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The Sandspur

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Volume 114 Issue 19



Whose Faith? art show and Cellar Birds take over the Campus Center

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Lip Sync 2008: Greek organizations sing and dance to bring the crowd to its feet

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TrustCo Bank: taking the trust out of banking

G. KEITH EVANS
the sandspur

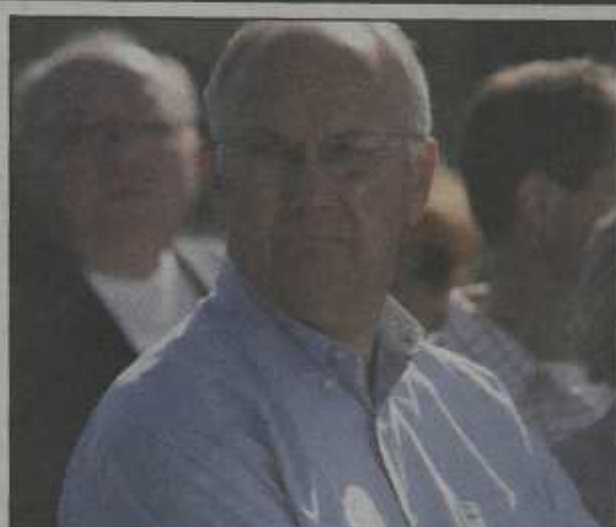
With the losses incurred by financial institutions during the recent housing market crash, banks have become noticeably more aggressive in their efforts to attract new customers. Radio commercials have increased, catchy new marketing campaigns are abundant, and gimmicks such as one-time bonus deposits for new customers are nearly ubiquitous. TrustCo Bank is using all of these methods to interest customers in its foray into the Central Florida market.

The small Glenville, New York based company has recently stepped up advertising in the Orlando area, even going as far as to offer a \$75 credit directly into checking accounts opened by new customers. They will be well advised to get a feel for the institution, research bank practices and pay careful attention to the local branch personnel before rushing to cash in on this offer.

In general, TrustCo Bank branches are physically warm and inviting. While the offices are clean, comfortable and free of the usual "cattle herder" lines, the level of customer service varies greatly from branch to branch. Employees of the Lee Road branch in Winter Park, for example, seem positive, welcoming and energetic, while employees of the Maitland branch appear to be more restrained and impersonal.

The variance of attitude from branch to branch seems to be a commonality throughout the institution. While customers of some branches give overwhelmingly positive reviews of the service they receive, others report outright rude behavior. A recent Internet review by username SaraDwayne assessed her local branch as being prone to "Jekyll and Hyde syndrome." As the better side of the duo, SaraDwayne stated, TrustCo was helpful in covering minor issues, even if that assistance came at a cost (in one month, SaraDwayne estimated paying over \$2,000 in fees to the bank).

■ See Trust, page 2



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

MINDS IN THE GUTTER: What do Bill Clinton, Larry Craig, Dick Cheney and Eliot Spitzer have in common? Although three of them are going bald, all four have been involved in political sex scandals ranging from affairs to prostitution.

OPINION

Sex and politics: does it matter?

G. KEITH EVANS
the sandspur

There has been a lot of talk about the sexual escapades of politicians lately. Eliot Spitzer, the former governor of New York who recently resigned after his multiple rendezvous with high-priced call girls, is just the most recent in a long line of politicians with deviant sexual encounters. Are these erotic incidents cause for a public uproar, or are they simply typical manifestations of basic human desires?

For some reason, the public seems to make a big deal when a politician has sex. The bedroom, it seems, is possibly the only area where voting constituents expect political leaders to somehow compare to the likes of monks and priests. Celibacy — as I recall — is not a vow taken by politicians.

Sure, Spitzer violated the law by patronizing a prostitute. This infraction is relatively minor when compared to, say,

Dick Cheney's questionable business dealings or the Bush administration's endorsement of illegal wiretapping. Paying a prostitute is so minor, in fact, that a recent report by ABC's 20/20 claimed that as many as 90 percent of busted johns, a prostitute's clientele, never get arrested or much less go to jail. This minor mistake (hardly fit to call it a crime), does seem to spell certain death for a political career, however.

The actions don't even have to be as illegal as patronizing a prostitute. In 2007, Senator Larry Craig was arrested for allegedly signaling an interest in gay sex in a public restroom. Despite the fact that a restroom is one location where individuals should be able to expect a reasonable amount of privacy, Sen. Craig was afforded no such luxury. Gay or not, his career was thrashed for simply giving in to an instinct so basic that it is both ubiquitous and universal. Everyone has a primal need for sex: dogs, cats, the

elderly, monkeys, professors, turtles, aardvarks and, yes, even politicians.

Some sexual escapades are more dramatic, more newsworthy than others. State Senator Bob Allen, who was busted last year for soliciting gay sex from an undercover police officer in a public park, created ideal fodder for reporters and comedians alike. Of all the ways to go out with a bang, a disheveled appearance while offering an officer 20 dollars for an illicit sex act comes pretty close to the top of the list. Senator Allen's career was, of course, mortally wounded as a direct result of this indiscretion.

Maybe all the bruhaha surrounding the sex lives of politicians is born of the father of all sexual scandals, the extramarital affair that lead to impeachment proceedings against the then-leader of the free world.

■ See Sex and politics, page 2

RelayforLife promotes fun for a good cause

G. KEITH EVANS
the sandspur

Once a year, several people come together for an overnight event full of festivities, entertainment and fun all in the name of a good cause. The annual Relay for Life event, a fund-raiser sponsored by the American Cancer Society, is an enjoyable way to spend time with friends while paying homage to those whose lives have been affected by cancer. Individuals from businesses, clubs, schools and other organizations form teams and take turns running (or walking). The idea is to always have a team member on the track during the 18 hour event.

For those who have never attended a Relay for Life event, it is not quite the somber atmosphere one might anticipate. Despite the seriousness of the disease it is intended to help fight, Relay for Life is actually somewhat reminiscent of a small carnival. While the event is different every year, concession stands, contests and even bands are staples of the affair.

The Sandspur's very own Justin "JB" Braun was once a centerpiece of entertainment at an event just a few years back. "After performing at the high school battle of the bands, I received a call from the organizer of the Relay for Life asking me if my band could play at the event," he said, referring to the group The Low-Budget Super Heroes. "We opened up with a few covers, including a punk rock version of Low Rider," he continued. Certainly, Relay for Life is far from the stodgy, stuffy experience the uninitiated may anticipate.

As the evening progresses into the wee hours of the morning, some of the events can evolve into wacky, wild experiences. Rarely do these parties get out of hand though, and coordinators closely monitor the activities to ensure Relay for Life remains family-friendly.

■ See Relay for Life, page 2

Relay for Life

■ Continued from page 1

After The Low-Budget Super Heroes played a song dealing with a girl contracting an illness from a friend's little brother, "one of the organizers approached us in between songs and asked if we could play more family oriented music," JB explained.

"We followed [the warning] with a rendition of one of our more controversial pieces, 'Chelsea's Not a Virgin,'" he said of the band's response

to the coordinator's request. "Needless to say, shortly afterward our power was turned off and we were asked to leave and not come back." Although fun and excitement are encouraged, Relay for Life's family atmosphere is firmly enforced.

All of the focus on G-rated fun is a natural progression of the event's origins. Relay for Life is rooted in a May, 1985 undertaking of Dr. Gordy Klatt, a colorectal surgeon in the Tacoma, WA area. Dr. Klatt, in an effort to personally raise

money for the fight against cancer, planned a 24-hour marathon around a track at Tacoma's University of Puget Sound. During this marathon, his family and friends paid \$25 each to run (or walk) alongside the doctor for half an hour at a time. By the end of the relay, Dr. Klatt had raised \$27,000 for the fight against cancer. Just a year later, a total of 19 teams joined together to raise over \$33,000 in a similar event coordinated by Klatt.

Now, more than two decades later, Relay for Life events

are distributed throughout the country. As a testament to the popularity of the annual affair, there are 45 individual occurrences within a 40-mile radius of Rollins College. The closest, and the one at which Rollins will be represented, takes place at Winter Park High School from 2:00pm on April 19th through 8:00am on April 20th. This year, the Rollins Office of Community Engagement is anticipating at least 25 teams representing the school at the Winter Park event. If just a fraction of the organizations on

campus or affiliated with Rollins participate, this goal should be easily attained. Teams have started signing up to participate but there is still room for a few more.

For more information on Relay for Life, visit <http://www.RelayForLife.org>. Anyone interested in representing Rollins College at the Winter Park event may contact Annie Howe via email at mhowe@rollins.edu or by telephone at 407-691-1250. Individual donations may also be made to Relay for Life teams or online at

Trust

■ Continued from page 1

This sentiment seemed to be echoed by other TrustCo customers in various service locations.

Unfortunately for SaraDwayne, her problems escalated when a new manager took over her branch. The new manager allegedly demeaned his customers, singling out the minorities among them. In at least one case identified in SaraDwayne's review, TrustCo assessed overdraft fees on an account with sufficient funds to cover all outstanding payments. This action appears to be consistent with reports from other customers of the bank, especially at the Maitland, Florida location. Based on customer reviews, TrustCo appears prone to charging arbitrary overdraft fees at its discretion, even if sufficient funds do exist in the charged customer's account.

