual art, mythology and folklore, exploring the relationship of food to art and culture.

Aside from the number of reading and writing assignments the course requires the class collaborates to make ArtFeast a festivity to remember.

The celebration, which takes place during the 13th week of the 15-week fall course, is an event where students display their talents on a project focused around food.

Students in the course show off their cooking, artistic, and imaginative talents to incorporate a display of their choosing.

Admission to the event is absolutely free to all students, friends and family. Live entertainment and free food are for all to enjoy. Not only does the event serve a feast for the senses, but it also serves to build lasting bonds amongst students, but

also helps bridge a community in our college campus.

"This is an excellent way to foster interdisciplinary [skills]," says Dr. Dunn. "Student response has always been that they loved the course."

ArtFeast was developed in 1992 at the Rollins Brevard campus where Dr. Dunn was a professor.

"When I first put the course together, there were few appropriate materials to use for a college course. I did extensive reading, found a few film clips (such as) *Babette's Feast* and *Fried Green Tomatoes*, short stories, and some 'special issues on food' of such periodicals as *The New Yorker* and *Granta*."

She goes on to explain how the topic of food exploded as an academic discipline and in popular culture.

"Anyone who's interested can work on a doctorate in 'food studies and foodways' at several major universities... [As far as popular culture], we use books in the 'Best Food Writing' series. I get articles and 'weird food facts' from *epicurious.com* and other food sites. The food channel on TV now runs 24/7 with food-related shows, including the 'extreme cuisine' features that I've recorded and shown in class."

When asked how she came up with constructing an annual event, Dr. Dunn explains how her creative approach to an English course evolved into an annual celebration.

"This is related to my idea, an idea that I call 'the classroom as Ad Hoc community'." She says. "The point is that our non-residential Holt students have little opportunity for community outside of the class-

room. Having a collaborative even such as ArtFeast gives the students in a class a chance to celebrate their own talents and interests, while giving all their classmates a chance to appreciate everyone's contributions. An event such as this, then, personifies the ethos of 'commensality' that the entire course is structured around."

For fifteen years Dr. Dunn has taught the food in art course and has collaborated with her students in order to make ArtFeast a success.

She walks me through the changes from its early beginnings at the Brevard campus to our most recent event on November 15th at our Winter Park campus.

"At the [Rollins] Brevard campus, which was much smaller than our Winter Park campus, ArtFeast grew to the point that it had its own place on the campus academic calendar." She says, remembering how her idea started.

"At Brevard, we advertised locally (at community colleges and coffee shops, mainly) and drew quite a local crowd for probably the final three or four years. At one of the final Brevard events, a food critic who was visiting from North Carolina stopped by and wrote us up in several of his columns."

"ArtFeast at our Winter Park campus has always been in Woolson House and the Woolson vicinity." She continues telling the course history. "Because there are so many events going on [at our Winter Park campus], ArtFeast has had a lot of competition. But the fifth and final event that we just completed on November 15th, like the earlier ones, still drew quite a crowd."

Not only is Dr. Dunn the course professor, she is also the event documentarian. "The ArtFeast Catalogue has always been a wonderful way [for the students who are collaborating in the event] to reminisce and be proud of their accomplishments," she says.

The ArtFeast Catalogue consists of thick 3-ring binder filled with each student's picture, one-page biography, and food poem.

The catalogue also includes a class photograph, which is taken by Dr. Dunn at a locale on campus of her choosing, the week prior to the event. This year's photo was taken on the Gazebo overlooking Lake Virginia.

Every Art Feast is themed in a motif chosen democratically by the students.

"There's never been a prescription or a pro-scription as far as 'theme' is concerned," she says.

Previous themes include sexy and sophisticated with a splash of color - where everyone wore black and a hint of red. Pirate theme, when students dressed and accessorized in pirate garb. This year's theme, students wore colors that resembled autumn's color palette.

When asked what expectations she had from the food as/in/and art course, in addition to the ArtFeast collaboration, Dr. Dunn answers with enthusiasm.

"[I hope] some bonds of friendships are forged that literally continue throughout life," she says. "Also, as human beings we need ceremony and celebration, and this kind of even-ceremony creates a sense of belonging."

Dr. Dunn credits her undergraduate and graduate education for her wisdom in English, and her natural talent for her lively creativity.

She attained her B.A. and M.A. in English from Stetson University in DeLand, Florida and received her PhD in English from Indiana University at Bloomington.

Dr. Dunn taught briefly at Stetson University and at the UCF Daytona campus prior to teaching at Rollins and in 1989, she was hired to develop an English-Humanities program at the Rollins Brevard campus. She has taught at our Winter Park campus for the past five years.

Dr. Dunn specializes and teaches a variety of English courses, including American and British literature, college grammar, genre course in poetry and composite structure, as well as the Senior Capstone for English majors.

In her 26th and final year of college teaching experience, Dr. Dunn embodies an unquenchable love of learning and hopes to leave a legacy for each of her students.

"As a professor, I believe that I have a responsibility to establish a relationship with each individual student. If I can somehow communicate my own enthusiasm for learning, for art and music and literature, then I may spark that enthusiasm in someone else."

As Dr. Dunn closes her last chapter as a Rollins professor, and retires at the end of this school year, I ask if she feels that her students have enjoyed her class as much as she has teaching it. Humbly she responds, "I hope so."

## Don't Let Sibling Rivalry Cloud a Holiday

Mary Meehan  
mct campus

You can hear it. The tiny voice in the back of your head as your older sister tells you, for the fifth time, the proper way to toss a salad.

"You're not the boss of me." Ahhhh, the joys of the holiday season. The time when smart, successful grown-ups find themselves feeling like kids again, and not always in a good way.

Those same sibling traits, a brother's teasing, a sister's loquaciousness, that made you crazy when you were 10 are just as grating when you're an adult.

And it happens every year.

"Even in the healthiest families, we find ways to get under one another's skins," said Virginia T. Holeman, professor of counseling at Asbury Theological Seminary. "No one can annoy us quite like our families."

It might seem crazy that people can't distance themselves from their childhood, often childish, roles. But just look at the math. Even at the ripe age of 40, nearly half of a person's life has been spent within the close and defining family structure, said Peter Golden-

thal, author of "Why Can't We Get Along? Healing Adult Sibling Relationships." Unless you make an effort to establish adult relationships, he said, you'll interact pretty much the way you always have.

"Those patterns are so deeply ingrained, it's almost like the music starts playing and your feet start moving be-

fore you know what is going on," said Donna DePenning, a licensed clinical social worker from Lexington, Ky. "If we don't give it some conscious thought, we fall back into the patterns of interaction."

Instead of dreading the big day, just admit that this year, like every year, isn't going to live up to some Hallmark-moment ideal.

"You have to give up the

notion that being with your family is vacation," DePenning said.

If you suspect that by 9 p.m., the drinks will be flowing and you will be fuming as Sis relives the golden years of your braces, leave at 8:30.

It's not so much about what happens, Holeman said, but how you respond. That's not to say siblings aren't irritating, maddening, downright gnawing-on-your-last-good-nerve bothersome, but people can't make you feel a certain way. You let them, Holeman said.

Changing isn't easy. In part, DePenning said, that's because family patterns are hard to break. Your siblings might feel comfortable with the old pat-

terns, even if you aren't. "They aren't going to like it if you don't play the game," she said. Part of being a grown-up, she said, "is that you have options."

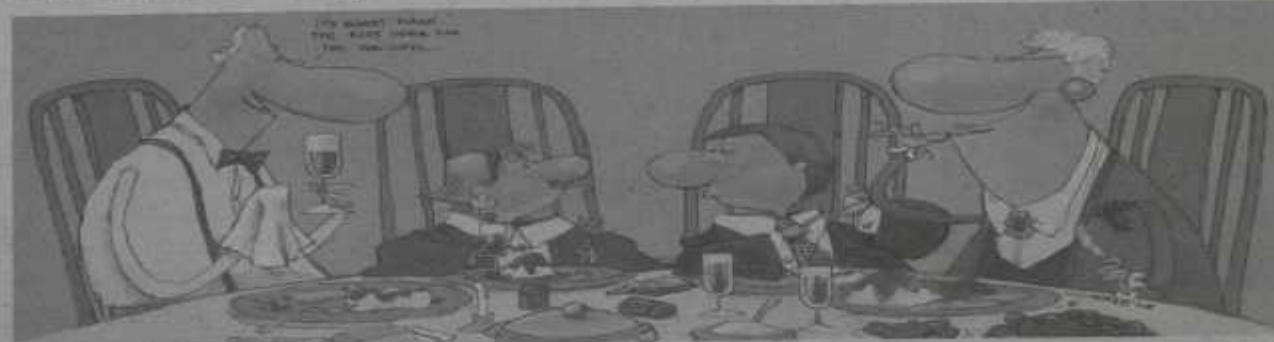
Focusing on specific issues might not be enough, Golden-thal said, especially if all the sibling fighting stems from some real family trauma. In that case, he said, deeper causes might need to be explored.

If that is the case, the holidays, in that way, can be a positive catalyst for change. Your siblings might make you so nuts, you seek the help of a counselor. DePenning said the number of new clients seeking therapy through her office starts to climb shortly before the holidays and skyrockets in mid-January.

