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Rollins College

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# The Sandspur

WINTER PARK, FL

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Volume 114 Issue 22

April 18, 2008



New karaoke club  
a "Rising Star" at  
Universal Studios  
see page 8



Anti-China  
peace rally  
makes music  
and change  
around campus  
see page 5



## Former professor goes on hunger strike

FATEMA KERMALLI  
*the sandspur*

More than a year after his scheduled date of release, former USF professor Dr. Sami Al-Arian has been on a hunger strike for over forty days in protest of a third attempt to compel his testimony before a grand jury. The professor has already lost over thirty-four pounds and, according to the Tampa Bay Coalition for Justice and Peace, was recently placed in solitary confinement without medical monitoring despite his delicate state of health. In an attempt to raise awareness about the case, the MSA in conjunction with CAIR-FL (Council on American Islamic Relations) will be showing the film "USA vs. Al-Arian" at Rollins on April 22. The documentary will be followed by a panel discussion attended by both Al-Arian's daughter and his attorney.

Dr. Al-Arian, a Palestinian political activist, was first arrested by the FBI in February 2003 on charges of supporting the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, labeled a terrorist organization by the State Department. After two and a half years of confinement, he was acquitted of eight out of seventeen counts; on the remaining charges, the jury voted 10-2 for acquittal. The six-month trial, which had included intercepted phone calls and faxes, as well as over eighty witnesses, had not provided enough evidence for a conviction.

In his special report entitled, "Freeing Sami Al-Arian Will Help the U.S. Regain Our Higher Ground," Paul Findley wrote: "In its Dec. 19, 2005 issue, Time magazine reported that years of FBI investigation established 'no real links between Al-Arian and terrorist acts'... The evidence actually suggests strongly that Ashcroft decided, whether there was proof or not, to make Al-Arian a terrorist trophy."

Faced with the possibility of a new and unpredictable trial for the deadlocked charges, Dr. Al-Arian decided that a plea agreement would be in his best interest.

■ See Hunger Strike, page 7



DANIEL PAULING / the sandspur

**WISHES:** Alpha Tau Omega fraternity won Laps for Life after hula hooping, jumping and racing on and around Mills Lawn on April 13, 2008. Laps for Life was a charity event that raised money for the Make-A-Wish foundation.

## LAPS FOR LIFE: athletes and Greeks unite for charity

DANIEL PAULING  
*the sandspur*

Imagine hordes of college students hula hooping, jumping over hurdles, and racing scooters on a grassy lawn under foreboding skies. That was the sight on Mills Lawn as 10 teams of six students each raised more than \$2,000 for the Make-A-Wish foundation last Sunday at the third annual Laps for Life event.

Laps for Life features Rollins student-athletes and members of Greek organizations. The name came from the first year, when students raced tricycles around the gym parking lot.

"Laps for Life is a great

opportunity to highlight the charitable works of the student-athletes and Greeks on campus," said Kylene Dey, who, as president of the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, helped spur the event. Planning for the event began in November. It came about two weeks after the kick-off event of Laps for Life, which was a restaurant night at O'Boys. A total of \$937 was raised for the Make-A-Wish foundation that night.

The winning team, the Alpha Tau Omega fraternity, won gift cards worth \$200 and Rollins College sweatshirts.

"Being as this is a relatively new event in terms of the number of years it has been around, I know Laps for Life

will continue to grow and expand," Dey said. "There is even hope of combining fund-raising efforts with other schools in our conference in the future. The best part of this event is knowing that because of our donations, a dying child will be granted the opportunity to fulfill a lifelong wish."

The Make-A-Wish Foundation has been in existence since 1980. It has now helped more than 161,000 children around the world.

If you want to donate money to the Make-A-Wish Foundation through the Student Athletic Advisory Committee, contact president Kylene Dey (kdey@rollins.edu) or advisor Nate Weyant (nweyant@rollins.edu).

## SGA update: VP candidate disqualified

Student Government Association presidential candidate Keith Rands filed a formal complaint against Vice Presidential candidate Alex Winfree for violating campaign rules by sending the e-mail published to the right. As a result, Alex Winfree was disqualified on April 16. The e-mail was considered to be in violation of the rule of no campaigning during elections although fliers were allowed. The question of Facebook groups has arisen as a result, a possible infringement on the part of both presidential candidates. Winfree had no opponents for the office and was running on a dual ticket with presidential candidate Marissa Germain. New candidates for VP may be forthcoming.

From: Alexandria Winfree [Monday - April 14, 2008 8:34 PM]  
Subject: Don't Forget!!

Hey everyone!!

Just in case you haven't yet heard, today was the first day of elections for YOUR 2008-2009 Student Government Representatives! I am running (unopposed) for Vice President on a dual ticket with my dear friend and fellow student advocate, Marissa Germain as President.

How do you cast your vote, you may ask?