Barbara Maynard, manager of the Maitland branch, confirms that TrustCo can (and does) process transactions with the bank's benefit in mind. For example, if a customer has \$40 available in a TrustCo checking account and makes a deposit of \$60 (for a total of \$100) then has several transactions in the amount of \$20, \$30 and \$50 respectively, logic would dictate that the customer's account would have an ultimate balance of \$0. Under TrustCo policy, however, the bank may choose to process the transactions in the order most beneficial to the bank, debiting the \$50 transaction first, then the smaller transactions and finally (possibly even days later), the \$60 deposit. In this order, each of the debit transactions

would incur a \$35 overdraft fee, creating an account deficiency of \$165 before the deposit is even processed (\$40 - \$50 debit - \$35 overdraft - \$30 - \$35 overdraft - \$20 - \$35 overdraft). The customer may expect a zero balance while TrustCo's processing policies result in an overdrawn balance of -\$105.

This policy, known in the industry as "Biggest Check First," is legally questionable at best. In 1999, Bank of America was the defendant in a class action lawsuit alleging improper processing of debits and fees. Other financial institutions have also been subjects in similar cases, though results have been varied. TrustCo Bank has not been exposed to litigation as a direct result of these actions, but is certainly no stranger to legal trouble.

This policy, known in the industry as "Biggest Check First," is legally questionable at best.

In November of 2007, the company was sued in federal court for "improperly levied fees." The court referred the case to a state magistrate and no decision has been issued as of the time of this writing. The company does not seem too concerned about legal actions though; when asked about the 1999 Bank of America case, Ms. Maynard at the Maitland TrustCo branch simply laughed.

Accounts of the promised \$75 bonus never materializing along with a plethora of other allegations, though not as well documented, have been levied against TrustCo by its customers. These complaints make trusting TrustCo well... questionable. Before jumping into a business relationship with the company, Rollins students should do careful research on the bank's practices and the available alternatives with other, more established institutions.

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Sex and Politics

■ Continued from page 1

Certainly, the Republican propaganda machine made such a spectacle of Bill Clinton's sexual affair that a new precedent was set for every politician thereafter. If, after all, a basic human need

can lead to the impeachment of an American president, it can certainly appear as a headline in the morning paper.

President, governor or senator, all of these men have three things in common: they lead a life in the public

spotlight and they are human. The third thing is one fact not commonly mentioned in news stories or political press releases: all of the men named in this column committed their alleged indiscretions on their own private time. Apparently,

privacy is something one must surrender upon taking public office.

When reading or watching news stories about the latest politician busted in a compromising situation, don't forget to keep that man or

woman's basic human needs in mind. Is a political figure's sex life really newsworthy, really a matter that should affect an entire career? Maybe, more realistically, it's simply a human aspect that is best left behind closed doors.

Illegal downloading not the cause of low sales

JUSTIN DOTTAVIO
the sandspur

There are three industries that never fail in times of recession: sex, drugs, and entertainment. Even in this time of mass recession, fraternities still invest in Jager bombs and lonely men still invest in fantasies of the sexual nature. My friend, a bouncer/DJ for a dance establishment in Florida, told me this weekend: "We have a guy who comes in for the morning shift and buys twenty lap dances in a row." Economic declines haven't hit the sex industry, but the music business is falling apart, and the music moguls point their finger at illegal downloading.

Many thought the hey-day of illegal downloading would have peaked with Napster and its very public demise steamrolled by some has-been from Metallica. However a new era of illegal downloading was born, and this was a genetically tweaked baby, like Drago from Rocky IV. Downloading became more efficient through the use of bit torrent technology. But the government has done all they can to put a stop to the bit torrent pirates on the internet's high seas.

When the Pirate Bay offices were raided in Sweden, and the Oinks! owner was arrested causing the 'invite only' site to be shut down, the bit torrent era was on the ropes.

These sites have re-opened their doors but without the same vigor they originally displayed.

Today, downloaders make like "Sneakers" from the internet police by using anonymous upload sites, even at times renaming artists and albums to put up a second smokescreen for record labels. Downloading isn't dead, it's just gone back underground in the form of zip files, usually of an album that has yet to be released.

Leaks are the biggest enemy to major labels today. The Raconteurs new album, *Consolers of the Lonely*, was not even announced until seven days before its release, and was still leaked onto the internet. The leak issue proves that the most intelligent system for releasing music would be to put a lower quality version on the band's website, get fans to listen to it, and then head to their local store for the CD if it was worth it. If your album isn't worth it, then don't complain when no one purchases the album. Maybe the issue isn't illegal downloading; maybe it's the lack of consistent artists and hit pop singles.

Record labels might just be the ones killing their own industry. Pop music has gone through many forms since my birth, and today's incarnation is probably

the worst. Pop rap and acoustic whining have taken over airwaves with artists like Soulja Boy and The Plain White T's dominating the time slots. Besides "Umbrella," there hasn't been a monumental hit since the last time Timberlake and Timbaland teamed up in 2006. Gone are the days of "Smells Like Teen Spirit," "I Will Always Love You," and "November Rain" fighting over the top space on the charts.

Record labels might just be the ones killing their own industry.

Today's top album sales are from 'Kidz Bop' and 'Now,' and it's quite possible that if these major record labels hired an A&R person with any idea of what's going on in music today – and took advantage of the Charlotte Russe indie phenomenon – there would be no recession. I will point out that 'Now' did attempt this feat with "Now That's What I Call Indie," but failed to include a free pair of tights in the packaging.

The moral of the story is illegal downloading isn't the issue here, it's a lack of strong pop music and intelligent major label executives. If the artist is making good music, fans will purchase it. Major labels are feeling the pains of their own mistakes, and I for one will not support their poor business practices at twenty dollars a disc.

Sexual offenders are eligible for Pell grant

ZANA FEJZIC
the sandspur

Prison inmates and students with a history of drug offense are not eligible for the Pell Grant; sex offenders are, the loophole being that they can't be in jail. Outraged Florida Representative Ric Keller says it's a "waste of taxpayer dollars" and that Americans would save millions of dollars by prohibiting registered sex offenders from receiving this kind of money. However, the other side of the argument, taken by Dr. Henry Richards, superintendent of the Special Commitment Center in Washington State, states that in order to rehabilitate themselves, they need access to education.

Since registered sex offenders don't have access to the internet, it is hard to fulfill some of their courses since today's education relies on using the internet for research and other resources. After all expenses regarding education have been paid off from Pell Grants, the leftover money is supposed to be returned to the government

– but some sex offenders have been caught using it for personal expenses, such as clothing and music. Maybe it should be the treatment facilities' responsibility to keep track of their own patients spending, but there is no practical way of doing that as the offenders are legally eligible to apply and receive financial aid for a college education.

But is it really fair to point fingers at the U.S. Education Department? After all, they're only doing what they're supposed to do, which is to give opportunities to those with a low income. The real problem behind this is that there is a blurred set of rules of how one gets to be a registered sex offender. So rather than blaming the Education Department, it is best to fix the current set of standards that each state enforces on how one becomes a registered sex offender. As of now, it is basically up to the state on what charges one can

be considered a sex offender. So those 18-year old, first year college boys with their 16-year old, high school senior girlfriends with the angry dad are the ones that get shafted by this concept. Although anything that goes on between the two is consensual, one phone call to the cops and the young man's life is forever doomed with the dreaded label of a registered sex offender with an online mug-shot.

The real problem behind this is that there is a blurred set of rules of how one gets to be a registered sex offender.

Not to say that the online website is useless, considering over 700 offenders of some kind, from battery to rape, are living in the Rollins/Winter Park area alone. And although it states in detail how you did what you did and whom you did it to, the fact that someone who hasn't actually done anything obscene or violent to anyone but is only on that list because of an angry parent is unjust. Consequently, fixing the tuition situation for those seeking the Pell Grant is a question that each state needs to address in the near future.

the CAREER COACH Marian Cacciatore

MOST COMMON JOB SEARCH MISTAKES

Question:

I am going to graduate in May and want to begin my job search.

What are the most common job search mistakes that you see Holt students make? I want to make sure that I avoid them!

~Holt Senior 08

Answer:

Your question is a good one! It made me stop and analyze the various approaches that I have witnessed during my eleven years at Rollins.

There were five obstacles that seemed to be visible in some of the unsuccessful job search goals:

Reason 1:

Creating only one version of the resume.

One of the more obvious reasons that a job search is short circuited is caused by sending out the same resume regardless of the type of position a student is applying for.

Resumes are not effective when a student uses a "one size fits all" philosophy. Although it is more time-consuming, the most successful strategy takes the time to target the resume for each job before sending it out.

Reason 2:

Spending too much time behind the computer screen

Did you know that three out of four jobs are filled by networking?

While looking online for job posting can be an effective element of the job search, it is also very important to tap into your social and professional networks.

I recommend utilizing the power of an "informational interview" as a way to get this started.

Check out a tutorial on informational interviewing at the Quint Careers website:

http://www.quintcareers.com/informational_interviewing.html

Reason 3:

Skipping the cover letter or not personalizing it.

Because the resume and cover letter are essential elements of a job search, just sending out your resume without a cover letter is another strategy mistake.

A cover letter allows you to stand out from the rest and capture your reader's attention. Remember, the only goal of the resume and cover letter is to "get you in the door for an interview".

Reason 4:

Challenge of the change

Many times, students forgo opportunities when they are closed to exploring possibilities. Career transitions can be difficult and time consuming.

The most successful students are able to embrace the challenges and refuse to become discouraged. They do not internalize the struggle and remain focused on their end goal.

They are committed to seeking creative ways to continue to build onto their skill set even while maintaining "survival jobs".

Reason 5:

Ineffective Research

Conducting research on potential employers is key to a successful job search strategy.

Relying on job posting limits your ability to identify some of the "hidden" opportunities.

Also, once a student engages in the interview process, continued research on the organization and key stakeholder is an important element of interview prep.

Do you have a question for The Career Coach?