Plus, you can look at even a less-than-perfect holiday as a victory. Was the teasing a little more tolerable? Did you laugh a little when, as he does every year, your brother told the story about how you threw up all over the presents when you were five?

"Your goal is to survive better than you did last year," Holeman said.

If you can do that, that's something worth celebrating.





# Arts & Entertainment

6

EDITOR: JUSTIN BRAUN

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## Mario Flies High in His Best Adventure Yet

James Colston  
the sandspur

The iconic Nintendo plumber blasts off in his first platformer for the Nintendo Wii in *Super Mario Galaxy*. With tight controls, artistic prowess and colorful gameplay, Nintendo reiterates their superiority as the premier publisher for the platforming genre.

Mario's latest adventure follows the same Bowser-taking-Peach-hostage formula, except this time Bowser takes control of not only her castle but also surrounding galaxies. Shortly after Mario is launched into a new celestial locale, the galaxy princess Rosalina tells him in order to regain his "loved one" that he will have to travel to several different galaxies to gain enough star power to be able to travel to Bowser's own space locale. The plot is a little thin, but certainly more deep than any other previous Mario game save for the *Paper Mario* series.

What the Mario series has always been known for since its inception is tight controls. *Super Mario Galaxy* incorporates the Wii remote for the first time in a Mario adventure, and does so well. The intuitive nature

of the control system has players control Mario's movement with the Nunchuck attachment, jump with the A button on the Wii Remote, and use B to shoot star bits. Constant reminders on how to perform certain event-specific actions such as shaking the Wii remote to climb up a vine are riddled throughout the game so that players can get used to each of the basic Mario actions.

Whereas more recent Mario platformers have limited gameplay to one player, *Super Mario Galaxy* allows for a second person to join in with limited controls provided there is an extra Wii remote. Assistance is provided to the 1st player through this position by pointing the Wii remote at the screen to collect star bits and also to give Mario an extra boost in his jumps when needed. If you don't have a friend however, nothing is lost in terms of gameplay without the second player, but it still contributes and plays in nicely with the social aspect of the Wii by allowing a more inexperienced gamer to join in.

Those familiar with the controls of previous 3D Mario titles should be pleased to know that the jumping system dating back to *Super Mario 64* has been reused for this title. Triple jumping, jumping off walls to gain



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

**Itsa Me!** Not only can Mario survive in an oxygen deprived, zero gravity environment, but apparently he can 'animorph' as well.

more height, and side jumps all make a return in *Galaxy* so Mario experts will be at home with the title's platforming while newcomers will be able to quickly catch on.

Probably one of the most notable aspects of this Mario title is its deftly combined accessibility and challenge. Newcomers will not feel alienated by neither the game's controls nor game play, but veteran gamers will find more than enough challenge to satiate their gaming palette. The replay value of the game is also very high, with over 120 stars to collect easily pushing the game over 20 hours

in time to collect every star, not including a second playthrough which the game more than warrants.

While the graphics certainly don't compare to the some of the latest games such as the PC's *Crysis* or the Xbox 360's *Assassin's Creed*, *Galaxy* is certainly the best looking game on the Wii. In fact, the artistic design and colorful characters and backgrounds are astounding taking into the consideration the graphical limitations of the Wii. The game certainly looks better than Mario's last title *Super Mario Sunshine* and the smooth 60 frames per second in which it

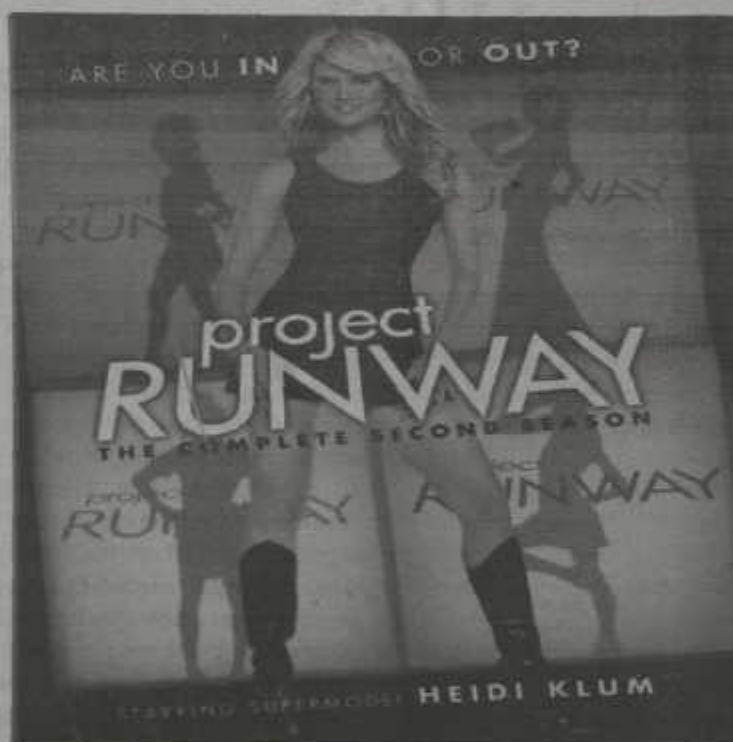
runs is amazing.

Overall, *Super Mario Galaxy* solidifies itself as a top 5 Mario platformer, and has contention for being considered the best depending on who you ask. This is quite an accomplishment to create a fresh, original platformer that lives up to the name of its predecessors when it is part of arguably the best video game series of all time.

Overall: 10/10

## Project Runway Walks Again

### *Are you in or are you out?*



STYLING: SUPERMODEL HEIDI KLUM

**Project Noway:** Heidi Klum, the only reason straight men watch Bravo

COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Katie Jones  
the sandspur

The first episode of season four of Bravo TV's *"Project Runway"* premiered on November 14th. The show started off with

the introduction of fifteen new designers who would be competing for the ultimate prize in fashion- money and resources to start their own fashion line. This season promises to feature great designs along with lots of drama.

The fifteen contestants this season all come from different

backgrounds and levels of experience. Many of the contestants seem to be much more experienced than those of the previous seasons of *"Project Runway."* For instance, Rami has designed gowns for Jessica Alba, Fergie, Tyra Banks, and Lindsay Lohan, and his designs have also been seen on the pages of *In Style*, *Vogue*, *Lucky*, and *Elle*. It seems as though he does not need as much of the publicity created from this show as some of the other contestants.

Many of the competitors have very minimal design experience. They may have worked under other designers, owned their own boutiques, or done tailoring for local clients. It may be an underdog who brings fresh ideas to the runway that eventually takes the prize this season.

The first episode started off with a bang. Instead of challenging the designers to create a garment out of odd materials such as food or trash, the contestants were given some of the highest quality fabrics available to create a design that would capture their inner vision. At "ready, set, go" the designers were seen sprinting towards the tents filled with expensive fab-

rics. The designers then had two days to complete their designs and get their models ready for the runway.

There was a multitude of garments walking down the runway that night. Most designers created evening gowns that showed off their tailoring and elegance while other preferred to show their creative side. Elisa, definitely one of the strangest contestants this season, designed a beautiful dress but ruined the effect by creating a train of shredded fabric. Heidi Klum, the host of *"Project Runway,"* was quoted with "It looked like she was pooing fabric." In the end, Rami took the win with his elegant gown that was reminiscent of a Greek goddess.

The second episode of *"Project Runway"* hosted a guest judge who the designers were all amazed with. Their challenge was to design a two piece garment for Sarah Jessica Parker's fashion line "Bitten." Parker would actually be one of the judges to help choose the winning garment that would be sold alongside her designs. The challenge was that the designers could only spend \$15 on materials and they had to work with

a partner, but they all created some interesting fall fashions in the end. Victoria's design of a charcoal colored dress with plaid vest won the challenge.

After the designers are narrowed down to the three final contestants, they will have the chance to show their designs at Bryant Park for New York City's famous Fashion Week. The winner will receive \$100,000 from TRESemmé professional hair care to finance their production of their own line of clothing, and the clothes will be sold to the public on Bluefly.com. The designer will also be featured in *ELLE* Magazine and receive a 2008 Saturn Astra.

Season four appears to be full of as much creativity and entertainment as the last three seasons. Personalities are likely to clash, and not all designers are going to accept the criticism of the judges. *"Project Runway"* still hosts the same three judges as the previous seasons: Heidi Klum, Michael Kors, and Nina Garcia, but they will also be providing different guest judges along the way. Keep watching the show to see what drama unfolds and whose designs end up on top.



# Board Games That Won't Bore at a Party

James Colston  
the sandspur

With Christmas break quickly approaching, it is almost time to visit old friends and family at home. Although going to movies, the bowling alley, or cracking out with Rock Band and Guitar Hero III all present family-friendly activities, sitting down to play a board game at home is still a legitimate option. These ten titles are perfect for getting together.

**Cranium**- This game combines basic concepts from Picture, charades, Boggle, and Trivial Pursuit and combines them into one team-based test of knowledge, wit, and creativity. In any one given turn, you may have to whistle (or hum) your way through Kool & The Gang's "Celebration," mold an ice cream cone with the includ-

ed clay, or spell the word

**Scene It?**- The megahit DVD game has expanded from its original general movie edition to more specific editions such as games based on Pirates of the Caribbean, Harry Potter and Disney movies. You can now also find the game on the Xbox 360 for a mere \$60, which isn't all that bad considering you receive four wireless game controllers, and 1800 questions in all.