Go to your Rollins home page and scroll down to Foxlink, but DO NOT LOG IN. Just underneath the announcements section of the link you will see "Arts and Sciences SGA Elections begin April 14th. Click here to vote." You guessed it! Click there! Follow the instructions from there, read the profiles, and make an informed decision for the future of Rollins' student body!

The elections are scheduled to end this Wednesday, but they will continue until 40% of the campus has voted, even for VP, for which I am the only candidate. Sooooo if you want us to stop harrasing you, GO VOTE NOW!!

Thanks,  
Alex Winfree and Marissa Germain  
)

## Seven represent Rollins in Olympics

DANIEL PAULING  
*the sandspur*

In a continuation of the rich athletic history of Rollins College, seven students represented the school at the Olympics held in Athens, Ga., which featured several events from the original Olympic games, first held in 776 BC in Athens, Greece.

These students included Amy Appleman, Jeff Brooks, Morgen Culver (nicknamed Atlanta, who was a skilled javelin thrower), Dirk de Haan (Lysander, a Spartan general), Merideth Paradis, Tyler Schimmelfing (Alcibiades, an Athenian general), and Jacob Trickey (Milo, a reputed wrestler). All are members of Classics professor Dr. Mike Lippman's Greek Mythology class.

The athletes finished first six times out of 17 events. Appleman won the women's discus; Culver the women's javelin and women's pentathlon; Trickey the men's long jump and men's wrestling; and Trickey, Culver, de Haan, and Schimmelfing won the chariot race.

Their chariot was a collapsible garden-cart with three rods duct-taped together for the three "horses" to push. These were Culver, Trickey, and de Haan. Their closest competitors were from the University of Georgia, whom employed a chariot made with gold and welded together by expert mechanics for 17 hours.

The Rollins students, despite the professional chariot, were unabashed. "Seconds before the chariot race began, Zeus sent a strong wind and the sky darkened," Culver said. "Our victory was guaranteed by the gods... we didn't fear."

The strategy employed by the Rollins quartet was simple: pull ahead of the pack early and avoid collisions around the turning post. At the first turn, all but the Rollins team and the golden chariot were involved in a crash. With the golden chariot narrowing the distance at the third time around the turning post, a wheel fell off of Rollins' opponent, which caused another massive wreck. The only team that escaped the danger was the Rollins team, which won a full lap ahead of everyone else.

■ See Olympics, page 2



# Tasting Italy with Tolla's

AMY IARROBINO  
the sandspur

The quick drive down Pennsylvania Avenue to Tolla's was well worth it as we entered the dimly lit restaurant. The display case of decadent desserts immediately beckoned. Seating options included an outdoor patio and cozy indoor tables perfect for get-togethers of all sizes.

Warm, fresh bread appeared on the table as we searched the enticing menu of appetizers including savory calamari served with marinara for \$8. The calamari was unlike the somewhat spongy tasteless rings of rubber served at the run of the mill cafés. Tolla's definitely delivered with lightly breaded and tender calamari, tentacles included for the more adventurous (if you have never

tried them I highly recommend it). It took three visits from the waitress before a decision was finally made on what to order.

The menu with entrees averaging around \$15 proved too appetizing to make only one decision. Tolla's definitely merits several more visits to finally experience all it has to offer. Along with daily specials of tilapia and pasta carbonara we had a hearty serving of veal parmesan and stuffed chicken tolla.

An earlier disappointing visit to Beans included veal parmesan that seemed more like pan-fried mystery meat with out-of-the-can tomato sauce and Kraft shredded cheese. Needless to say the need for quality veal

parmesan remained unfulfilled before entering Tolla's, who saved the day with tender veal



AMY IARROBINO / the sandspur

hand breaded and covered in mozzarella and thick marinara sauce perfectly seasoned. Stuffed chicken tolla proved savory and stuffed with spinach, prosciutto and feta cheese. Both

entrées were served on a bed of pasta, without which an Italian meal would not be complete.

Besides the classic Italian dishes of lasagna, manicotti, chicken marsala and chicken piccata the selection included more casual options such as hot and cold subs and pizza. After cleaning the plate with what was left of the freshly baked rolls there was no other option but to have a taste of the desserts that caught attention from the beginning: chocolate layer cake with chocolate ganache and mousse layered between moist cake, all sprinkled with powdered sugar on a plate of drizzled syrup.

As if the feeling of satisfaction after a meal of Italian comfort food was not enough the bill came with a Rollins student discount. Tolla's was referred by other campus organizations



AMY IARROBINO / the sandspur

for their generosity to Rollins students and the owner himself welcomed me as he brought the appetizer to the table. Tolla's is not just for dining but a Rollins-friendly hang out spot for bar-goers.

## Olympics ■ Continued from page 1

Trickey, who coaches wrestling at his old high school during his winter breaks, found first place in the men's wrestling competition to be much easier. Despite both he and his opponents being doused in olive oil, keeping with Greek tradition, but also making it difficult to grab hold of each other, Trickey fell five opponents twice without falling once, managing to defeat the two opponents who eliminated fellow Rollins

students Schimmelfing and de Haan.