E-mail her at:
mcacciatore@rollins.edu

Professors hinder "intellectual athletes"

REBECA MONTANER
the sandspur

I believe it is important to encourage all students to attend lectures provided by both Rollins College and the Winter Park Community, particularly when those students have the initiative to pragmatically apply their education outside of their major (the dream of Rollins President Hamilton Holt).

I have regrettably come upon the following problem: often when I wish to attend a lecture that is out of my discipline, even if the class is review material or I could get notes from my classmates, the professors says that I could attend the event, but threatens that my grade in that class could suffer.

I see myself as an intellectual athlete and am always looking for ways to challenge my mental capacity and repre-

sent my school and myself in various academic events. After the Rollins College Colloquy last year we (the faculty and the few students that were active in the Rollins community at the time) sat down to evaluate the value of outside lectures in the spirit of practical education and how to increase student attendance at these important events.

In spite of the spirit of the Rollins Colloquy, just recently I tried to go to a symposium discussing the future of education in Florida - a symposium that I found out about the very same day because of poor advertisement outside the English and Philosophy department. Furthermore, I was told that it was not a legitimate excuse to miss a class.

I find it very unfair that the system is not set up so that a professor could feel at ease for excusing a student for intellectual exercise but they are

forced to excuse an athlete just because it is a more standard way of representing the school.

There are two primary reasons why I can understand athletes are excused from class: one, they represent the school, and two, it helps the Rollins community foster well

When I raise my hand and ask a stimulating question at one of these events, am I not also representing my school in a positive light? Is intellectual exercise not also an integral part of a healthy individual?

rounded, healthy individuals. So when there is an important intellectual event sponsored by Rollins' own intellectual minds on this very campus and only three Rollins students are present, does that not look bad?

When I raise my hand and ask a stimulating question at one of these events, am I not

also representing my school in a positive light? Is intellectual exercise not also an integral part of a healthy individual? I believe that students should be excused from class when they are trying to put the school's mission statement, to create "global citizenship and responsible leadership," into practice. There should be a reasonable development by which students could be excused from class for their intellectual quests for knowledge as well as their athletic achievement.

I understand that some teachers might be hesitant to let students attend these events without proof that the student actually attended the event as opposed to skipping class, yet the solution is fairly simple:

For every Rollins sponsored event that the Rollins community believes could move our student body closer to meeting

our mission statement's goal, we should have simple forms that prove the student's attendance. This form should include the student's name, student's class or classes missed, and key lessons learned with an authorized signature that serves as proof of attendance. This will only excuse them from the class time; it will not excuse them from any work that the student should have to turn in just like athletes currently do.

I believe we intellectual athletes do represent our school by attending community events and moreover we are becoming better students and people for it. Can we, as the leading southern Liberal Arts institution, afford to forget the lessons of Hamilton Holt, or the first Rollins Colloquy led by John Dewey, one of the most important figures in American educational history - or more embarrassingly, the lessons supposedly taught by the Third Rollins Colloquy, barely a single year old?

Voice of racism must be heard

MICHAEL ROBINSON
the sandspur

Racism, whether intended or not, has left its mark on all of us. My time at Rollins has been one of frustrations; it has also been an experience of the struggle we all face in our attempt to make our lives count, no matter what our race. Sitting side by side with white males and females at Rollins is often an uncomfortable feeling. I'm usually the only black male in the class, although there are typically a couple of black females as well. My personal history is different from the white students in the class.

My stern face and direct eye contact are often frightening. On the other hand, I'm disappointed and feel self-conscious when I pass white students, male or female, who do not smile at me. Behind the black skin and the hardness, I'm hoping to be accepted as part of the college community. I realize perhaps it's not a race issue, but that they too are struggling like me with a class.

Having been tossed back and forth between systems that reject his strengths and condemn him for speaking in a voice that cries out for understanding, a pain descends into his soul from the hurt and despair that he experiences in his country.

The fact remains that I've been scarred from growing up in the mid-sixties, throughout America's attempts to deny black males acceptance in its educational, social, and business worlds. "The Negro ever feels his two-ness—an American, a Negro; two souls, two thoughts, two unreconciled strivings... two warring ideals in one dark body, whose dogged strength alone keeps it from being torn asunder" (The Souls of Black Folk by W.E. B. DuBois).

The black male first and foremost must understand his particular role in American society. Having been tossed back and forth between systems that reject his strengths and condemn him for speaking in a voice that cries out for understanding, a pain descends into his soul from the hurt and despair that he experiences in his country. This wrenching extends to his counterpart, the black female, who wishes for the black male to submit to a Christianity which asks him to continue to suffer without the redemption of educational,

RACE-BATING!
RELIGIOUS ZEALOTS!
PASTOR WRIGHT!
THE MEDIA TALKING
HEADS! ITS POLITICS
AS USUAL AGAIN! YOU
HAVE TO WONDER,
FROM THE STANDPOINT
OF CHRISTIAN BEHAVIOR,
WHAT WOULD JESUS SAY?



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

social, and economic equity. If there is anything that racism has imparted to him, it is suffering. If black males are to survive, they must speak out and insist on equal rights. They must find a balance of self-identity and self-assuredness among those who would continue to exercise economic and social control over those black males who speak out against America's mistreatment of them, and of others whose cultures are different.

Reverend Wright only addresses the role that America has played in world events. His words should not inflame Americans, but serve as a way for them to understand how America has become a source of discontent, not only abroad, but also at home. The healing takes place when a white male or female student isn't afraid of my skin color, or my size, or my beaded hair. I drop my guard and we begin to interact when my fellow classmates understand

that I express my frustrations in a manner that they are not accustomed to, just as I am unaccustomed to some of their behaviors. It is only when we look within ourselves to realize that we are human and are blindly attempting to put this puzzle together that we grow and change.

If America is to become a nation of individuals and a unified country, then America must accept those who voice a

different experience and unite those who have experienced the other side of American policies and of racism. The white American male cannot be the voice of the black males; they must voice their own experiences. So remember, if a black male is sitting next to you, he may be just as afraid to speak to you because his actions might be misinterpreted as a result of the racism that still remains in America.

OPINION POLICY

The Sandspur encourages reader viewpoints and offers two methods of expression: letters to the editor and guest columns. Letters must be signed and appear as space permits. Letters should be in response to something previously published, and should be no more than 300 words. The editor reserves the right to edit for clarity and length. Longer letters focusing on one issue are considered for a guest column. Submit letters to editor@thesandspur.org

Rollins hosts intercollegiate ballroom dancing competition

JULIO CARRION
the sandspur

Students from Rollins College, Tampa University, and two local high schools competed in the ballroom dance competition hosted by Rollins this past Saturday. This event was planned by the intermediate and advanced level ballroom classes, who poured many hours into making this event a success. All of the competitors came dressed in appropriate competition attire and presented themselves as proper contestants.

For the most part, Rollins dancers competed well even though the experience level of

the competitors was all over the board. Many students had competed before, whereas others, such as me, had only one semester's worth of training in the ballroom dance class offered at Rollins.

The big winners from Rollins, Theresa Chu and George Bradea, won 16 first place prizes and 4 second place prizes (including placing first in the American Smooth Open Challenge.)

For the competitors, the day was rather grueling since the competition fell behind the schedule. Despite this minor setback, the event was still a fun experience, and all of the competitors were proud to have pulled off such a good show.



JULIO CARRION / the sandspur



Pizza for Purim

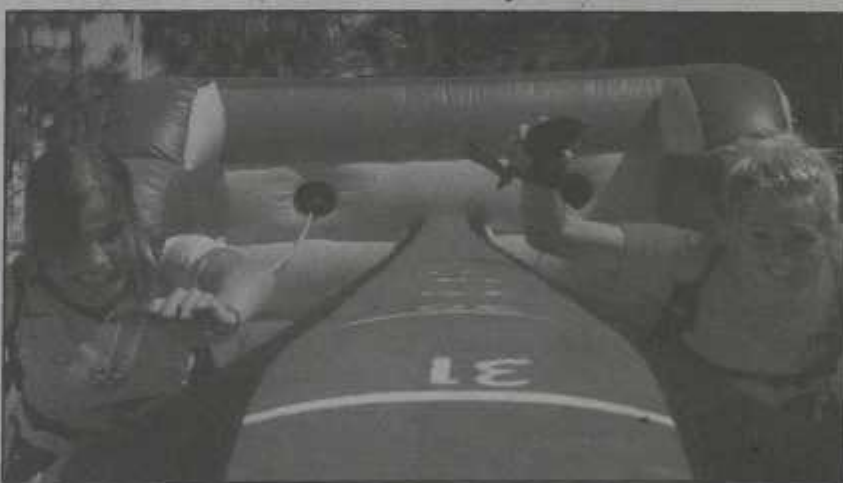
EVIE LYRAS
the sandspur

Purim is a Jewish holiday which celebrates the liberation of the Jewish people from Haman, as told by the Book of Esther. Today, many people celebrate Purim not only by giving and eating mass amounts of food, but also by attending a reading of the story and engaging in crass cacophony every time the name Haman is mentioned.

On Friday March 21st, Rollins Hillel provided a way for Rollins students to

celebrate the Purim Feast with a spin on the tradition. The Purim carnival, which took place on Mills Lawn, included copious amounts of pizza (the "feast") and several primary-colored inflatable apparatuses reminiscent of elementary school birthday parties.

Students munched on pizza, competed in bungee races, and tried to tip the moonbounce (provided they signed a liability release form prior to engaging in the festivities). While the rules of Tevye's beloved "Tradition" were not thoroughly adhered to, it is safe to say the carnival was a success.



JUSTIN BRAUN / the sandspur



The Sandspur
The Oldest College
Newspaper in Florida

Founded in 1894

March 28, 2008
Volume 114, Issue 13

The Sandspur was
established in 1894
with the following
editorial:

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

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The Sandspur reserves the right to edit all articles received. In order to be considered for publication, submissions must include the name of the author, be between 500 and 700 words, and be emailed to Editor@thesandspur.org no later than 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to publication.