**Apples to Apples**- Who knew pairing nouns with adjectives could be so much fun? Players of this game pass in pass in cards with nouns that they think associate well with a given adjective, then one player picks which one matches the best. It takes a lot of creativity, but passing in something like "Atari 2600" for an adjective such as "outdated" could score points.

**Battle of the Sexes**- This game is designed to answer the

all-time question: Are girls or guys smarter? Questions go beyond the normal trivia questions by having guys answer things like what is the name of Gwen Stefani's clothing line (L.A.M.B.) and asking women which college did Bo Jackson play for (Auburn). If one team misses, the other gender is able to steal the question, something you do not want to happen when that question is based on something only that gender should answer.

**Fact or Crap**- This board game plays as a trivia game, except instead of giving the answer for a question, you are read a random and obscure fact that could either be true or false. Based on this, "fact" or "crap" is yelled out.

**Catch Phrase**- Available both in board game and electronic form (personally the electronic is better), this game splits the room into two teams in a

combination of Taboo and Hot Potato. Players frantically yell out clues to the word they are given, passing it on when one of their teammates guess until the timer runs out. The fast-paced gameplay and frantic nature of the game add suspense to the linguistic battle.

**Mad Gab**- "Pooh te Li Shoosh." Not sure what those four words mean in that context? If yelled out correctly, in the game Mad Gab this would prompt an answer of "Bootylicious." Mad Gab makes multiple word homonyms of one larger one, but not always in an easy to identify fashion for a challenging game of returning to the first grade to sound everything out for what it's worth.

**Balderdash/Beyond Balderdash**- Each turn in Balderdash has players make up a completely random definition to fit an uncommon English word. Although the original

version is still fun, if it all possible purchase the more recent Beyond Balderdash which has players expand on the concept to include movies, dates, people, and places.

**Scattergories**- The classic game of categories prompts players to come up with a word starting with a pre-determined letter for each of ten categories. In a similar fashion to boggle, participants are only awarded for entries that are unique from anyone else's, pushing players to come up with the most creative answers possible.

**Trivial Pursuit**- The granddaddy of all trivia games, this guaranteed fallback comes in several different editions ranging from "Totally '80s" to "The Simpsons." With so many options on what type of questions to collect pieces of pie and roll again with, there is no reason for fun not to be had with Trivial Pursuit.

# Movie Guide for the Holiday Season

Katie Jones  
the sandspur

With the holiday season approaching there are some movies hitting the theaters that will help put you into the Christmas spirit. They will have you laughing, crying, and eager for holiday festivities to start. The movies will take you back to childhood memories of staying up late waiting for Santa Claus, baking Christmas cookies, and spending time with family.

One of the first Christmas movies to come out this year is "Fred Claus." It stars Vince Vaughn, Paul Giamatti, and Kevin Spacey and is a story about how Fred Claus grew up constantly trying to work his way out from behind his younger brother's shadow. Nicholas Claus, Fred's younger brother, is always generous and sincere in trying to help out the less fortunate. Nick always got all his parents' attention which made Fred grow to resent his

younger brother.

Later in his life, Fred ran into some trouble with the law and the only way Nick would help finance him was if Fred agreed to come up to the North Pole to work for his money. Fred causes many disturbances leading up to Christmas Eve which causes Nick to stress over his ensuing efficiency inspection. An efficiency inspector threatens to shut down Christmas if the establishment has three strikes against their process before Christmas morning. Will the two brothers be able to work together to save the holiday? You will have to watch the movie to find out.

"This Christmas" is creating a lot of buzz this season. It is a drama revolving around the Whitfield's first family Christmas together in four years. The siblings all reunite in their mother's house, and they all have skeletons that eventually come out of the closet throughout the holiday. The bonds between the family members are tested with each new revelation. The cast

boasts stars such as Chris Brown, Regina King, Delroy Lindo, and David Banner. Chris Brown fans will be happy to see that Brown does not totally abandon his vocal talent for acting as he can be seen belting out familiar Christmas tunes at various points in the movie. In the end this film shows audiences the true meaning of family while providing many laughs along the way.

On December 12th, "The Perfect Holiday" will be opening in theaters across America. It stars Gabrielle Union and Morris Chestnut. Nancy, Gabrielle Union, is a single mother of two that never takes time for herself and is constantly having to deal with an obnoxious ex-husband. Nancy's daughter overhears her one day saying that all she wants for Christmas is a compliment from a man, and that is exactly what the little girl asked Santa to bring to her mother. The man dressed as Santa becomes attracted to Nancy and ends up giving her a Christmas that she will never forget.

Going to see these seasonal



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

**FESTIVE:** "This Christmas" will warm your heart as well as your ears

movies with family and friends will be a great way to spend the holiday break. If you need a break from all of that Christmas shopping you know that there

will be a cheery holiday that boost your spirits.

# Fourteen Years Later Still Best Unplugged Performance

James Colston  
the sandspur

For the first time, Nirvana's iconic MTV Unplugged in New York performance has hit store shelves on DVD. After 14 years of waiting, any '90s alternative rock fan will be able to appreciate what is often considered the greatest MTV Unplugged performance of all time.

For those that missed the performance the first time around in November 1993, this DVD plays Nirvana in not only their first acoustic performance, but also one of their last live performances before Kurt Cobain committed suicide the next morning.

Generally, when a band

performs on MTV Unplugged, they play well-known hits. Nirvana defied the norm by instead playing lesser known selections (though certainly appreciated ones for diehard fans) such as "About a Girl," "Pennyroyal Tea," and "Polly." Although casual fans expecting to hear "Smells Like Teen Spirit" may be miffed, it certainly shows Nirvana from a different perspective.

Not only did Nirvana stray from their mega-hits, but they also included several covers of other bands. David Bowie's "The Man Who Sold the World" and the Meat Puppets' "Lake of Fire" make appearances on the show, with the Meat Puppets themselves performing for their covers.

The famous trio of Cobain, bassist Krist Novoselic,

and drummer Dave Grohl performed just as well as ever, with Cobain's raspy vocals, Novoselic's subdued bass riffs, and Grohl's controlled drumming all complementing one another to reaffirm the group's musical prowess and integration. New touring guitarist Pat Smear also makes a much appreciated appearance, adding in the harmony for several of the cover songs.

The acoustic version of all these songs removes the loud grunge associated with the band and leaves a chilling and raw vocal performance by Cobain. Each song really plays into his crumbling life and exposes his declining health. "All Apologies" and "Dumb" take on new meaning and show the true song writing prowess that Cobain possesses and resolidify him as

THE musician of the 1990's.

The DVD itself contains two versions of the performance: the original unedited performance with two never-before-seen songs, and the original broadcast version shown on MTV. Both editions are appreciated, as the first shows bits of dialogue between the band and two songs not shown on MTV, while the latter takes those who watched the performance back in the '90s on TV down nostalgia lane complete with commercial breaks the old MTV Unplugged logo. There are also interviews with the MTV production staff and the audience members at the performance along with rehearsal performance for five of the songs played.

The sound of the DVD is its selling point. Presented in Dolby Digital 5.1 for those who

are able to take advantage of it, the video does well in recreating the sounds associated with actually being in that crowd back in November of 1993. Although the DVD is not as visually pleasing with no special remastering for digital enhancement, it is certainly an improvement over what is played on VH1 Classic reruns of this show.

Overall, anyone with any remote interest in Nirvana or '90s alternative rock in general should not pass up this DVD. The performance contained on this disc contains one of the most prolific acoustic sets ever, just before the band's tragic demise.

Overall Score: 9.0/10



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# Students Smitten at Stetson

## Copeland and Cartel rock the campus, hard

Brittany Fornof  
the sandspur

There were hundreds of students packed around the stage when the lights dimmed and the band advanced to their positions. As Copeland made their much-anticipated debut, the crowd let out a consistent cheer to show their approval.

Then all of the lights in the building shut off, to leave a solo spotlight illuminating the lead vocalist, Aaron Marsh. He sat amiably rigid at the piano, beginning to play out the arpeggio of the first song.

His voice was soft and succulent, and his lips shook and quivered, as he emphasized each and every word. The song began to climax, and Marsh's body rocked back in forth in perfect synchronization with the tempo.

The other band members (Bryan Laurenson on guitar, James Likeness on bass, and Jonathan Bucklew on drums) chimed in carefully and cautiously as if the song needed to be cradled and carefully presented.

The first few songs had a tender and delicate sound, but by the end of the fourth song, the tempo had risen to create a bolder and more forceful sound. Marsh's body no longer rocked slowly in tempo with the music. Instead, he had progressed to alternately sitting and standing up from his bench, throwing himself into the music and swaying his whole body deeply into the threshold of the music.

Laurenson and Likeness as well had progressed to consistently nodding their head to the tempo as their backs remained hunched over their instruments. Bucklew, who has a noticeably exceptional talent on the drums, not only succeeded in setting the tempo for the songs, but he



COURTESY OF AMY IARROBINO/the sandspur

**Quivering!** The allegedly extremely attractive Cartel quartet may rock in the studio, but their live jams may leave a sour taste in one's mouth.

provided a perfectly strict contrast to Marsh's tender voice.