"My opponent [in the final match] was a massively built man, about a head taller than I was," Trickey said. "We engaged each other, but found few weaknesses in each other's style. Finally, by lowering myself, I managed to get a grip about the waist, and, stepping through, tossed my opponent over my hip, sending him to the ground."

So the Rollins 7 maintained

their integrity throughout the games. The javelin competition did not feature a true javelin, so teams hurled it like a hammer, which allowed them to achieve a better distance. The Rollins team did not resort to what Lippman describes as "cowardly tactics" and "held firm to their [Greek] belief that a victory without honor is not a real victory."

This version of the Olympic Games was developed by Lippman last spring when he taught a class at Emory

University called "Ancients at Play." The class was divided into six different categories, one of which was athletics. To experience Greek athletics, students competed in several events.

Matt Wineski, a graduate student at UGA who helped stage the event this year, invited several classes from UGA and Emory, as well as one from Rollins. In order to spur more participation from Rollins students, he extends

an invitation, and a challenge, to the Rollins campus for next year's games.

"The entire school - students, faculty, and administration -- could learn a valuable lesson from such display of character and virtue," Lippman said. "It made me immensely proud to be a teacher of such students, and I can only hope that this is what such a discipline as Classics helps promote at a liberal arts institution."

## OPINION

### Germain for SGA

KELLY MCNOLDY  
the sandspur

The candidacy of incoming seniors Marissa Germain and Alex Winfree for SGA president and vice-president exudes experience, leadership, and charisma, amongst many other positive characteristics. In Monday night's debate, Germain and opposing candidate Keith Rands spoke about their goals for SGA, varying issues on campus, and greater roles students can take in the Rollins and Winter Park community.

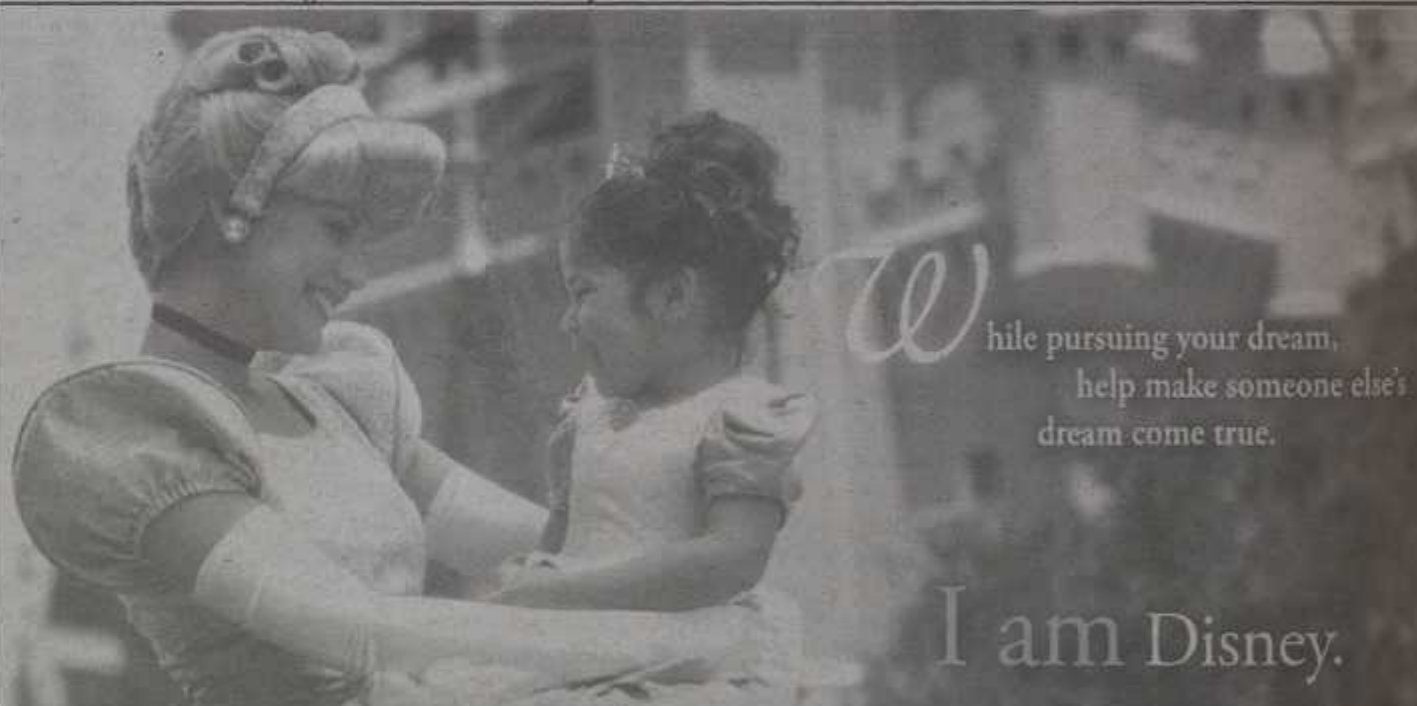
Germain's involvement in SGA for the past two years, her semester abroad, and her three years at Rollins have brought a wider stance on issues facing students today than Rands, bringing Rollins' focus back to its mission statement of "Global Citizenship and Responsible Leadership". For example, in the debate Rands focused on issues like the amount of food in Beans while Germain aims to "improve Rollins College not only internally but externally" through collaborative programs with the City of Winter Park.