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Olin Library announces new reference services

The Olin Library is trying out two new ways for you to contact a librarian for research assistance. Now you can send a text message to askolinlibrary@gmail.com or chat with a librarian using the "Ask A Librarian" box on the homepage at <http://www.rollins.edu/olin>. You can also talk to a librarian using the following instant messaging services:

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These new services will be available for the rest of the spring semester. You can also receive research assistance by visiting the library or calling a reference librarian at (407) 646-2507. Research assistance is available during the following times:

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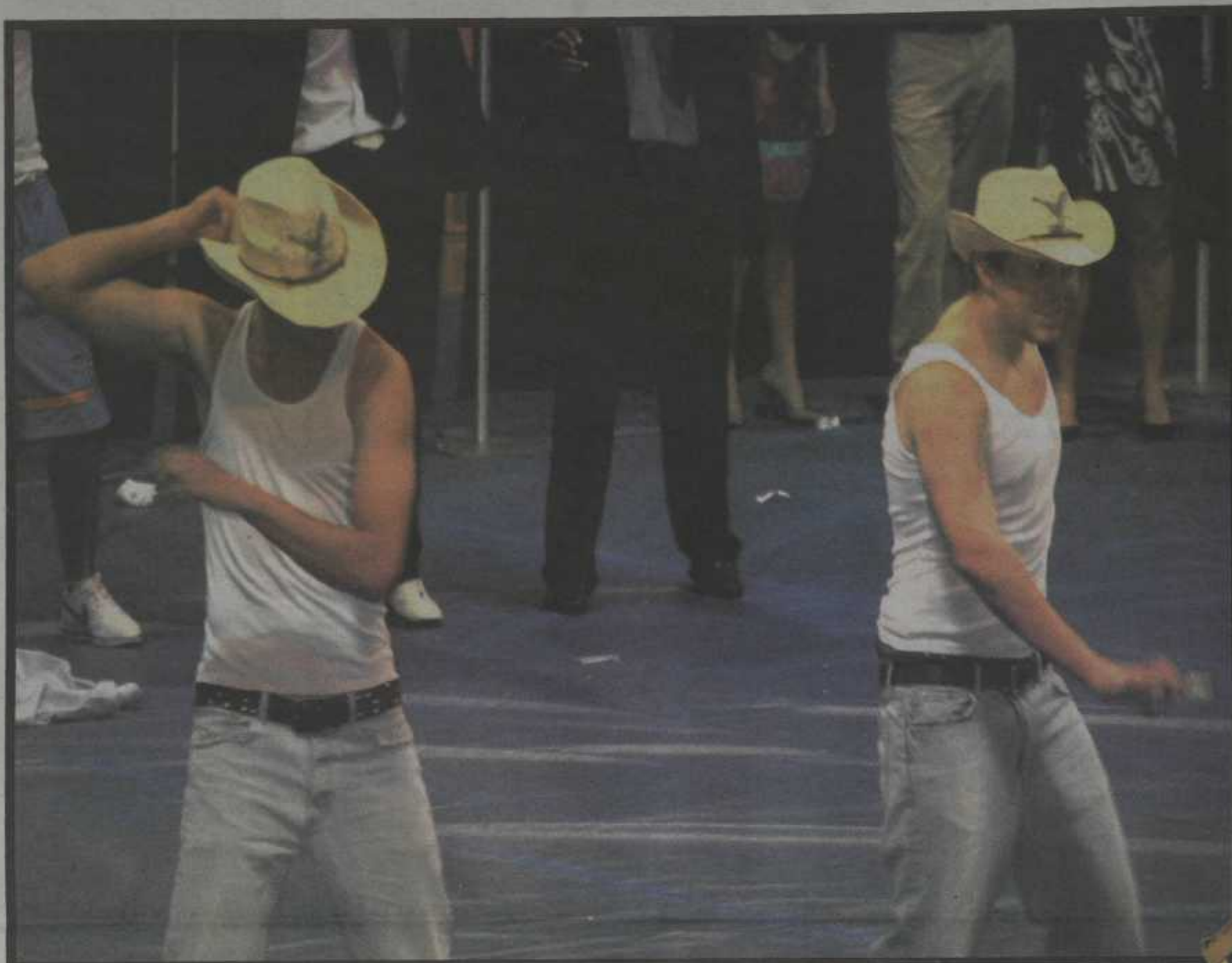
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We look forward to helping you with your research!

For more information about reference services, please contact Carolyn Carpan, Acting Head of Public Services, Olin Library, at acarpan@rollins or (407) 646-2683.

LIP SYNC '08 PROV



BRITTANY TARA
the sandspur

On a campus where Greeks are both revered and despised as a social class separate from the rest of the college community, Lip Sync provided a refreshing perspective of life in the Greek culture.

Around 7 pm last Thursday, the Alford Sports Center was jam-packed with hundreds of students milling about in anticipation for the start of this year's LipSync. Chants could be heard echoing throughout the building as sorority girls fought to prove their supremacy and frat boys channeled their large amounts of testosterone as if they were fighting for the survival of their brethren.

Ironically, this Greek entertainment event quite resembled the Greek gladiator battles that took place in the Coliseum about 1,300 years ago. Just as the toga-adorned audience once did, hundreds of students took their place along the stadium seats in wait of the brutal onslaught that was to occur – the high-intensity competition between half-naked frat boys and dolled up sorority girls.

TAKE IT OFF!: ATO entertained the ladies with a Will Smith themed dance, with the climax consisting of them stripping and molesting blow-up dolls, resulting in the covering of a judge's eyes.

The valiant fighters paraded around in their battle apparel ranging from skin-tight spider man costumes, bright pink Dickies, and booty shorts with rain-boots.

Needless to say, it was quite a breath-taking sight that took the campus by surprise. Before the violence began, the hosts, Ariel Kreiger and Drew Hornsburch, introduced the panel of judges, featuring student body President Stephanie Schuldt.

First up to the competitive arena was none other than the sorority AOP. Performing such songs as "Hot in Here", "Fuego", and "Drop it Like It's Hot", AOP looked like they had just stepped out of an MTV music video with their baggy jeans, red t-shirts and wife beaters. Mimicked life in the club with their boot-slapping dance moves, AOP certainly pumped up the energy of the audience and set the bar high for the rest of the night.

The sorority Non Compis Mentis was next on the list as their army of girls took place

on stage. The girls, dressed in black pants and a simple but cute pastel top, performed a medley of girly songs (i.e. Barbie Girl), which left the audience satisfied and rather impressed with the wide range of songs that the girls had learned.

Dressed in tight black booty-shorts, rubber rain boots, glittered legs, and umbrellas, Kappa Kappa Gamma stuck with an aqua theme. Their dance, which creatively featured Rihanna's song "Umbrella," not only incorporated saucy dance moves and a tremendous tone of confidence and attitude but also featured several half-dressed girls running around the auditorium shooting audience members with water guns. Needless to say, this part of the performance was not well-received by many audience members.

Ready for a shot of testosterone, the audience eagerly cheered as Chi Psi

(XΨ) took the stage. However, little did they know what to expect as an assortment of costume-clad frat boys began their performance with the usual Soulja Boy "Superman" dance. The tide soon turned as a handful of tight-wearing Spiderman look-alikes ran the Supermen off the stage and performed their version of the dance. The audience was also treated to an entertaining surprise as they watched a creative stunt go bad as a XΨ recruit made an ultimate face plant. And lastly, much to the audience's delight, one of Chi Psi's very own performed a rendition of Fat Albert at the conclusion of their performance. That moment was indeed priceless.

Although Tau Kappa Epsilon (TKE) was scheduled to perform after AOP, due to technical difficulties they ended up performing after Chi Psi. TKE's performance started with a flashback to the boy band days with several recruits

taking their stand at stage as they lip-synced to an old Backstreet Boys song. TKE's dance had several parts and ended with one of the frat boys knocking on the floor. However, just as the audience began to cheer they were greeted with an unexpected surprise. One by one the TKE boys idly rose from their places and the famous Michael Jackson song "Thriller" began to play – a memorable ending for a memorable fraternity.

As the next competitor Kappa Delta (KΔ), took the stage, the rest of their sorority sisters also rushed to the front of the stage to the dismay of the audience (since their huddled bodies were obstructing audience view.) After being sharply reprimanded by the rest of the student population, the herd of sisters scattered to the sides of the stage leaving a clear view of the KΔ performance.



CHUCKLES: AOP girls took the stage with their MTV music video with their



S ENTERTAINING

girls were clad in an ensemble of blue, black, and white with accents of gold. Their dance was a mixture of slow and fast movements embellished with choreographed stunts and even acrobatics. One might say their performance was somewhere between a cheerleader dance and a vaudeville show.

X-Club approached the stage, many audience members feared that their dance might be a bit risky relative to that of other fraternities. One might say that their dance was admittedly entertaining, but when they shut off the lights and brought out glowsticks, the audience was in uproar of cheers. To say, people were surprised at the creativity that these X-boys possessed.