The band played through most of their top songs including "Chin Up" and "When Paula Sparks a Song." To this the crowd gave out a resonating applause and shouts of approval. The band succeeding in captivating the hearts of the audience and had an ensemble singing along with them as they belted out the lyrics "Will I wake to find you waiting by my bed side? Will I wake to find you waiting by my side?" which is a popular song from their 2005 album.

By the way that the audience swayed in time with the music, it seemed that they were enjoying themselves, and except for a small amount of audience drama (a few rowdy teenagers made themselves out to be antagonists of Copeland as well as the whole audience by shouting out obscenities to the band after forcing their way towards the front by shoving and elbowing

fellow audience members), the majority of the audience seemed to be infatuated with Copeland's performance.

As Copeland finished their last songs, the audience of anxious students burst out into a roaring applause as they anticipated Cartel's arrival. However, much to their disappointment, Cartel didn't immediately come out onto the stage.

Instead, the lights came on in the building, leaving the students to mingle about and buy band t-shirts.

After 15 minutes of a blank stage, the lights in the building began to flash, indicating that the second part of the show was about to begin.

Cartel started their performance with a song from their new album, but the lead singer's (Will Pugh) voice didn't seem to blend with the rest of the band. Instead, it was painstakingly obvious to the audience that the quality of a live performance was much different than the stu-

dio-based tracks on albums.

By the middle of the third song, Cartel seemed to have found their groove as Pugh's voice blended perfectly with the sounds of the guitars, drums, and back-up singers.

This made it easier for the audience to connect with the emotions and motions of the songs, and soon, the audience was captivated in the motions of the performance.

All across the auditorium, students were rocking back and forth, shouting out the lyrics, dancing in place, and throwing their heads around in sync with the music.

What seemed like a few minutes ended up being over an hour of this high-energy experience. It was one of those hours, where time seemingly stopped and somehow faded into oblivion.

The volume bursting forth from the speakers made it literally impossible to think of anything other than the lyrics, and

one look at the stage, was an insurmountable distraction.

Pugh's charming good looks captivated the hearts of most of the girls in the auditorium, and even the guitarists and bass players were a mesmerizing sight.

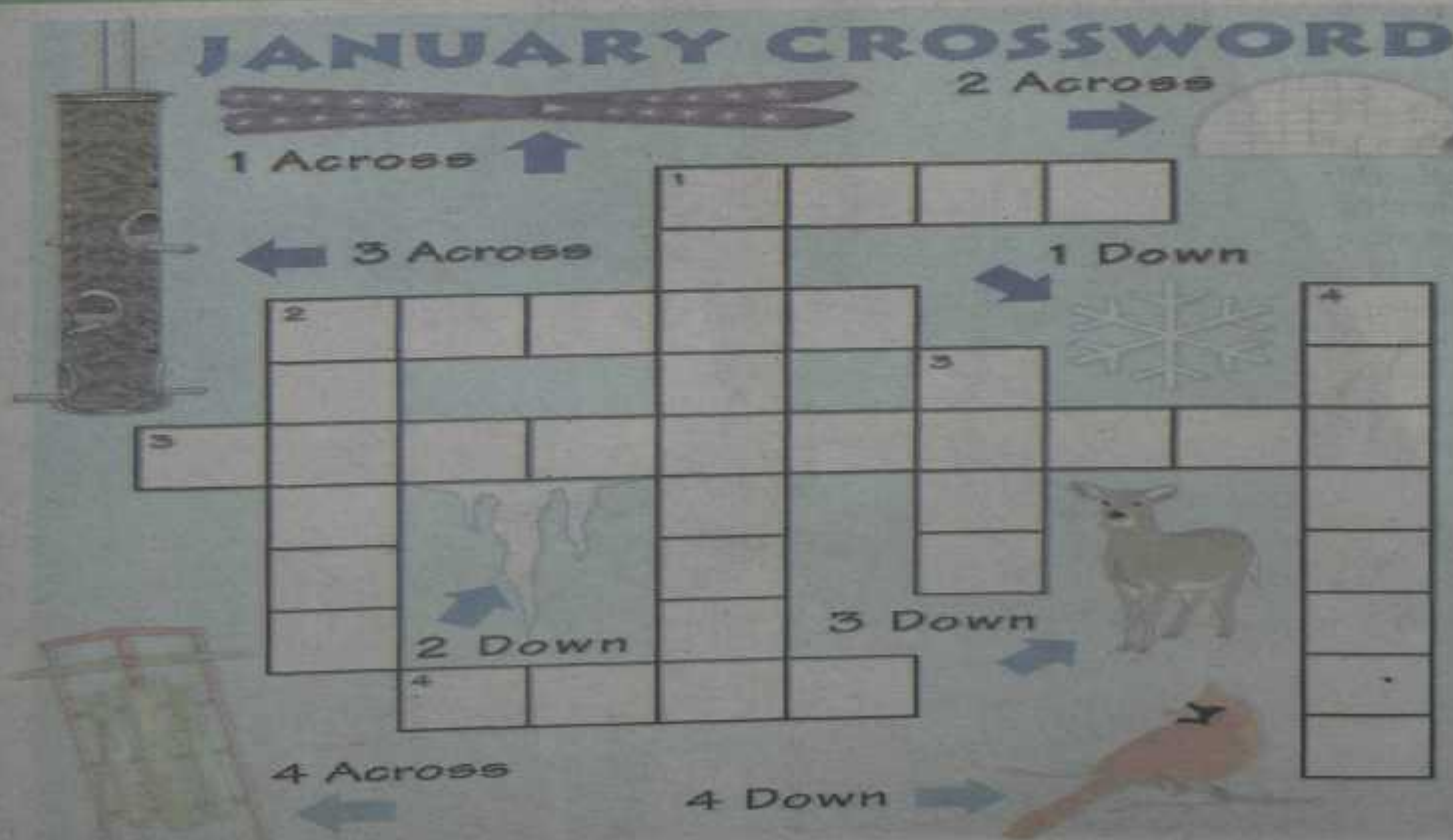
Also, for all the music junkies in the audience, the obvious talent of drummer Kev'n Sanders could succeed in entrancing anyone for an hour. (This dude ruled the stage with his fro-like mane shaking in tempo with the beat he was setting while sporting a pair of old-school basketball shorts that fell about a foot above his knee... you've got to love a guy in a band.)

Needless to say, Cartel freakin' rocked the stage on Saturday night. When they played such famous hits as "Say Anything Else", "Lose It," and "Honestly," they successfully compelled the audience to join in the songs with dancing as they shouted the lyrics. In fact, several audience members even felt compelled to join the rockers on stage by attempting to crowd surf—much to the fury of the security guards (a.k.a. Stetson frat boys.)

Also, near the conclusion of the concert, some ingenious punk-faces even had the audacity to start a mosh pit in the middle of the audience. (Yes, that's right: a mosh pit at an alternative rock Cartel concert. Smart suckers, huh?)

Regardless of the various audience dramas that occurred throughout the night, both bands gave a captivating and entertaining performance, and it would in no way be an exaggeration to say that the concert was absolutely mind-blowing.

In the words of Cartel, "Please don't mind what I'm trying to say 'cuz I'm just being honest."





## Life &amp; Times

EDITOR: AMY IARROBINO  
FEATURES@THESANDSPUR.ORG

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# Boots Sophisticated Pumps WINTER FASHION 2007 Basics Metallics Beads

Brittany Fornof  
the sandspur

Winter has arrived in a whirlwind, and with it has arrived the newest fashions and trends of the season. So it is time to officially pack away those floral prints and start rocking the cardigans. Not sure where to start? Allow me to give you a heads up on this frigid season's hottest looks.

boots and throw them on over your favorite pair of jeans. Then add a cute scarf and a light jacket for a complete look. Lastly, if you are aching to pull off a hardcore New York style winter look, then invest in a pair of good ole' slender-heeled knee high leather boots and wear them with thin tights, a mini skirt, and a warm jacket.

## BACK TO THE BASICS...AND THEN SOME

The first thing you probably notice as you walk along the mall (besides the numerous Santa imposters) is the host of color schemes screaming out at you from the various store windows. This winter, fashion is going back to the original cool colors.

Yes, that's right: black, gray and charcoal are the starting colors for the palette of winter 2007, but do not think that this year of eye-popping fashion would end without a bang. No, for not only are blacks and grays in, but they are accompanied with doses of metallic gold and silver. The subtlety of the basic colors is offset with the dazzling sparkles of these eye-catching accents.

As if that were not enough, this season also explores deep purples and blues. Adding a splash of richness, these colors round off this season's wide range of clothing options fit for royalty.

## OH SO CHARMING

Long, beaded necklaces have held their place in the fashion world for several seasons now. However, a fresh look has recently debuted. Complementing the soft but sophisticated look of this season's colors, charm necklaces as well as pendant necklaces have reappeared onto the fashion scene.

Whether it is a bright, metallic charm necklace or a simple, corded pendant, these just-around-the-collarbone accessories are making their comeback in the world of fashion.