Another aspect of Germain's campaign involves the students taking responsibility for the school not through a social honor code, which she opposes, but through programs that encourage students to take ownership for their campus. "This is their home and we want them to see how people treat it." She threw around ideas like commissioning a student-created mural and instating a research committee that explored issues such as student perceptions of campus ownership.

■ See SGA President, page 7

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# What is the meaning of leadership?

SHAKIRRA MEGHJEE  
the sandspur

We are indoctrinated into the cult of Success stories. Is the significance of leadership floating in photos of magnificent and imposing natural landscapes? Is it hiding in clever aphorisms? What have we really learned about leadership?

As the creator and president of the Campus Freethought Alliance at Rollins College, I have learned just a little bit about it.

The most important thing I have learned is that despite the drilling into our minds of the purported value of leadership, our interpersonal relations and society's expectations of us are premised upon mediocrity. Let's face the facts: a large portion of people in the world today are unremarkable. Many people who are provided with the privileged gift of education aspire to 40-hour work weeks and cookie-cutter homes in suburbia. They waste away, their spirits rotting in the conformity that plagues their superficial lives. What about philosophical enlightenment? What about spiritual satisfaction? To draw upon what some Rollins College students might deem a belabored phrase, what about global citizenship and responsible leadership? Awareness of the plight of others less-fortunate is something that this college goes to great lengths to exercise. Could we view it as a preemptive strike on the repulsive apathy that is so endemic to and so notoriously implicated of college students?

It is difficult to transgress across the border of your "comfort zone" into "unfamiliar territory." It is difficult to initiate starting an organization or spearheading a project, to work through administrative logistics, to design both appealing and cautious advertising campaigns, to control the damage wrought by possible critics, to cater to the needs of guest speakers, to construct captivating discussion topics, to maintain the enchantment of members during a meeting, to keep up with the mundane task of snack funding, to empathize with the suggestions of other members, etc. It might be difficult, but it's not pain-

ful. What's painful is the look on someone's face when they see you taping up audacious posters for your student group. What's painful is the discomfort that you feel when explaining to someone that you care more about, for example, your women's studies club, than you do about going out on Thursday night. What's painful is systematically displacing yourself from your peers by launching extra-ordinary endeavors and assuming the highest position within a hierarchy. What's painful is associating your name as a student, plastered on both an academic record and a social reputation, with the ideals, activities, and failures of your student group. What is utterly excruciating is working against the framework of a society that expects normalcy.

It's not worth the impressive resume; it's not worth the group advisor's sparkling future recommendation letter. It is only worth the fulfillment of your passion, the realization of your desire to fulfill a cause that you believe in. Being the leader of an [undeservedly] controversial student group, I find it especially trying. On the one hand, I feel an intellectual obligation to organize a freethought group, but at the same time, academics have always assumed the first priority in my life. The college environment is the best opportunity for me to fulfill the former goal, however, college is also the realm in which my primary goal is to exhibit intellectual prowess, not to alienate myself from my peers and predispose my professors' first-impressions of me. Contrary to popular belief, I am actually not fond of political incorrectness, the exploration of sensitive topics, or the discussion of taboo subjects. I am a human being with sensitivities and emotions and ulterior motives and desires for social acceptance, just like the person whose eyes are reading this article now. Fortunately for me, my "comfort-level" and my passionate commitment are not the same things.

It doesn't matter if you're the leader of Hillel, or Cultural Action Committee, or Film Club. It doesn't matter if you're the potential leader of a hypothetical club, the owner of an idea that is waiting patiently in your mind for you to find the courage

## THE SANDSPUR

to act upon your convictions. Breaking out of the brainwashing that equates "C" with "average" is essential for making a significant contribution to any purpose. There are so many things holding you back - academic and social commitments, desire to improve grades, not enough time, no ideas or guidance about how to proceed. But there is only one thing propelling you forward - passion. It comes down to one question: How much do you care?

Your enthusiasm will wane and wax. Every time you encounter an obstruction to your goal, you might wonder if it's worth the time and energy to surpass it. I hate to invoke a cliché - but we are our greatest inhibitors.

As we react to the necessity of breaking away from the framework of society that breeds and maintains "ordinary", we'll find ourselves hesitating at every turn. Hamlet said, "Thus conscience does make cowards of us all. And thus the native hue of resolution is sicklied o'er with the pale cast of thought..."