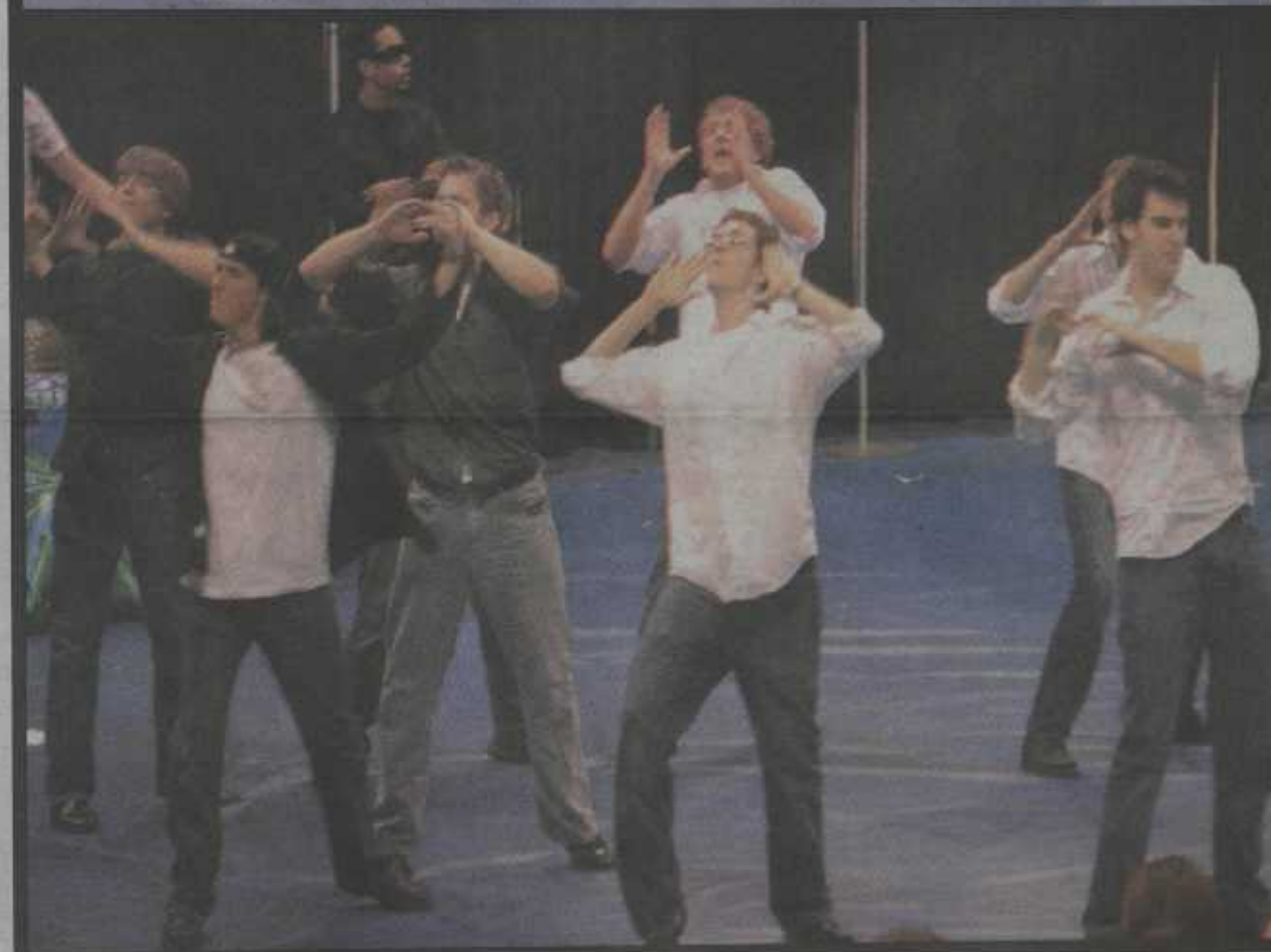
To be told, no one wanted to expect when Alpha Tau Omega (XΩ) girls came from their seats and onto the stage. There were some pretty blonde girls

wearing barely-there yellow skirts, checkered knee-high socks, and ribboned pig-tails who took their place at center stage. However, as the music started, the audience witnessed in horror as these presumably innocent girls acted out in unison the killing of several overweight police officers (all in perfect synchronization with the music, of course.) The XΩ dance was filled with many flips and handsprings as the girls played upon the theme of death and money. The performance also featured a few dance moves that implied specific sexual acts...way to be creative XΩ.

Lastly, Alpha Tau Omega (ATΩ) took their place as the final competitors of the evening. Basing their performance off of Will Smith, the performance incorporated music, choreography, and costuming off of Fresh Prince of BelAir, the Wild Wild West, and Men in Black. This creative touch left the audience drooling over these frat boys as a few of them took off their shirts, grabbed a few full-sized blow up dolls, pinned them down to the center of the stage, and began reenacting the love-making process to the song "Sex on the Beach." This performance alone offered a glimpse into the Greek culture that leaves even the most garrulous writer speechless.

All in all, one can easily say that LipSynch 2008 was wildly entertaining and frightening at the same time as the audience was treated with quite a memorable performance from the Greek world.

As the crowd waited for the winners to be announced, a handful of members from Dance Marathon invoked a mini-dance party, and hundreds of students poured onto the stage to perform a medley of songs. Finally the winners were revealed: XΩ in first place and ATΩ in second. Both groups flooded the stage to receive their enormous trophies. Alas, these Greeks had survived the brutal onslaught that was LipSynch 2008.



YONI BINSTOCK & KELLY MCNOLDY / the sandspur

TIME TO DANCE: Top to bottom; NCM was one of the first sororities to perform at Lip Synch. X-Club's dance called for blacking out the gym and playing with glowsticks. The hosts of Lip Synch, Drew Hornsburch and Ariel Kreiger, rocked out multiple outfit changes.

KELLY MCNOLDY / the sandspur
had just jumped out of a
and red tanks.

UCF hosts annual car show



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

SHELBY PHILLIPS
the sandspur

Whether it's a 1929 T-Bucket or a new Ford King of the Road Mustang, you're more than likely to see it at the Early Irons Easter Rod Run held every year at the Holiday Inn parking lot at UCF. This car show is attended by many people, who not only have come to see the cars they love, but also to show off the cars they have spent their life loving. Following in the noble tradition of my dad, I too am a car enthusiast. So this show for my dad and I is a great early Easter treat. Although the show was small this year, compared to previous ones, this year's show still held some very fine cars to see.

Spotted in the show was a bright yellow 1932 Ford three

window coupe with a big block Chevy engine. A real historical piece, a 1927 Ford Coupe, which showed up in Florida in the early sixties, in a bright sapphire blue is now a beautiful all American red. And not to be left out of course was a burgundy 1950 Mercury Custom with suicide doors – opening up rather out – and a nice orange pin striping job.

So, if you missed out on the show this year, and this sounds like a show you want to see, make plans to join all the rest of us car enthusiast at next year's show – always held at the same place, and always held the Friday and Saturday before Easter.

For more information, please see their web site at <http://www.earlyirons.com/>

Senior faces growing pains

WADE JOHNSON
the sandspur

In the coming months, colleges across the nation will be going through the pageantry know as commencement. For most graduating seniors – and their parents – it is a time of jubilation and pride. With jobs lined up and grad schools anxiously anticipating their arrival, students waltz across the stage delivering firm handshakes and steady fist pumps, diplomas in hand.

However, for those of us with uncertain futures, it is like being five years old again, toes on the edge, facing the deep end of the pool, your instructor, your peers, and your parents shouting at you to jump! With apprehension we inch closer, while the other kids our age are doing cannon balls from the high dive.

Like many of my peers, my trepidation is not for lack of preparation, but rather a result of my eclectic tastes and unquenched thirst for learning. I've taken the LSAT, I'm preparing for the GMAT, and I have taken nearly every "prep course" offered by the guidance department, all to no avail. Every time I think I have made up my mind, I change it again.

I was under the impression that this wishy-washy behavior was supposed to be quelled by the time I reached my senior year.

The transitions in life had never before been a problem for me. I have always been more than ready for them. However, much of this ease has come due to the relative certainty as to what the next step was. With anxious anticipation I passed countless summers waiting for the events of the coming school year. Yet this summer, I'll be experiencing a much different anxiety, one not of anticipation, but of fear.

While I feel a great sense of accomplishment for having simply graduated from high school, let alone college, I can't help but feel behind when many of my contemporaries have started their own businesses and secured careers for the future. On the other hand, many are still trying to figure out what to do after the "glory days" of high school.

I hang in limbo. As applications and resumes are mailed, my fate is no longer in my hands. I await their replies, awaiting the next step.

In the coming year, who knows what is in store for me. All I do know is that I'll be taking that next step forward, mustering the courage to dive right into the deep end.

LIFE & TIMES

Death of the Classics



JUSTIN BRAUN / the sandspur

THIS IS SPARTA: These academic warriors chose to fight with words in the sun rather than with swords in the shade.

JUSTIN BRAUN
the sandspur

Though no official statement has been made, it is common knowledge on campus that Dr. Mike Lippman, professor of Classical Studies, may not be returning next semester. In true

liberal arts fashion, Classics majors and radical students alike congregated Tuesday on Mills Lawn in spur interested in their possibly dying major.

"Dr. Lippman is an excellent professor and many students are interested in the Classics. It's ri-

diculous that the administration believes that a Classics Major is no longer viable on campus. Our demonstration is an effort to get both students and faculty members to realize that they need to save the Classics."

-Jacob Trickey, Sr. Classics Major.



JUSTIN BRAUN / the sandspur

TONIGHT WE DINE IN HELL: Charred cow flesh was given to the devoted students who gathered to show their support for the classic liberal arts major which now faces extinction

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Briarpatch: a cozy spot for any meal



DANIKA TANZINI / the sandspur

DANIKA TANZINI
the sandspur

Located towards the end of scenic Park Avenue away from the hustle and bustle of the main crowds, Briarpatch is a casual but cozy breakfast and lunch spot. However don't let its location on the far end of Park Avenue deceive you. Tables fill fast and the wait can be lengthy especially around lunchtime on weekends as it's a favorite for locals and out-of-towners. As with any restaurant on Park Avenue, parking can be a challenge but there is a parking garage located across the street on the same block.