## IF THE SHOE FITS...YOUR PERSONALITY

Winter is the perfect time to explore your shoe personality. It is a time to take a chance. So throw those raggedy flip-flops to the back of your closet and invest in at least one good pair of cold-weather shoes that you could wear everyday. Want to stick with a more classic look? Buy a pair of closed-toed pumps and wear them with some dark jeans and a cute top for a sophisticated but low-maintenance look.

Want to be a bit more of a daredevil? Buy a pair of MaryJane style pumps and pair them with thin stockings, a tight sweater dress, and some clunky bangles for an edgier look.

Do you need a pair of shoes to throw on for your 9:00 A.M. trudge across campus? Try buying a pair of low-heeled mid-calf

Photo Courtesy of MCT Campus





# WORD FROM DOWN UNDER

Megan Schutz  
the sandspur

A couple weeks before the end of our semester in Sydney, our Aboriginal Studies professor, Jenny Newman, took her class and those who wanted to go along camping in Jervis Bay, a beach area a couple hours south of Sydney. Jervis Bay is known for its camping, beautiful beaches and reefs, and for surfing. Our trip was almost ruined due to rain the first night, but instead was saved by a last minute decision to go out to dinner rather than attempt making it in the pouring rain. By the time dinner was done, the rain had stopped, and we were lucky that the first group to arrive had set up our tents and sleeping bags so we weren't left attempting to put up our tents on the muddy wet ground in the dark.

Luckily, the next day turned out beautiful. Exploring

sanded beach with crystal clear water. This camping trip was much different from the last, not only because of location, but also because we didn't plan to cram a million things into one weekend. Sure, we had plans to do certain things, bush walks with one of Jenny's Aboriginal friends and story time around the camp fire with another of Jenny's friends, but we were not in nearly the rush we had previously been in when we were in the Red Center.

On Saturday, we spent the morning pretty much doing as we pleased, exploring, eating breakfast, looking at birds, etc. We then went on a bush walk where we learned about different foods that Aboriginal people

found in nature, mainly berries and cool plants, as well as plants with helpful purposes such as for diabetes and bug repellent. After the bush walk, most everyone went to an old lighthouse, which we would later learn the story of at the campfire,



but a few of us stayed back to either surf or just to watch. Before we cooked dinner that night, we all went over to the campfire, where we were told stories about the Aboriginal peoples in the area, their pasts and totem stories, and the places in the area that were considered "plac-

es you just did not go". We had Milo, coffee or tea, and bread traditional spotting and giggling about. Finally once we all fell asleep, we spent Sunday packing up our site, unwilling to want to leave. The parrots were surrounding our campsite so we all got to play with the beautiful and brightly colored birds that are cute at first, but not so much when you're trying to sleep. We finally started to make our way back north towards Sydney, but not after disappointment when we were too late to hear more

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Aboriginal stories told to us by Jenny's friend. Along the way we stopped at a famous Australian donut stand, where we got fresh hot cinnamon donuts to savor for a few minutes. The most fun stop we had, was at an emu farm, where we got to attempt hand feeding emu, although I don't really recommend trying it unless you don't

mind being pinched! We also spent about an hour at a beach located near the Seven Mile Beach, where the guys surfed and most of the rest of us stayed out of the rather cold water. Our last stop on the super fun and relaxed weekend was a fish and chips shop, where we picnicked and got to see a natural rock formation called the Blow Hole, where water shoots up a large hole similar to a whale's blow hole when the tide is right.

The weekend was a blast, although it was nearing the end of our stay. But we learned what plan to wear as a hat to get rid of the flies that were everywhere, what berries to eat, and that just because you love animals, doesn't mean they're going to love you back.

## Senior Spotlight Nikki Fiedler



Nikki Fiedler  
the sandspur

tern at Orlando Style Magazine and am also the Public Relations and Event Coordinator for Bliss Ultra Lounge.

**What do you like to do in your spare time?**

I don't have very much spare time, but now that I work at the club and am constantly "out" or downtown, I really enjoy being lazy and kicking back with friends. I like to spend as much time as possible outdoors when it's nice. Oh, and of course, as any busy person would, I love naps!

**What do you plan on doing upon graduation?**

Plan A is moving back to Sydney, Australia in August with two of my friends. I will either be working there for a year, or completing grad school and working. I am so excited! Plan B is getting a job in my industry, anywhere in a big city, and putting off grad school for a little while (possibly in Canada).

**Your favorite class at Rollins and why:**

Tough one. I really enjoyed Steve Phelan's honors English class but I have also enjoyed all of my art classes. These are my favorites because they allowed

me to rely more on my right brain and were a relaxing break from typical classes.

**Favorite thing about Rollins:**

I love the size and personable feel of the campus. Rollins is also so beautiful that it's hard not to be happy going to class on such a beautiful campus every day.

**Least favorite thing about Rollins:**

One word: PARKING. And the fact that all the renovations on campus happened AFTER I moved off campus!

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

I used to be a hardcore competitive swimmer, held a number of records and competed nationally. I also highly enjoy cream cheese...plain. Don't ask.

**Share a funny/interesting story that happened to you at Rollins:**

I was on the swim team my freshman year and we had morning practice at 5:30 am. My roommate and I had a miniscule little room on the former fourth floor of McKean (now the fifth) so we had to loft our beds in order to have any walk-

ing space. Unfortunately, with McKean's ultra thin walls, every sneeze, cough or whisper was way too audible. Coupled with this terrible sleeping environment, I also have the misfortune of being a really light sleeper. A bunch of residents decided to have some sort of loud party in the pod a few doors down and I got about 2 hours of sleep when my alarm went off at 5 am. My roommate and I never used the bunk ladders to get out of bed. We just stepped one foot on our desk beneath our bed and the other on the chair to get down to the floor. In my sleep-deprived, delusional state of mind, I miscalculated where the desk was and stepped right into thin air - literally - instead of planting a foot safely on the desk, and crashed to the floor in a heap. The funny thing was: I was still so incredibly tired that I didn't even notice I had fallen to the ground until I was actually ON the ground and when my roommate woke up from the loud thud I caused to ask, "Did you just really fall out of bed??" Miraculously, I just barely missed the chair and desk, which

would have given me a nice broken arm, but my roommate didn't let me forget so easily by having all of our friends ask me how I got the nasty bruises on my shins.

**What advice would you give underclassmen?**

Enjoy your time here doing whatever it is that you enjoy best. Four years goes by so fast. Always be true to yourself and honest to others. Maintain your friendships and keep an open mind about those different than you - they might just become your best friends (that's to you Sydney girls!) Study abroad!!! This is a must! Be careful who you trust with confidential, important or personal information - the small community makes Rollins quite a gossip mill. Explore places outside of Rollins and meet people outside of the community (especially in areas of dating - once again, small community issue resurfaces here). Challenge yourself; do something outside of your comfort zone and definitely party hard - when else will you have this much social time??



# Time for holiday cheer

Brittany Fornof  
*the sandspur*

The season of turkey legs, slowly decaying leaves, and Pilgrim and Indian skits is officially over, and now, we are entering into the "happiest time of the year." Yes, the Christmas season has dawned upon us—a time where the Whos come out of hibernation, candy canes plague dentists, carols dominate radio stations, stockings filled with goodies make their appearance along mantles, jolly snowmen haunt the streets, and tiny light bulbs illuminate neighborhoods.

Christmas is cherished as the holiday that brings people together, where families reminisce over days past and ponder over moments present as they gather around the dinner table. It is a season of last minute shopping, elaborate wrapping paper, metallic ribbons, and six inch ribbon curls. A holiday anticipated throughout the year, Christmas succeeds in topping the charts in the hearts of millions of people.

Despite the fact that Florida's weather may not be the best at inducing the feeling of Christmas, allow me to offer some tips regarding jump-starting this most beloved holiday. After all, with the days until Christmas slowing dwindling, it would be a shame to waste a moment of this "happiest time of the year."

## ~Hit Me with the Cocoa

What better way to get in the Christmas mood than to whip up a cup of hot chocolate during those late hours? Packets of Starbucks hot chocolate mix can be purchased at the C-Store. (Want to be hardcore?—don't mix it with water. Instead, pour that powder into a steaming cup of hot milk, stir with a peppermint stick, and top with a tower of whipped cream...oh yeah. It will rock your taste buds all the way to Rudolph's hometown.)

## ~Spruce It Up

Are you missing the festive decorations from home? Then, bring the Feliz Navidad spirit to your dorm room. Convince your roommate to accompany you on a Wal-Mart run for Christmas decorations. Unsure of where to start? Try purchasing indoor red and green Christmas lights and hang them along your bed post.

Missing the snow from home? Look for snowflake decals and window "frost" spray. These are easy to peel off walls or wipe off of windows. Still wanting more? Consider purchasing a tiny Christmas tree to keep in your room. Decorations can be simple—anything from hair ribbons to candy canes work.

## ~Turn up the Jams

There is no easier way to get into the Christmas spirit than to put on some good old-fashioned Christmas carols. Whether you are into a funkier, upbeat version or more of a classical tone (Relient K and Michael Buble each have a Christmas album), go on to iTunes and download some new tunes. This will give you a chance to take a break from your much overplayed Soulja Boy and experience some new sounds in preparation for the Christmas season.