Be overwhelmingly sensitive to the recurrent uncertainty that will plague you. Remember what Margaret Mead said: "A small group of thoughtful people could change the world. Indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

The positive thing is that Rollins's faculty and staff are generally very encouraging and will make it easy for you to work through the process of starting an organization that might have incited a large enough amount of reluctance to stop you had it not been for their responsiveness.

Your cause is begging for your leadership, entreating you for your contribution, but is indifferent to your quiet, armchair empathy. Until you decide to do something about it, the potential suffering or ignorance or injustice you might have offset is continuing without regard to your mere awareness of the problem.

So don't be afraid of alienating yourself from the mass of unaffected, lethargic college students. It's desirable to excuse yourself from that group. Unlatch yourself from the handcuffs of mediocrity; both you and your cause will thank you for it later.

## the CAREER COACH Marian Cacciatore

### MAKING CAREER TRANSITIONS

#### Question:

I am graduating next year and am miserable in my current job. I am looking for guidance in making a change. Can you help?

Holt Senior '09

#### Answer:

Are you interested in changing jobs or do you need to make a career transition? For example, I recently worked with a student who was miserable in her HR role at a local company.....however it was just the organization that she wanted to leave - she liked HR as a career path. Since changing jobs is easier than making a career transition this column I will focus on career transition steps.

Many Hamilton Holt students have returned to school to make a career transition. Making a career transition is a process where you re-shape your career path in a new direction. Transitioning to a new career field will require you to give considerable thought to all the potential changes you may have to make in your life. For example, it is not unusual to be required to make a short term financial sacrifice when making a career transition. Sometimes it is necessary to "take a financial step" backward to move forward in the future.

As you consider what the career transition means to you, ask yourself what you want to accomplish. Is it just a new job that you want? Are you seeking a different location, greater responsibility, more work/life balance or better compensation? What is motivating you to embark on this new career path? Being clear on your motivation will help you maintain focus when the transition becomes challenging.

Did you know that Career Services provides assistance in each of these career transition milestones? If you are a Hamilton Holt students, you can email Marian at [mcacciatore@rollins.edu](mailto:mcacciatore@rollins.edu) to begin the process!

As you can imagine, there is no "one size fits all" strategy for making a career change. However, there are some basic steps that you should consider. On a daily basis, I work with Hamilton Holt students on the following Career Transition milestones:

- **Assess** - It is important to understand the knowledge, skills and abilities that you bring. It can also be helpful to complete a few career inventories and value assessments to determine what is most important to you in your next role.

- **Research** - Conducting research and talking to professionals who have experience in your targeted industry is the perfect way to continue to build your strategy. Informational interviews and networking are key components of this step.

- **Decisions** - Based on your assessment and research, you will need to make decisions on the next step of your career transition process. What gaps do you have in the necessary knowledge, skills and abilities? How will you close those gaps? Will you need to complete an internship? Are there specific classes that would be helpful?

- **Take action** - Moving past fear and taking action is key. I often serve as an "accountability partner" to break down the key milestones into achievable action steps. Milestones might include completing an internship, joining a related professional organization etc.

- **Evaluate** - After each milestone it is important to evaluate your progress. What is working? What adjustments do you need to make. Are you on the right path to achieve your career transition destination?

# Campus Freethought Alliance free to question everything

OLAJUWON AJAYI  
the sandspur

It is the end of the school year and while many of us had every intention of getting involved with campus activities, we just never got around to making it happen. While the spring semester is coming to an end, there is always next year to look forward to. From Alpha Omicron Pi to Ultimate Frisbee, there is a group for everyone on campus. If students happen to be looking for an alternative to joining a Greek organization and the mere thought of engaging in actual exercise is tiring, they may want to look into the

Campus Freethought Alliance (no rushing or exercising required).

CFA is an organization on campus that is all about scientific inquiry and the defense of reason and skepticism. The group meets every Wednesday in the Reeves Lodge and discusses everything from Holistic Healing to Psychology.

Growing up, Shakirra Meghjee, president of CFA, says she remembers being able to point out inconsistencies in superstitious beliefs and thinking it did not make sense. So when the freshman started attending Rollins last fall, she was looking for a group on campus that shared her love of

skepticism... only to find out it did not exist. Instead of giving up her beliefs and opting to join another group, Meghjee saw a need for an organization that allowed students to meet and ask the questions everyone else was too scared to ask. By September the philosophy major, along with vice president Morgan Frost, had started conducting meetings.

So what can students expect when they attend a CFA meeting? In addition to free food and drinks they can expect a lot of animated discussions on every hot topic under the sun and fear not; students do not have to worry about being judged because of their religion

or lack thereof. Contrary to popular belief, the organization is not made up of radical atheists who want to burn bibles. "CFA believes in questioning the validity of everything," stated Meghjee, but she is quick to insist the group is not "centered on religious skepticism." In fact, the Meghjee said people of all faiths attend the weekly meetings. So whether a student believes in God, fantasy baseball or nothing at all, everyone is welcome.