Patrons include everyone from the young to the old, as any appetite can be satisfied with Briarpatch's diverse menu. Dishes range from satisfying filet mignon burgers to succulent chocolate cake. Customized omelets are available throughout the day. The dishes are not presented extravagantly but creativity is seen in every item on the menu from salads to quesadillas.

Outside this quaint eatery, you have the option of dining at tables nestled under an awning with a front porch feel or along the spacious Park Avenue sidewalk. If you choose to sit inside, you have to compete with the noise of the kitchen but you are compensated with a great view of the ice-cream counter and an

enticing dessert display.

The ice-cream is always fresh and worth a taste but it's the four-layer cakes that are most impressive and eye-catching. Chocolate lovers will swoon over the numerous two-inch-thick layers of moist cake separated by rich, chocolate frosting. Another favorite is the red velvet cake, also nearly a foot in height, slathered in a delicious sour cream icing. These enormous wedges are certainly enough to satisfy any sweet tooth but in case you are in the mood for something else, Briarpatch offers malts, shakes, and sundaes made from their home-made ice-cream.

The employees are friendly and eager to help. Although understaffed the day I visited, they managed to handle the crowd well and appealed to our every request. My choice was the Mozzarella, Pesto, Tomato Burger which was delivered promptly. The temperature was perfect. It was just enough to melt the mozzarella and the burger was cooked as requested. The bun was crisp on the outside but warm and soft on the inside. The lettuce was fresh and crisp and the tomato was flavorful. The pesto sauce smothered over the well-seasoned patty was what really gave the burger the unique and mouth-watering flavor. The meal was also served with perfectly salted chips on the side.

Patio Grill: good food at a great price

CAROLINE SCHNEIDER
the sandspur

Looking for a laid back place to dine and unwind? With an expansive menu with affordable fare and a full bar, the newly-renovated Patio Grill, located at 820 W. State Road 434 in Longwood is perfect for a night out with friends or family. The staff is friendly and the wait for a table is generally short. Reservations can be made for larger parties but are not required. The restaurant's recently updated look enhances the charm of the comfortable atmosphere.

Fresh garden and Caesar salads help compliment the main dishes. Along with their wonderful croustons, one nice feature of the Patio Grill salad is all of the dressings come in separate cups. That way they can be poured according to taste. The restaurant also boasts a wonderful variety of daily soups, with homemade Vegetable soup always on the menu. The Italian Wedding soup and the New England clam chowder have a tendency to sell out due to their

popularity, so I recommend going early if want to order one of them.

In addition to soups and salads, Patio Grill also offers a delightful variety of appetizers. Several popular choices include fried cheese sticks, jalapeño poppers, chicken tenders, and onion rings. The Patio Platter includes several of these and can be customized to suit individual tastes. The price for appetizers ranges between \$3.95 and \$7.95.

The lunch menu, which customers can also order from in the evening, showcases a wide variety of custom burgers, sandwiches, salads, and soup/salad/sandwich combinations. All of the burgers and sandwiches come with amazingly good french fries and for those who want a healthier alternative, fries can be substituted

for a baked potato, soup, or salad. Price ranges are \$5.95 to \$8.95.

Dinner at Patio Grill is just as enjoyable as lunch. Some of the nightly specials include a prime rib dinner with a baked potato, steamed vegetables, and your choice of soup or salad for

\$11.95. Pork chops, barbeque, baked chicken, pot roast, and stir fry also appear in the home-style entrées section. If you like pasta, you'll be in heaven. The Italian Combo – a particular treat – features lasagna, fettuccini alfredo, chicken parmesan, and is served with delicious garlic bread. As quite a few of the pasta dishes can be served with or without meat, the entrées can be modified for vegetarian diners. The price ranges for the dinner menu are \$8.95 to \$16.95.

Have room for dessert? Even if you don't, a menu that features cheesecake, carrot cake, ice cream sundaes, brownies, and pies is worth looking over. The quality of the food at the Patio Grill is absolutely phenomenal and makes it worth every penny! With generous portions, you'll be sure to bring home lots of leftovers. I enjoyed my time at the restaurant and will be going back there very soon.



CAROLINE SCHNEIDER / the sandspur

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Open Windows of opportunity

LYNDSEY HANSEN
the sandspur

"Everybody scream!" Zaq Suarez whispers into the microphone. It is the beginning of band practice, and the four members of Open Windows are in a shed behind Suarez's house. Orange whistle balls hang from strings attached to the ceiling, and a plastic bat is pinned to one of the walls and splattered with fluorescent paint. There is a sporadic display of sound-proofing materials haphazardly arranged on the walls accompanied by a hockey mask which is reminiscent of bad horror movies. A couch in the back offers a seat to anyone wanting to listen on any given day when practice takes place. The audience can expect more than what meets the eye.

Michael Wheaton, Glenn Goodwin, Steve Brett, and Suarez are the people behind the music. They describe their sound as "ego and empathy 'doin' it,'" but that could easily be their modesty talking. Their work sounds like it would be perfect for the opening in some foreign film well-known for its soundtrack. Their sound seems like something that should accompany images of hallucinations or fantastical things such as portals that can transport one to somewhere safe and welcome.

ing.

Open Windows' sound is a harmonious mix with a wide range of influences from progressive rock to folk instrumental. They leave out the mediocre lyrics of broken hearts, girlfriends, and teenage angst and bring to life the emotion not heard from sellout artists. The indie flow has enough variety to avoid becoming redundant and the individuality in their work is the only thing that can be considered consistent. "I want us to be song to song. As long as we are representing ourselves, then let it sound like whatever it sounds like," Suarez said.

Though their motive goes against the grain of common aspiring musicians, all the members of the band are content with just playing music that they think is good. "It's not our goal to get signed to a major label; that's definitely not the ends," Wheaton said. "[We all decided], let's be in a band to make music that we think is good. We just want to make music so we can share it with people."

Nothing or no one is overpowering in comparison. There is nothing too harsh or awkward in Open Windows' sound. At the climactic point of songs like "Snozberry Jam," an overwhelming feeling overtakes the body. This feeling is the kind that should not be stifled and should be felt more often than not. Their album, The Jan, is

assembled in three parts and is like a story that disproves Freytag's pyramid. There is an introduction, a rising action, and a climax. An excitement comes along with the instrumentals. One would assume that the song would die down slowly with a repetition of the introduction to tie everything together, but it never comes. This produces a shadow that resembles the crest of Damien Rice's song "I Remember" with the speed of Modest Mouse and the demand for attention that all great musicians can convey without words.

There is a small Southern feeling, a jazzy twang that immediately renders attention. It sounds like blues with force. Suarez makes things interesting with occasional dispersed onomatopoeias. Whether it is a cymbal clashing or a guitar riff, there is always something that keeps the listener's attention in the best way possible.

Vocals are split between Suarez and Brett. Suarez's vocals in "You're the Cure" are a guttural projection of Dallas Taylor (Maylene and the Sons of Disaster, original UnderOath). Percussion overwhelms the speakers, and it is one minute of raw rock and roll. Suarez gets into character again after a moment of instrumental relaxation, but only for a moment. The transitions are smooth and clean and much like other songs, it this

one finishes strong.

In contrast, Brett's vocals are a reminder of Billy Corgan (Zwan, Smashing Pumpkins) in "Rocks on Water." The song tells a tale of soulful distinction. Wheaton, the guitarist, brings forth a Theremin, an alien-like instrument with a sound of its own, amidst instrumental breakdowns reminiscent of the band Explosions in the Sky. The band then picks up the pace with a solo that conjures memories of 1990's rebel movies. Drum beats come on so fast that it is a bit startling, but never disappointing.

The band first came together a few months ago, when Wheaton and Suarez had a poetry class together. At the time, Wheaton and Suarez were doing their own solo work and they decided to jam on a whim. That same night, Suarez joined Blacklight Mantra, a band that earlier this year was highlighted by WPRK. For awhile nothing took place until Suarez decided to disband. A few months later, the two met up again and met Goodwin in October and Brett in November. Their first show was held shortly thereafter on November 7th.

The band entered their first show with 45 minutes of material consisting of a compilation of individual works that came together inspiring. "We usually don't talk," said Suarez. "We just play and go with it. It's

all pretty organic."

Goodwin is the drummer and the youngest member of the foursome. He attends the University of Central Florida, maintains a job, and still has the time to provide Open Windows with his percussion talent. "I manage this and school by prioritizing and sacrificing. I used to be on the UCF rugby team but I had to quit due to the time restraints. School definitely comes first to me and all the guys know that, so it works out."

"We think very highly of ourselves," says Suarez in a tone that is hard to differentiate between sarcasm and seriousness. Despite this statement, all of the band members have an uncanny way of getting along. They have a palpable chemistry that is sure to produce commendable results. "We all have good chemistry," Suarez said. "Everything is really natural, nothing is forced."

With this attitude comes a unique sound that carries throughout their playlist. Their goal is not to make it big with the help of selling souls. "We're all pretty committed at this point," Wheaton said. "We want to ride this as long as we can without putting ourselves in a place to be controlled."

The next show scheduled is April 19 in Underground Bluz. For sights and sounds, visit their MySpace at www.myspace.com/openwindowsmusic.

Whose Faith? art show opens in CCC

KELLY MCNOLDY
the sandspur

Last Tuesday night, religion took over the focus of the Cornell Campus Center at the Whose Faith? Art show opening. Featuring art made by students, faculty, and the community, the show's focus was on exploring the theme of religion in art. The religions focused on consisted of Buddhism, Christianity, and Muslimism, with the artists' faith varying as well. "I think there is a lack of attention to religion and spiritual things on campus and I thought it was good to draw attention to a topic that is otherwise avoided on campus," said senior John

Knopick.