## ~Make Friends with the Gingerbread Men

Okay, so maybe gingerbread men are too much of a blast from the past, but sugar cookies with reindeer plastered on them never go out of style. So if you and your friends have an hour to spare, why not make a trip to the C-Store and purchase a few boxes of ready-to-bake sugar cookies. Armed with your goods, spend half an hour in your dorm kitchen baking the treats (all the while making sure to eat most of the dough.)

After eating your fair share and more, pass out the extras to those lucky kids in your hall. Will Ferrell may say "The best way to spread Christmas cheer—singing loud for all to hear," but I have always been under the impression that sugary reindeer-faced treats spread as much Christmas cheer as a song does.

So do not drag your feet. Get out there and enjoy this Christmas season—whether it takes you dressing up as an elf for your biochemistry class or simply putting a wreath on your dorm door, take advantage of the season and spread some holiday cheer.



Photo courtesy of Omar Rachid

**Turkey Day:** International student Omar Rachid experiences his first American Thanksgiving with his roommate's family in Key West, FL. Surprised by the amount of food at the celebration, Rachid feasts on a turkey leg.

# Venezuelan feasts at first American Thanksgiving

Omar Rachid  
*the sandspur*

"Today's the day we celebrate stealing from the Indians and then eating all their crops," said Artie Grizzle Sr., "oh, and Happy Thanksgiving by the way."

I had never truly experienced an American Thanksgiving. Having been in the country for a little over three months, this would mark my first holiday in the US. Sure I was schooled in an American school in Valencia, Venezuela but I never truly experienced American culture.

Having teachers from all around the 50 states did provide diversity, however it was almost too diverse to actually provide me with a clear-cut sense of what Thanksgiving is like.

"Poor kid, he thinks this is a normal family. We have two turkeys every year, one is an American style with turkey stuffing and the other is a Cuban-style turkey prepared with mojo and pork stuffing."

My roommate, Artie Grizzle Jr., invited me to spend

the break over with his family in the southernmost place in the contiguous 50 states—Key West, FL. His family gathers to what I can compare a Christmas gathering and they set up a buffet-style lunch.

He had promised me a lot of food. I guess I could not fathom 'a lot of food' until I saw two twenty-five pound birds laying in the center of the table—protected like a fort by thirty plus side dishes.

"You can't have just a little bit of each; you want to try them all so it takes about two to three sittings to get to try both turkeys and all the side dishes."

Green bean salad, marshmallows on sweet potatoes, turkey, pork, and chicken stuffing, corn cakes, G's famous macaroni and cheese, mashed potatoes, and a whole lot more my stomach did not let me try surrounded the turkey.

Not having seen my family for more than three months now, it was relaxing to be in a family setting, some of them even spoke Spanish! Part of my roommate's family comes directly from Cuba so being stuffed like a pig before Christmas and getting to enjoy it in a Hispanic setting made the afternoon a lot more pleasant.

"Nothing tastes better than leftover turkey."

After watching the Packers beat the Lions and the Jets lose to the Cowboys, my roommate's father sent his wife to the nearest Walgreens for some Alka Seltzer. I thought he wanted some to alleviate stomach pains but it was to make room for the dinner's turkey sandwiches.

I was too tired after hours of football so I sat down with my turkey sandwiches on Cuban bread to watch "Cheaper by the Dozen 2" with Artie's niece Olivia.

"Why does Omar get macaroni and cheese when he asks for it and we have to wait a year to get some?"

After having spent a week listening to Artie's dad poke fun at Gramma Grizzle, I felt like a part of the Grizzles. His mother called me her adopted son and I had assured them that even if Artie transferred to another school or we were not roommates anymore, I would still be with them next year for Thanksgiving.

Writing this on my way back to Rollins on Sunday night, I still feel some of the turkey in my stomach.



# Opinions

EDITOR: TANISHA MATHIS

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## America Must Do More To Aid War Veterans

Katie Jones  
the sandspur

About one in four homeless U.S. citizens are soldiers who have recently returned from Iraq and Afghanistan. This is an astonishing number because veterans only account for 11% of the entire U.S. population yet they make up 26% of the homeless population.

Studies have found that servicemen are much more likely to be put into this situation than other citizens due to their suffering from post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injuries after their military service.

Across America there are 23.4 million veterans, and around 1% of them are lacking a place to sleep each night. That equates to around 196,000 military veterans being homeless at any given night. This is very close to the number of soldiers who are currently deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Louisiana, California,

Missouri, and Washington, D.C. were all states that reported the highest numbers of homeless veterans. Among the American population 44,000 to 64,000 veterans are classified as "chronically homeless." This means that they are homeless on a more regular basis.

The problem is common among elderly veterans as well as the younger and more recent war veterans. Soldiers come back from war with life changing experiences and are thrown back into normal lifestyles, and they have problems providing for themselves and their families.

Recent veterans worry that after the war in Iraq ends people will cease to care about the well-being of former soldiers. To the public the war will be out of sight and out of mind even though its repercussions will likely continue for many years.

Many factors contribute to the homelessness of veterans. The soldiers often run into financial difficulties upon their return. The stress of war also often leads to stress in marital

relationships in which many soldiers do not have a family to come home to. About 45% of homeless veterans have some kind of mental illness which leads to problems when the veterans try to find employment post-service. Substance abuse has also become a reoccurring problem among the returning soldiers. The soldiers do not usually become homeless immediately upon their return, but as time goes on these factors begin to take their toll on the economic status and well-being of the veterans.

One of the major problems plaguing veterans is the price of housing. Some are spending more than half of their income on housing. Institutions such as the Fannie Mae Foundation are funding projects in which affordable housing will be created for war veterans. Steps are also being taken to increase housing vouchers for the former soldiers.

The Veterans Affairs Department has created more than 15,000 beds for veterans

across the U.S. The VA spends \$265 million on homelessness-specific problems each year and \$1.5 billion on healthcare for veterans. Studies have shown that those seeking help are more likely to have a mental disorder, and women are more likely to seek help in escaping homelessness than men.

It is surprising that such a large proportion of our veterans are having these economic, mental, and personal problems. When you think of soldiers you generally think of a well-educated man or woman who can easily get a job upon their return from war.

It seems as though any business or organization would appreciate the work ethic and discipline of a former soldier, but you do not account for the veteran's internal struggle. Post-traumatic stress disorder plays a larger role in the soldier's well-being than most anticipate.

A greater effort could be made to aid the U.S. soldiers who are subject to homelessness. Soldiers should be given more

therapy after their return to the states so that mental illness and post-traumatic stress disorder can be avoided and less common. There should also be a more efficient system set up to help veterans find jobs after they serve overseas. This could help avoid financial problems in the future. The government should also make an effort to increase the amount of housing available to veterans.

Government agencies and charity organizations should provide more benefits to the soldiers who served our country. Veterans should not have to come back to the U.S. and be subject to living at the poverty level when they have risked so much for our country's well-being.

There should be services provided that help the soldiers get back on their feet and stay financially stable so that they can continue to live their lives in comfort.

## Dollar Down, Worries Up?

Nikki Fiedler  
the sandspur

Gas prices are soaring, the dollar is plummeting against foreign currencies and the Fed is calling urgent meetings and putting on quite a fretting show. Should we be worried? Is there a two-sided inflation around the bend, full-steam and heading our way? Or is this just another volatile cycle - a product of the times - in the international economic market?

To muddle through the panic of recent weeks, we must be sure to separate the worries of the Fed and the consumers' worries when looking at this economical issue. The Fed is most concerned with the general price level in the economy while consumers mostly get upset over a few items that are purchased regularly, such as gasoline and food.

An increase in the relative price of one item is different than an increase in the general

level of inflation in the economy in that it is a distinct function that may not infiltrate all aspects of the economy. For example, when the price of oil increases, consumers may spend more on fuel and less in such aspects on the economy such as holiday shopping purchases. Inflation only happens when increasing price levels happen in all prices of other goods, services and wages, and this has yet to materialize. This being said, it is still a possibility in the future, if not now.

As far as the dollar's decrease in value, it can be seen as a byproduct of the huge deficit which has increased over time and our country imports more than it exports. However, with the lower dollar, US exports of goods becomes more attractive to other countries, yet still not as attractive as even less expensive operations in countries such as China - this is the true, but often dirty, side of globalization.

Also, with the dollar

decrease, foreign investors may be prompted to buy fewer of or sell off their US stocks and bonds, and this decrease in capital inflow can lead to higher interest rates.

I am not quite a licensed economist, or a masters certified theorist or financial predictor, but here are three possible solutions to these dog down dollar days: One, cut deficit spending. That means stop financing a hugely expensive war (as in Iraq). Two, increase exports and rely on domestic products instead of the steady inflow of imports (think American apparel made in the US ideal). This will also create more domestic jobs and perhaps a better standard for corporations and businesses instead of sweat shop-esque manufacturing plants. Three, and this is on a more personal and individual action approach for us all: buy a hybrid or get a bike (gas is only getting less readily available and more expensive, and it won't be long before it is all gone!).