When it comes down to it, we are meant to ask questions. It's kind of why we go to school. CFA just wants to take the controversy out of being skeptical. Raised Muslim,

Meghjee makes it clear that she is not the kind of person who would criticize someone for their beliefs.

"Everyone has the right to believe the way they want to believe. I'm a complete advocate of that." She says adding, "Religion is a slice of skepticism and it is not exempt from analysis. We don't criticize it more than anything else. We examine hot button issues from a critical standpoint. Religion just isn't excused from that. Instead, it is granted the same level of analytical criticism. Skepticism looks at both sides before making a decision. This is the way CFA believes all people should think."



# Stop and Stare at OneRepublic this Sunday

MORGAN FROST  
the sandspur

This Sunday, April 20, Rollins College hosts what you have all been waiting for: The CROCS NEXT STEP CAMPUS TOUR featuring OneRepublic and Fabolous. It is an event with unprecedented status, brought to you by none other than ACE—Rollins' All Campus Events. Director of ACE Jenn Pichelman and the ACE executive board have been working around the clock to bring you this off-the-hook entertainment. "Rollins has no idea what is coming. I hope the students are ready for something this big!" said Pichelman.

How did ACE set up an event of this magnitude? Back in October members of ACE attended the southern NACA convention (National Association for Campus Activities). There they hooked up with a Concert Ideas Committee who set them up with this incredible opportunity to the CROCS NEXT STEP CAMPUS TOUR and next thing you know ACE is planning for a full-out concert featuring world-renowned top musical performers here on the Rollins Campus.

Performing live are top artists OneRepublic and Fabolous. OneRepublic is an American alternative rock/R&B band from Colorado. They have been on the top of charts with hits "Apologize" and "Stop and Stare." American rapper Fabolous is from New York City and his most famous songs include "Make Me Better" and "Baby Don't Go."

The CROCS NEXT STEP CAMPUS TOUR will be touring 15 different schools in the Eastern United States. The tour started April 10 at Florida International University in Miami, Fla. It will hit Rollins College as its seventh stop and ends May 3 at the University of Albany in New York.

Each school holds a battle of the bands competition for the chance to open the show. The winners at Rollins College are The Thought Doctors—a rock, reggae, singularity band including members of the '09 class David Gordon, Eric Bindler, Dave Pandlich, and Brian McShaffry.

So what exactly is going down this Sunday? Starting at 4:00pm the tent village opens outside of the Alfond Sports Center. Hit it up for some awesome promotions, giveaways, and activities put on by sponsors. Campus Tour T-shirts designed by Amy Iarrobino will be given out to lucky students. Food will also be available so bring your R-Card or cash for burgers, hotdogs, pretzels, drinks, and more! The doors to the gym will open at 5:00pm and the show begins at 6:00pm.

ACE Marketing Manager Rachel Almengual sums it all up—"It's going to be bad-ass!" So don't forget your tickets, some cash, your camera phone, and your obsession with OneRepublic and Fabolous this Sunday to the amazing Rollins College CROCS NEXT STEP CAMPUS TOUR!

Information Courtesy of: <http://www.nextstepcampustour.com/Tour/sponsors.htm>

# Death row convict receives a new trial

JOSE FERRER  
USF

DemocracyNow.org reported on March 28 a federal appeals court rejected to overthrow the conviction of, and call for a new trial of award-winning journalist, author, activist and revolutionary, Mumia Abu-Jamal, the day before.

The court did, however, order a new trial on whether or not there was racism in his case, but he may also have a new trial for whether he should get the death penalty or not again if the state appeals. The only thing that has changed in this real, although inadequate, victory were the words "death row" being removed from his sentence to be shackled indefinitely in a prison. His case is one that has attracted much attention because of the overt and covert racism and corruption involved in it, as well as the award-winning

journalist's politics.

Mumia has spent the past 26 years on death row, from a 1982 conviction of killing a police officer. The trial has been repeatedly acknowledged as racist and corrupt by some politicians, many intellectuals, and a wealth of celebrities. However, recent court rulings have now stated that the removal of jurors for the color of their skin is unconstitutional.

Mumia's lawyer, Robert Bryan, told DemocracyNow.org that one of the three ruling judges in this recent decision wrote a 41 page dissent on how there was institutional racism involved in his case, including, but not limited to removing people of color from the jury seats.

A judicially recognized pattern of this practice went on during the time of Mumia's trial. His lawyer added that the Supreme Court voted in favor

(7-2) of upholding a decision in another case that removing even one person from the jury because of the color of their skin is unconstitutional. He said that nearly 70% of the jury members removed in Mumia's case had been African-American, a population that made up 40-45% of the population in his district at that time, and not all of that population was eligible for jury duty. This difference between representation and population makes it obvious that his trial was anything but a jury of his peers, and the fact that he was an active community organizer for human rights and dignity was not looked on kindly by the racist culture surrounding him.

Mumia is very critical of abuse of power, racism, and class society in his writings and commentaries, as well as he was in his actions before his incarceration. He was a member of the Black Panther Party, got

involved in numerous student and community organizations, worked in journalism, and earned the nick-name "voice of the voiceless" for his commitment to reporting the human side of stories.