A main draw of the event other than the art was local band Summerbirds in the Celar. Fresh off their showcase at SXSW in Austin, TX, where they opened up for R.E.M., the band's ethereal type of music meshed well with the theme of the show. "I loved them," said senior Ashley Navaie. "I thought they were fantastic." Arms Harbor, another local band who played at the beginning of the opening was also well received. "I loved the banjo," said Knopick. "It was phenomenal."

Art shows in the Darden Lounge happen approximately once a month. Their main focus is to bring culture and diversity to CCC as well as help the Darden Lounge become more of



a student-centered space. "It's something so different from what we generally associate with Rollins College and it's a different avenue for expressing our ideas and thoughts," said Navaie.



JUSTIN BRAUN/ the sandspur



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American League West wraps up

DANIEL PAULLING
the sandspur

Only two months ago, the American League western division was wrapped up. The Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim had depth in the starting rotation, a series of quality arms in the bullpen, and the added bat of Torii Hunter.

Too bad Kelvin Escobar, an 18 game winner last year, went onto the disabled list with a shoulder injury and the Seattle Mariners added left hander Erik Bedard. This switch in pitching balance may not be enough to dethrone the Angels as division champs, but it may make this division more interesting.

Of course, we can't forget about the fight for third place. Both the Texas Rangers and Oakland Athletics are rebuilding. In a sick sort of way, it should be interesting to see which team is less bad next season.

Los Angeles Angels of Anaheim: Despite losing Escobar, the Angels have quality arms like John Lackey, Jared Weaver, and Jon Garland to front their rotation. If Escobar can return healthy and close to his 2007 form, the Angels could have the strongest rotation in the AL. Combine that with a lights-out bullpen, and they certainly have the pitching to win.

Of course, they need a few runs on the board. The Angels traded away shortstop Orlando Cabrera, who had a tremendous 2007 offensively and defensively. They will be counting heavily on a comeback season from outfielder Juan Rivera and quick

development from their double play combination, Howie Kendrick and Erick Aybar. Stud prospect Brandon Wood will get his at bats, but the team must first clear the outfield logjam.

Seattle Mariners: The addition of Bedard has made Mariners fans happy, but Felix Hernandez, if he continues to develop, should make them happier. After all, Hernandez has the talent to be a top three pitcher in the major leagues. Pair him with Bedard, add some average innings in the form of Carlos Silva and Jarrod Washburn, and the Mariners have a chance to be competitive this year.

Pitching will not hold them back this year. What will, however, is their offense. The Mariners finished 12th in the majors in runs scored last season. This offseason, they watched Jose Guillen walk away and traded away promising outfielder Adam Jones. The only addition was Brad Wilkerson. If he and Richie Sexson can turn the calendar back to 2005, there might be hope for this team.

Texas Rangers: Their offense finished ahead of the vaunted New York Mets' offense last year in terms of runs scored. Of course, that stat is a little skewed by their 30-3 whitewashing of the Baltimore Orioles. The Ranger offense from that game returns the same players and may be, as scary as it sounds, even stronger.

Offseason trade acquisition Josh Hamilton, if healthy, can be a 35 home run guy. Combine that talent with Milton Bradley, Michael Young, and a healthy Ian

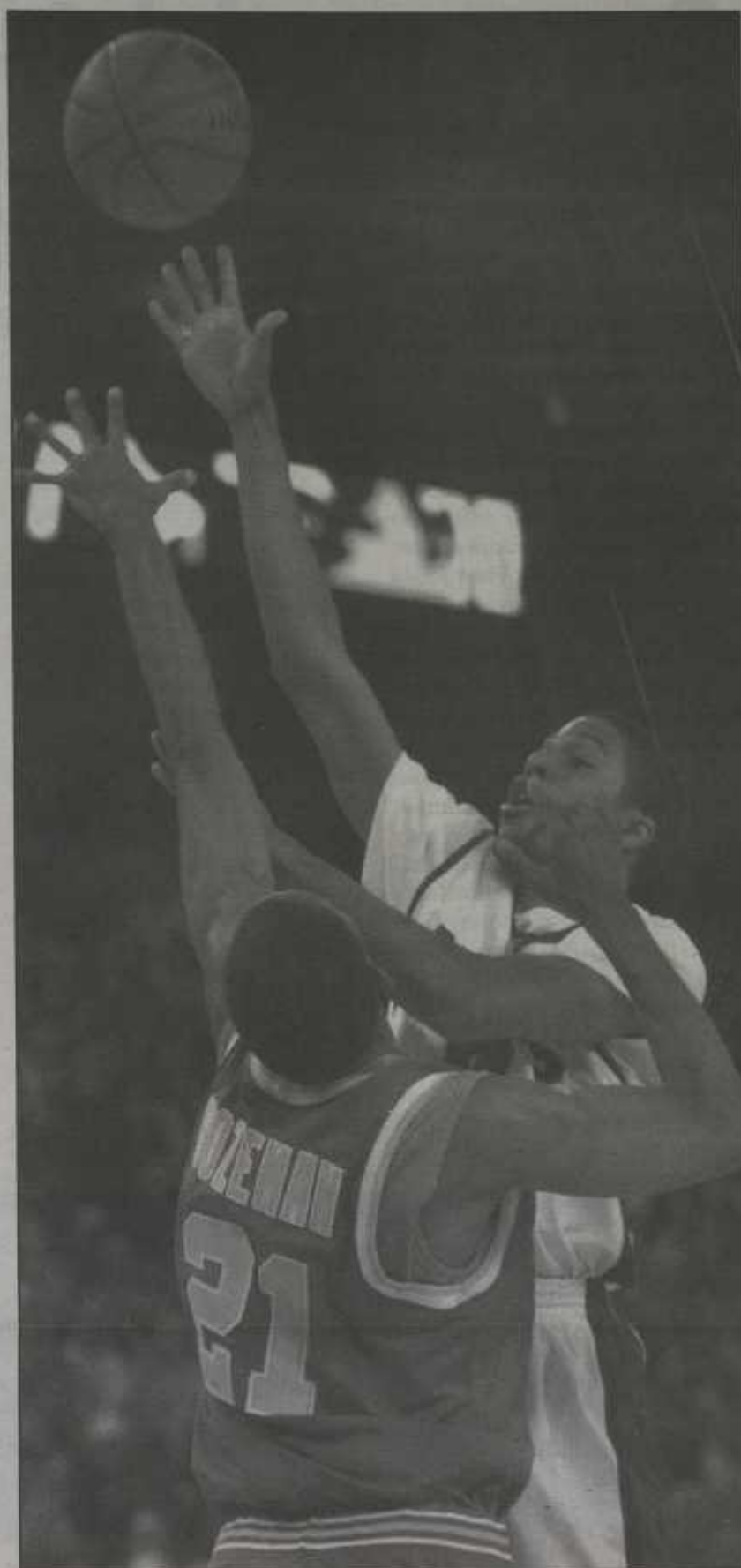
Kinsler, and the Rangers have the deepest middle of the order in the division. Now, if Hank Blalock would stop regressing and Marlon Byrd exhibit his 2007 form again, this team could be saved from fourth place.

However, they'll have quite a mountain to climb since the pitching will be doing its part to keep the team down. Last year, the staff finished 24th in ERA, and there are no Eric Gagne surprises to be had this season. The closest the Rangers may come is Jason Jennings, who is looking good in spring training, and Kason Gabbard, who had seven great starts with the Boston Red Sox last year.

Oakland Athletics: There are only a few things worth watching on this team in 2008. One of those is how the pitchers who may be traded, namely Joe Blanton and Huston Street, perform. Several contending teams could use those arms on their pitching staffs and A's general manager Billy Beane could definitely use the prospects that would come in return.

Secondly, it should be interesting to see how the youngsters like Carlos Gonzalez, Gio Gonzalez, Fautino de los Santos, and Daric Barton perform. This core could be central to a contending Athletics club in, say, 2011.

And finally, the feel-good story. The A's missed last year on catcher/designated hitter Mike Piazza, but Beane hopes he struck gold once again on oft-injured Mike Sweeney. If there ever was a chance for Sweeney to rebound, it would come with a down-and-out ballclub willing to give away at bats.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

C-D-ARRRGH: University of Memphis Junior Chris Douglas-Roberts shoots over a UCLA defender. Memphis and UCLA could be potential Final Four opponents, which is quite an exciting possibility. The Tigers would be looking to avenge their loss to the Bruins two years ago in the Elite Eight.

Mid-Madness report of the NCAA Tournament

WADE JOHNSON
the sandspur

Sports bars across the nation were doing big business this past weekend as the sixty-four team field of the NCAA Tournament took to the courts in what has come to be named March Madness. With first and second round action taking place Thursday through Sunday, hearts were broken while others' dreams were kept alive, as the sixty-four teams were whittled down to a meager sixteen.

From small office pools to the largest tournament pool on Facebook, millions of Americans participate in tournament brackets - some simply for fun, and others with money on the line.

A recent survey by Vault.com, the online recruiting company in New York, estimates that about 37 million of the nation's 140 million workers have

participated in NCAA tournament pools. In fact, according to estimates by consultant firm Challenger, Gray & Christmas, Inc., as much as \$3.8 billion are squandered by U.S. companies each year in the form of lost wages and productivity due to the distraction of the tournament.

So what is it that makes the tournament so popular?

Is it the barrage of games providing endless entertainment? With forty-eight games in four days, CBS, the sole network showing the games, shuffles viewers instantaneously between games as they come down to the wire. Amid the many games to choose from, there is a high probability viewers will switch to a game that will be decided in the last thirty seconds.