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THE STUDENT VOICE OF ROLLINS COLLEGE SINCE 1894



DECEMBER 3, 2007  
VOLUME 114, ISSUE 10

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#### ESTABLISHED IN 1894 WITH THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL:

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



# The Electronic Subjugation of Reality

Aaron Eagan  
contributing writer

Right now there are millions of people plugged into a massive virtual network, interacting and communicating with one another while remaining unconcerned with the outside world. Images and messages, often including the deepest and most personal thoughts of individuals, are reduced to sequences of binary code, uploaded to the network and displayed instantaneously for the world to see. Intrapersonal interaction is a thing of the past.

No, this is not a fictionalized depiction of a dystopian future, ala *The Matrix*. Rather, I am describing the social and cultural influence of networking websites such as Myspace and Facebook. To the disdain of those concerned with the preservation of real life correspondence, the aforementioned electronic gadgetry is slowly but steadily replacing face to face communication. Alarming, few seem to care.

I will refrain to falling back on any sort of "slippery slope" argument; such rhetoric is easily dispensed due to its unsubstantiated and unprovable nature. But the growing influence of electronic communication cannot be denied.

Myspace has the lion's

share of membership, with over 200 million users worldwide. Facebook may have a smaller network of some 54 million users, but the college-focused website hosts scores of online groups, encouraging participation in issues of political and social discourse. Indeed, the enormity of the cultural breadth of online social networking is painfully undeniable.

One may be tempted to ask, what is the problem? Apologists for Myspace, for example, might point out that online networking is here to stay, and all people have a right to communicate any way they see fit. We should embrace new technology, adapting to the cultural impact of it while benefiting from the entertainment and multitude of innovative conveniences it provides.

But communication, in the manner provided by online social networks, is simply not real. At best, this form of communication is disconnected, abstract and benign; at worst, it is mendaciously false and the product of carefully controlled consumer consumption.

To quote sociologist Jean Baudrillard, "the real is produced from miniaturized units, from matrices, memory banks and command models." Online social networks such as Myspace and Facebook simulate real communication by replacing it with codified

signals.

Gone are the subtle nuances of voice communication and the powerful body language that we have evolved to read over hundreds of thousands of years. Rather, we are presented with an overflow of unsubstantiated personal information, an absurd level of hyper-connectivity where illusory representations of real people gain undeserved, artificial legitimization.

A popular view of Myspace is that it provides a certain level of freedom by allowing limitless communication via a massive online social network; indeed, the possibilities for social interaction appear to be endless.

But ironically, this perceived idea of social freedom is an illusion. By reducing communication to levels of electronic, artificial, obfuscated disconnect, Myspace dangerously undermines the very essence of human interaction; there is no true freedom provided by such an abstracted system of online networking.

Rather than providing a new forum for socialization, the abstraction produced by online networking websites promotes anti-social behavior; we remain alone in darkened rooms, fastened to our computers with the invisible chain of convenience and safety. Our personal profiles act as

disguises, emboldening us to interact without fear of the sort of personal accountability we feel in face-to-face communication. Is this the future of human culture?

Granted, such critiques may not apply to those who use these websites purely for entertainment purposes. But regardless of their level of participation, casual users of Myspace and Facebook are subject to the same delusion of legitimate discourse as are their more dedicated peers; and it is the exposure of this delusion that forms the basis of my argument.

Additionally, online social networks represent both a blessing and a curse for social activism. For spreading word about an issue or a cause, the instantaneous accessibility of Facebook and Myspace are invaluable.

But I fear that social movements relying upon online networks are doomed to remain in cyberspace. How many members of Facebook groups opposed to the Iraq war actively participate in the political process? The massive riots, marches and rallies of the Vietnam era have become replaced by electronic bulletins, virtual forums and general complacency. Just as online social networks simulate personal communication, they also manage to simulate

versions of social, cultural and political activism. All are equally illusory.

The commercially unbiased, free status of Myspace is also fabricated. The website is owned by one of the largest media conglomerates in the world: Rupert Murdoch's News Corporation. With over 200 million users, the potential for the commercial utilization of Myspace is undeniable. The website is filled with advertisements for films produced by Fox studios and promotions for musicians signed to major record labels. But one can only speculate about the true level of insidious control News Corporation may have over consumers.

Will electronic communication ever fully replace face-to-face interaction? Perhaps not. Yet, it remains an abstracted illusion of real communication. Let's not make the mistake of confusing cyberspace with life. Keep the priority on authentic, person-to-person discourse. To borrow words from the Hippie generation: "turn on, tune in and drop out" of this fabricated reality.

Aaron is a student in Professor Singerman's Journalism class.

## Unthankful For Our Blunders Since 9/11

John B. Quigley  
mct campus

Thankful we are that we have not seen a repetition of Sept. 11, 2001. The events of that fateful morning left an indelible impression on our psyche. Fear of similar attacks has been at the center of national consciousness and of national policy ever since.

Thankful we are not, however, for what has been done in the name of preventing another 9/11.

First, the invasion of Iraq, which the Bush administration tried to justify, among other dubious reasons, on supposed ties between the 9/11 hijackers and Iraq. One hijacker had been to Baghdad for medical treatment, and this was supposed to show that Saddam Hussein was behind 9/11.

The invasion has cost more American lives than were taken on 9/11, not to speak of the several hundred thousand Iraqi lives. The administration has drained the federal treasury in a war from which there seems to be no exit.

Second, the invasion of Afghanistan, which the administration rationalized as a way of depriving the terrorists of a base area. That aim was achieved, at least for a time. But we are bogged down in Afghanistan as badly as in Iraq.

Our soldiers are still dying there, six years on, with no end in sight. The Taliban, which we overthrew, is making a comeback. Opium production, which had been tiny under the Taliban, has become Afghanistan's major industry. Afghanistan is the main opium supplier to the U.S. market.

We don't often recall that in

the run-up to the invasion of Afghanistan, the Taliban was quite willing to negotiate about turning over Osama bin Laden for trial. We might have been able to get bin Laden without firing a shot.

Thankful we are not for the excesses in the security measures the Bush administration instituted to prevent another attack.

Some may have done some good, but we did not need a new super-agency, the Department of Homeland Security, which only confused lines of responsibility. The administration spied without warrants, intercepting communications as never before in our history. It concealed what it was doing from the public, and from Congress.

The administration tortured suspects, leading to exposes that have shown us in the worst possible light around the world. We

have set up secret and not-so-secret detention facilities to keep people we had no right to keep. We are getting a new attorney general to replace the one who promoted torture. But the new one doesn't know torture when he sees it, so we may be in for more of the same.

We promote democracy in the Middle East as an antidote to terrorism, unless, of course the wrong side happens to win an election, like Hamas. Or unless a leader who declares martial law and jails the judges is our ally, like Pervez Musharraf in Pakistan. In the name of fighting Hezbollah in Lebanon last year, the administration stood by and cheered as Israel laid waste to Lebanon.

The upshot of much of the Bush administration's response to 9/11 is that a world that initially was sympathetic to America for the terrible tragedy that

9/11 surely now sees us as a bully throwing our weight around.

These days the administration is in the advanced stages of preparing to invade yet another country in the Middle East. But there is little indication that the administration is planning for how to extricate itself from Iran, any more than it did for Iraq or Afghanistan.

We have lost the moral high ground. We have fewer friends who will stand up for us, or who will stop those seeking to harm us. We have made ourselves more vulnerable to terrorism, not less.

Thankful we are that we have not had another 9/11, because we seem to be doing whatever we can to bring on another attack.

That one student won't stop talking in your class? Someone dented your car? Found your sunglasses? A stranger helped you in your time of need? Send your "Cheers and Jeers" to [opinions@thesandspur.org](mailto:opinions@thesandspur.org)





## Sports

EDITOR: DANNY TRAVIS

SPORTS@THESANDSPUR.ORG

R.I.P. Sean Taylor:  
The Original MeastNick Zazulia  
the sandspur

As you may know, 24-year-old Washington Redskins' free safety Sean Taylor died on the morning of Tuesday, November 27th. At about 2:00 AM Monday morning, an intruder broke into Taylor's house, broke into his bedroom where he and his girlfriend had been sleeping, and shot Taylor in the upper leg. The bullet severed Taylor's femoral artery, leading to massive blood loss. The phone lines to his house near Miami may have been cut, delaying his girlfriend's ability to call 911. After she did, he was rushed to the hospital and sent into surgery for blood transfusions. During the surgery, he flatlined twice, and was resuscitated twice. He reportedly recovered enough to respond to a nurse by squeezing her hand, raising hopes, but he didn't last much longer. It was a tragic end to an impressive 4-year career.

Due to his prolific career at the University of Miami compounded by his astounding physical abilities and standout performance at the NFL combine, Taylor was the fifth pick in the 2004 NFL draft. He began starting for the Redskins

three games into his rookie season, and put up phenomenal numbers with 89 tackles, four interceptions, two forced fumbles, and a sack.

Taylor's sophomore season was not quite as productive as his first, but it was still very successful. His on-field performance was somewhat marred by several incidents involving spitting into the face of Tampa Bay runningback Michael Pittman during a game and a \$5,000 fine for wearing non-uniform socks to another. His third season saw some inconsistency and numerous missed tackles, but due to injuries on the Washington defense, Taylor was forced to comprise most of the secondary as well as help considerably near the line of scrimmage. Despite it being perhaps his worst year, Taylor finished with a team-high 114 tackles and earned a Pro Bowl appearance (where he got attention for leveling Bills' Punter Brian Moorman on an AFC fake punt).