Currently, he releases radio commentaries as part of Prison Radio reporting on world events, sharing insights into history, and planting seeds of wisdom and courage in the minds of countless readers and listeners. He has authored five books, the most well-known being We Want Freedom: A Life in the Black Panther Party and Live From Death Row.

His criticism of topics ranging from the Iraq War to trade agreements to gender discrimination is one reason why his case has attracted so much attention. There has been speculation that it is his politics that are behind the reason his case has been treated so

mercilessly.

The federal appeals court decision March 27 may be used as a reference case to help make some progress in the trials of people in similar situations; however, general law states that Mumia and all other prisoners, political or apathetic, deserve a fair trial on guilt or innocence. Allevienced should be presented in plain view, no one should be barred or intimidated into not testifying, the jury should be composed of a group that is truly representative of the population, as well as all the other ideals that should be present in a system that is supposed to serve a society whose goal is an order where freedom and justice are not separate and independent, but complimentary and interchangeable. It is not only unconstitutional that he is denied a fair trial—it is an insult to the ideals that embody American citizens.



# Global citizenship for the iGeneration

CHANTEL TATTOLI  
the sandspur

In the 1980s American flower children came down from their last collective highs and trips and were reduced to a stereotype and became one more option for trick-or-treaters.

In the same decade Americans sold out to The Man, crocheted halter tops were succeeded by jackets with puffy three-quarters sleeves, and Reaganomics killed any residual Peace, Love and Happiness. Tie-dye lost its radical philosophy and became just another outdated pattern. People retired the abbreviation "Nam" from their speech, they said Vietnam instead, and it lost its emotive sting.

The MTV Generation (that's us) were born while America contemplated the Evil Empire. We grew up while the US went to the Gulf. It was the 90s and Nirvana encapsulated our motto in their line, "Here we are now, entertain us." If only Kurt Cobain could see infotainment

and reality TV now.

This year's freshman class at Rollins was the last of the 80s babies. We are the Great-great Grand Generation after the original Baby Boomers. It is 2008 and we are living in the iGen. Welcome to modernity and hyper-pluralism when you can find: Antonio Vivaldi, Angels and Airwaves, and the soundtrack to Avenue Q on the same iPod, Google the etymology of "serendipity", watch footage of the elusive snow leopard, Tivo an Asian soap opera, browse YouTube, tweak your Facebook profile, endorse a female or a black presidential candidate, diagnose and medicate Restless Leg Syndrome, subscribe to a honed interest-specific periodical, study abroad in six of the seven continents, eat non-indigenous seasonal fruits all-year-around, contemplate the ecological demise of our planet, or repudiate the recession of ice caps and glaciers—Antartica—as pinko spin.



Here we are now, receiving an elitist education—what do we want to be? Are we going to be: conscientious consumers, volunteers, hawks, doves, dissidents, activists, global citizens? The term "global citizens" enjoys especial limelight as the premier buzz word in the Rollins' Mission Statement, and while I truly hope it is not just lip service, I am admittedly very cynical.

We are privy to increasingly unprecedented amounts of information, but how many among us make the cut as internationally and

cross-culturally erudite? Furthermore, what proportion of us goes the extra mile, mining for the unpopular information that is surreptitiously barred from and classified above us, lest we dare object? Do we read, probe, vote, protest? Or do we apathetically go with the flow, due either to laziness or helplessness or some noxious synergy of both?

Here's the salient heart of the matter, if we are going to run the world we gained through inheritance, we better shape up. A devastating and ever-expanding laundry list indicates that the world is going to hell in a hand-basket: Global Warming, AIDS, shrinking aquifers, endocrine disruptors, disease clusters, antibiotic resistance, loss of species diversity, waning rain-forests and coral reefs, genocide, rampant disparity between the have's and have-not's, runaway land fills, bigger nuclear arsenals, et cetera.

Polemics or no polemics, in the last 200 years of the *Homo homo sapiens* 100,000 year

existence, our species has single-handedly begun to irreparably subvert the macro-ecological processes of an entire planet. It's a nauseating predicament and enough to make anyone opiate their life or cover their ears and tune out.

The shit has already hit the fan, and at the risk of beating a dead horse, being flagrantly didactic, or just plain bossy—we cannot afford to be debauchers all the live-long day. We must commit to sustainable, globally savvy lifestyles because we are in a position to either help make or (further) break the world. And those among us who somehow persist as skeptics, volleying dismissive, disparaging labels like "tree huggers," pullers of fire alarms, fear-mongers, leftists, and "bleeding hearts" (as if the informed masses were a drama queen writ large)—this is not about something as stale as partisanship. The consequence of resigning ourselves to current trends and defaults is inevitably a spiraling downfall—the end of life on Earth as we now know it. The future is contingent on us, so DO SOMETHING!