Or is it the upsets and overtime thrillers?

In four first round games,

the Tampa, Florida region produced four underdog winners, each of which earned the right to battle again on Sunday for a right to make it to the Sweet Sixteen - possibly to be dubbed the "Cinderella Story" of the tournament.

Many use the term "bracketology" to describe the method of picking one's bracket. This term, however, is misleading as it directs one to believe there is a methodology or science to picking a winning bracket. In reality, no matter how great of a "bracketologist" one is, March Madness didn't earn its moniker based on its predictability.

Year in and year out, names like North Carolina, Duke, Connecticut, Kansas, and UCLA find their way into the final brackets. But it is schools by the name of Davidson, Butler, Siena, Western Kentucky, and San Diego that received unlikely attention this weekend as they all pulled

off upsets propelling them past higher ranked opponents. Last year's championship game featured the Ohio State Buckeyes and the Florida Gators, both of whom did not qualify for this year's tournament. Such are the fickle ways of college hoops.

"Got to love the NCAA Tournament, don't you," said coach Darin Horn of the Western Kentucky Hilltoppers, a twelve seed out of the Tampa region after their 101-99 overtime upset of number five seed Drake. "I think what you just saw out there is why this is the greatest show on earth."

For me, it is the excitement and intensity that comes with every game that makes this the greatest weekend in college sports and perhaps the greatest of all annual sporting events.

The NCAA Tournament embodies the beauty of collegiate athletics, the pageantry and passion not found in the

likes of professional sports. For these college athletes, the quest for a championship is not about contract extensions or postseason bonuses. Rather, it is about school pride and the hopes of leaving a lasting legacy. For all but one team, each season ends in a loss. For many athletes, hopes of a next year tournament run immediately fill their minds, yet for seniors, it will be the last basketball game of their competitive careers. This adds to the stakes of each game, heightening the emotions of the athletes, and for many teams giving them the motivation to produce wild upsets and riotous celebrations.

This Saturday begins the round of the Sweet Sixteen. Fans will watch closely, as some teams continue their dominant runs towards the finals, while others, like the Davidson Wildcats, try to keep their Cinderella hopes alive.

Some special guest nuggets of knowledge

JUAN BERNAL-GOMEZ
the sandspur

So instead of Danny's normal nuggets this week, the Magic Juan Bernal Gomez presents to you his take on current sporting events and news.

It is about time for Isaiah Thomas to go in New York. They are 19-50, with a .275 winning percentage, and the offseason additions of locker room cancer Zack Randolph and Fred Jones have made them worse, not better. A quick solution for the Knicks: fire Isaiah, let Starbury go to Italy and buy out Jerome James and Eddy "No Defense" Curry. The only players I would keep are David Lee, Wilson Chandler, Renaldo Balkman and Nate Robinson. They may not be the best NBA players, but their contracts are affordable and they play hard. It may hurt their ticket sales (sorry Spike Lee) and aura of their franchise, but honestly, can it be any worse than it is now?

In all honesty, if the Miami Heat and New York Knicks were college basketball teams, would

either of them make the NCAA Tournament?

It's good to still have some postseason college basketball to watch this season, such as the NIT and the CBI. True, nobody has NIT bracket madness or CBI bracketology, but the notion that none of these teams play hard because the NCAA prize isn't on the line is hogwash.

The Florida Gators will end this season with their third straight championship; this time winning the NIT.

Best College Freshman is not named Rose, Beasley, Mayo or Gordon and most likely to return to college next season is deemed Florida's Nick Calathes. This kid is a triple double threat every night and has a bigger basketball IQ than any of the other four freshman phenoms. You will see him in the NBA one day, just not next season.

The Indiana Pacers are this decade's version of the Jail Blazers: most recently Shawn Williams, whose house was the site of a murder suspect that had been on the run out of Tennessee. Earlier this season, point guard Jamaal Tinsley got shot

at after an altercation at a nightclub.

Best NBDL player who has not made it to the NBA: Rod Benson, who plays with the Dakota Wizards. He averages 12 points and 12 rebounds. However, his game is not even the most unique part about the University of Cal Graduate. How many D-League players have their own blog (Ball Don't Lie on Yahoo! Sports), their own slogan (Boom got them DOS) or their own movement (Boom Tho Movement). If Rod never makes the league, which I am sure he will one day, he has already made a profound social impact.

North Carolina, Kansas and Texas will all make the Final Four. The Fourth Team... The Xavier Musketeers. You heard it here first.

Allen Iverson's return to Philadelphia was a joy to see. Too many times you see fans with an out of sight, out of mind attitude. Iverson did so much for that city and has made a profound impact in more ways than one, even now. He bought the 76ers from a lottery laughing

stock in 1996 when he got drafted to an NBA Finals in 2001. Say what you want about AI's image off the court, but he represents everything someone should come to admire about a basketball player. He plays with reckless abandon, plays with such a passion for the game, stands out on both ends of the floor and makes his teammates better. In an 82 game NBA season all those qualities are hard to maintain. The reason I and other fans admire Iverson so much is because he can relate to the average fan because he is only a shade over six feet. He is by far the toughest player in the league. The only thing that went wrong for Iverson in his return was that he missed a last second shot to win the game, which becomes increasingly important for the Nuggets - who are one game shy of the last playoff spot.

Everyone talks about the Celtics, Pistons and Cavaliers possibly winning the East. However, nobody mentions the Orlando Magic. The Magic are not just the default winner of the Southeast Division, which includes the porous Heat, the

young Bobcats, the perennially underachieving Hawks and the Wizards. (Did I mention they have had more injuries than the Cleveland Clinic this season.) While their point guard plagues continues to remain inconsistent, they make up for it by taking - and making - more threes than any other NBA team. Plus they have MVP dark horse Dwight Howard who is a year away from being one of the most dominant forces in the league. Rashard Lewis, while overpaid, has served his purpose shooting 40 percent from beyond the arc and creating matchup problems for most Eastern Conference front lines. Hedo Turkoglu is having a career year and is money when it comes to clutch situations. The biggest difference in their team this season is the acquisition of Maurice Evans, who is now in the starting lineup. Although they probably will not win the East this season, they should at least be considered as a possibility to provide a formidable challenge to Boston, Detroit or Cleveland in a seven game series.

A P R I L

Rollins College

sunday	monday	tuesday	wednesday	thursday	friday	saturday
30 2008 Festival M. Tennis vs. Lynn Baseball vs. FS Southern	31 Adventures of a Sea-Questing Archaeologist Suntrust 7pm	1 Happy All Fool's Day! No Foolin' Concert Dave's 5pm	2 B-Side Artists CCC-Darden Lounge 5pm to 8pm Baseball @ FIT W. Tennis @ Flagler	3 Human Trafficking in Florida Suntrust Auditorium 7pm Robert Chamber Lecture Bush 170 4pm	4 Baseball @ Flagler M. LeX @ Catawba Softball vs. Nova Southeastern	5 W. Rowing @ SSC Championships W. Tennis vs. FL Southern Softball vs. Nova Southeastern Baseball vs. Flagler
6 Relaxation Night CCC-Darden Lounge 6pm-10pm W. LeX @ Queens Univ of Charlotte	7 Baseball @ St. Leo	8 Why Good Things Happen to Good People Suntrust 7pm	9 Keep It Green Art Opening CCC-Darden 5pm-8pm Stranger Than Fiction Movie Night Woolson House 5:30pm	10	11 M. Tennis vs. St. Leo W. Tennis vs. Albany State M.W. Rowing @ FIRA	12 M.W. Rowing @ FIRA M. Tennis @ FL Southern Softball @ Lynn
13 Relaxation Night CCC-Darden Lounge 6pm to 10pm	14 W. M. Golf @ SSC	15 W. M. Golf @ SSC Baseball vs. St. Leo	16 B-Side Artists CCC-Darden Lounge 5pm to 8pm	17 Short Film Festival Suntrust 5pm-8pm Fashionista Mary Jean Plaza 7pm-11pm	18 Hookah Event CCC-Bieberbach/ Reid 7pm-9pm	19 W. M. Rowing @ SIRA W. Tennis @ SSC Championships Baseball vs. Lynn Softball @ Tampa
20 Overseas + Fashions on Croc's Isle Outside Alumni	21	22 Baseball vs. Embury- Riddle Softball vs. St. Leo	23 B-Side Artists CCC-Darden Lounge 5pm to 8pm Softball vs. St. Leo	24 W. Tennis vs. Hills- borough	25 Softball vs. Eckerd Baseball vs. Tampa	26 Crummer Commence- ment! CONGRATU- LATIONS! Baseball vs. Tampa Softball vs. Eckerd
27 Relaxation Night CCC-Darden Lounge 6pm to 10pm	28 Housing Lottery McKean 4:30pm	29 Last Day of Classes! Softball vs. Albany Baseball @ Em- bury-Riddle	30 Open Art Show CCC-Darden 5pm to 8pm	1	2 Baseball @ Eckerd	3 Baseball @ Eckerd

The last word.

compiled by

JB

Ask me and I will play

all the love that I
hold inside.

- Simon and Garfunkel

Arthritis, rheumatism,
or migraines. Whatever
part of your body it
is, I want you to lay
it on your radio, let
the vibes flow through.
Funk not only moves,
it can remove. Dig?

- P-Funk

A politician's job they
say is very high, for
he has to choose who's
got to go and die.

- Black Sabbath

Disobedience, the rare-
est and most courageous
of the virtues, is sel-
dom distinguished from
neglect, the latest
and commonest of the
vices.

-George Bernard Shaw

You do not lead by hit-
ting people over the
head - that's assault -
not leadership.

-Dwight D. Eisenhower