In the offseason, the Redskins aimed to rejuvenate their usually-top tier defense by drafting highly touted LSU safety LaRon Landry to complement Taylor at the strong position.

Due to Taylor's reputation as one of the hardest hitters in the NFL (nicknamed "Meast"—a portmanteau of 'man' and 'beast' by his teammates, Taylor was a fixture on ESPN's Jacked UP! segment), this created one of the most feared young safety duos in the league. With the addition of a talented, hard-hitting safety like Landry, Taylor lost weight in the offseason to augment his already blazing speed, allowing him to play a more typical free safety position on the team. Through week 10 of the 2007 season, Taylor led the NFL in interceptions with 5 in addition to chalking up a respectable 44 tackles (despite injuries keeping him out of half of the week 9 and 10 games, and all of weeks 11 and 12), lining himself up another Pro Bowl berth, and even consideration for Defensive Player of the Year honors.

In his earlier seasons, Taylor was considered a bit of a trouble-maker due to the aforementioned run-ins with the league as well as legal troubles stemming from a DUI and a battery charge. All who knew him, however, said that he had matured considerably since then, particularly as a result of the birth of his daughter last year, and was taking great strides to better himself. Taylor was said to be humble, hard-working, and devoted to his family.

It was due to rehabilitation for the knee injury he sustained in the Redskins' week 10 game



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

**MEAST:** The hardest hitting safety in the league, you will be missed.

against Philadelphia that Taylor was home this past week. His house was broken into a few days prior and a large kitchen knife was left on his pillow. Dealing with this break-in delayed Taylor's extended return to Washington, leading to the second break-in Monday morning during which he was shot. The Washington Redskins and NFL at large are distraught over Taylor's death, and his close friend Clinton Portis (Redskins' star running back who is also on pace for the Pro Bowl this

year) is reportedly considering changing his number from 26 to the 21 formerly worn by Taylor in Taylor's honor.

Sean Taylor's vicious and versatile play left him respected and feared by wide receivers all around the league and endeared him to the Redskins faithful. In fact, he was my favorite player and his jersey is hanging ten feet away from me right now. I hope you'll join me in wishing his family and friends the best.

You will be missed, Sean Taylor; rest in peace.

Athlete of the Week:  
Joanna CoeAmy Iarrobino  
the sandspur

Freshman Joanna Coe set the bar high, winning tournament champion at the 2007 Ross Resorts Invitational at Mid Pines. Coe has an average of 76.6 from the four fall tournaments with ten rounds. Such a promising start gives high hopes for another successful Women's golf season.

Although Coe was playing soccer at the time, her father introduced her to golf at age seven. "As I got more into golf I fell I love with it," said Coe, "I like being on team sports but with golf it is all on yourself and it allows you to compete to the highest of your own ability."

As with most sports, golf requires a strong support system. "Golf is a very expensive sport and I am fortunate enough to have a lot of people back home supporting me to allow me to move up to the next level. My sister worked at a golf course for many years so through connections I was able to play

and practice for free."

Originally from New Jersey, Coe chose Rollins for the weather, athletics, academics and golf record and is glad she did. "I love the team and coach is so supportive. The day before a tournament coach gives us all a pep talk; we strategize the course and talk about our goals. Even at the tournament we have signals to tell each other how we're doing, like for a birdie," said Coe.

During the off-season Coe plans to continue improving. "There are eight tournaments in the spring so I am going to work on strengthening my weaknesses and getting better all-around. Golf is definitely a mental sport. I can improve myself mentally as well as work on my game," said Coe.

Although Rollins is a Division II school golfers compete against Division I schools as well, for example Penn State and Yale. "I wanted to be at a Division II school because the time commitment

and training are less rigorous. I have time to do other things but still compete against D1 schools. I get the best of both worlds," said Coe.

However, do not be fooled by the status as a Division II school. Golf requires considerable time commitment. "The course is half an hour away so we go there and practice some and play golf. Nine holes is around two hours and eighteen is about four to five hours so plus travel it adds up. I basically go to class, lunch, golf, dinner then homework," said Coe.

Coe is a political science major, just a cover for her golfing goals. "My ultimate dream is to turn professional with the LPGA. If not I definitely want to stay in the golf business, probably as a professional golf instructor. My own instructor in New Jersey is friendly and I learned so much from him. I could even work for golf companies like Nike and Titleist or be a head pro at a golf course," said Coe.



PHOTO COURTESY OF JOANNA COE

Her greatest golfing moments have been her hole-in-ones. "The first was at a high school match at my home course and the second was from 140 yards in Orlando at the

IJGT Tour Championship with my parents watching. It's the biggest thrill and high to get a hole-in-one," said Coe.



# 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. This will happen, and you can take these gold plated factoids straight to the bank.

-Danny Travis

1. A few weeks back I declared the Tennessee Titans to be the worst 6-2 football team ever. I was right. Their lack of talent, cohesion, and effort has led them to a 6-5 record, with terrible losses at Denver and Cincinnati. The Cincinnati Bengals are one of the worst teams in the league and their defense is nonexistent. But they managed to hold the Titans offensive unit to six points. The loss characterizes a monumental collapse, as the Jacksonville Jaguars have overtaken the Titans in the AFC South.

2. The most exciting football game over Thanksgiving weekend was the Arkansas Razorbacks astounding victory over then number one ranked LSU. The love of the BCS, LSU was one of the remaining "big" teams still in the hunt for the National Title, but downtrodden and disgraced Razorbacks coach Houston Nutt and Heisman hopeful Darren McFadden had different plans. The Razorback defense performed far beyond expectations especially in the first half, and ultimately ended up winning the game for them on an endzone interception on a two point attempt in overtime.

3. Speaking of Coach Nutt, he resigned days after the epic victory only to be snatched up by Ole Miss. Ole Miss finished

with a grand total of zero wins in the SEC and topped off their season by losing the Egg Bowl in a most embarrassing fashion to Mississippi State. Former Ole Miss Coach Ed Orgeron was able to assemble some decent recruiting classes, but he was never able to bring it together. It will take Coach Nutt years before Ole Miss returns to being the force they once were within the SEC.

4. The slate of Thanksgiving day football games this year was terrible, one of the most uninspiring days of games in recent memory. Even if you are a fan of the Cowboys, Packers, or Colts, those games were hard to watch. What America needs is a Thanksgiving flex schedule, mirroring the policy NBC has for choosing which games it plays on Sunday nights. I know Detroit and Dallas must host games, but the night game should be flexed. At least it was on the NFL network this year, so no one was forced to watch the dismal Atlanta Falcons.

5. The New England Patriots almost lost on Monday night, which is encouraging news for sports fans everywhere. The Philadelphia Eagles, helmed by AJ Feely, had control of the Patriots for what seemed like most of the game, but then Andy Reid decided that seeing a team go 16-0 would be really neat. The interesting thing about this game was that the Philly defense was banged up. JR Reed, getting his first start against the Patriots, and the Eagles banged up secondary were able to keep Randy Moss to only 43 yards. It seems that if anyone wants to stop the Patriots, two key aspects will be very physical play in the secondary, and keeping pressure on Tom Brady, because they sure aren't going to run the ball.

6. ESPN.com has a nice new feature, a tracking device

to see how close the Celtics are to breaking the 195-96 Chicago Bulls regular season win-loss record, 72-10. Its cute and all but it will not happen, namely because the Celtics don't have Michael Jordan, or anyone close.

7. The BCS system has become so mucked up that football fans are looking at a potential title game between Missouri and West Virginia. This is potentially bad because nobody knows anything about these teams and they have not been in the national spotlight. A few weeks ago it looked like a title game between LSU and Ohio State, two teams with high profile players whom the nation has been following. Two potential bowl matchups that would be very intriguing are Georgia vs USC in the Rose Bowl and LSU vs. Hawaii in the Sugar Bowl.

8. I hope you were lucky enough to see the Steelers vs Dolphins Monday night game last week, as the entertainment value was through the roof. The disgusting mire of Heinz Field staged a competition that saw both teams progress with zero points down to the very last seconds and then Jeff Reed had to ruin a 0-0 game with a field goal. This game made fans appreciate some things that we take for granted in football, like yard lines.

9. If you put money on the Cleveland Browns over the Ravens like I told you to, you were probably a bit upset at the final result, until the refs decided that the closing field goal was actually good, and called the teams back out onto the field to play overtime, which Cleveland won. Now that I have earned your monetary trust, place some money on Philadelphia, the Giants are scheduled to lose the rest of their games, its in their collective team DNA.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

**HAMBURGER!** Family troubles aside, Andy Reid may have exposed the New England Patriots. His method of determining starters by "depth chart darts" is something more teams may have look into.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

**D-MAC ATTACK!** Darren McFadden and Tim Tebow are both candidates for the Heisman Trophy.



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

**SSSSNAKE!!!!!!:** The Missouri football team helps out in the community by wrangling snakes. Snake overpopulation is a problem in Missouri, but what these players do with the snakes off camera can be left to your imagination. Just kidding! They actually all have pet snakes for some weird reason.