## Students Protest for a free Tibet

EVAN MASCAGNI  
the sandspur

We were frustrated by the vague and contradicting connotations associated with term "global citizenship", as put forth and incorporated into the goals of a Rollins College liberal arts education. What does it truly mean to be a "global citizen"? In a world where technology has broken down the barriers of socio-political inclusion, the global impact of our actions (as a society, as a nation, as "global citizens" at Rollins College) has great importance for the future.

The US, as a state under dueling capitalist and democratic ideologies, plays a pivotal role

in demonstrating a separation from our past (and some may say present) exploitive policies through foreign and domestic policy.

We are protesting against the panel "Doing Business in China in the 21st Century" on the grounds of China's restriction of basic liberties and human rights, and on the ambiguity associated with both China's and the United State's compliance (or lack thereof) with minimum labor standards and China's reformed labor laws.

As individuals we have the ability to assert our opinions regarding this school sponsored event, and as a community we should support an open and

positive discourse reflecting the diverse attitudes on our campus. We feel that it is our "social responsibility" to be active and promote awareness of alternative public perspectives regarding corporate ties with China and their accordance with international human rights laws.

We feel as though much of our nation and the majority of our campus are politically apathetic to current state of world and national affairs. Knowledge of the atrocities both the US and China commit on a daily basis regarding the infringement of human

and labor rights is acknowledge in the courses we take here at Rollins, in the mainstream media and in our everyday actions as consumers. Yet, the gap between knowledge and action persists and widens as a result of the apathetic and self-absorbed sentiments that plague this campus.

As Ed Royce, the Sociology Department Chair and Professor of Rollins College, has said,

"Cynicism is the guilty conscious of political apathy." We hope that through our actions we may be able to spread greater awareness and foster a sense of urgency of international affairs. The oppression of Tibet is only the tip of the iceberg; people should be angry that presently human beings are being exploited and oppressed daily in Asia, Africa, the Middle East, Europe and in the Americas.

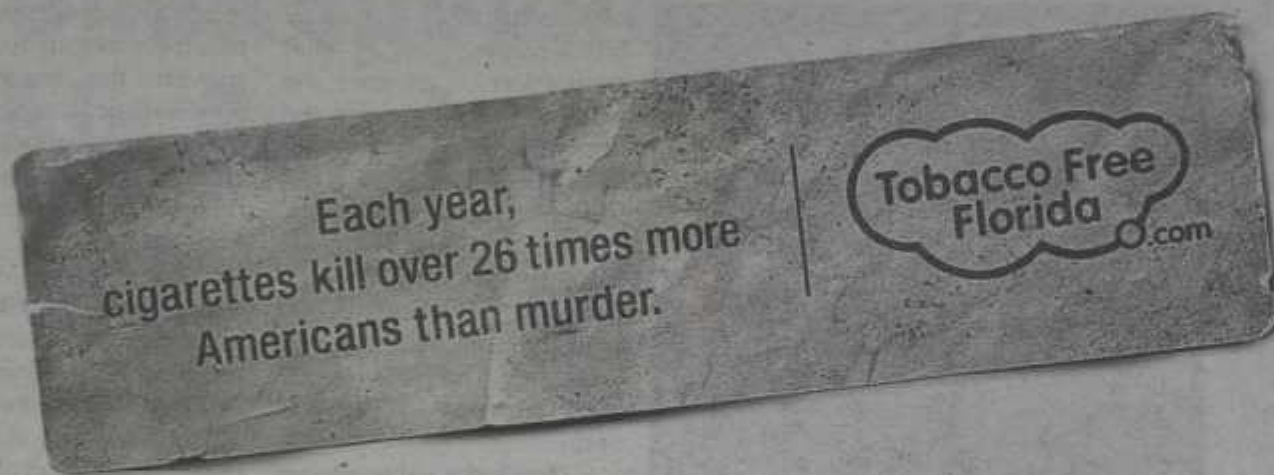


JUSTIN BRAUN/ the sandspur

**PEACE, LOVE AND ROCK & ROLL:** Students peacefully gather outside of the Bush Executive Center to protest the Chinese panel hosted by Rollins. Students held up colorful signs and played reggae music to draw attention to their cause.







Door locks won't work. Mace won't help. So, how do you fend off the nation's deadliest killer? Simple, don't smoke. By leading to lung cancer, heart disease and countless other ailments, smoking kills 438,000 smokers each year. If you never light up, you'll never be one of them. And if you'd like to save someone else, tell them to visit [tobaccofreeflorida.com](http://tobaccofreeflorida.com) or call the Quitline at 1-877-U-CAN-NOW for free cessation aids like patches, gum and lozenges while supplies last.



Editor@thesandspur.org

wants students to feel like their voices are being heard and wants to establish more community involvement and interrelations. She wants students to become more active on campus and feel like they actually own Rollins and can do things to change it for the better.

All students and community members are invited to attend the screening on April 22 of the award-winning film "USA vs. Al-Arian," which documents the Al-Arian family's desperate attempt to fight the terrorism charges leveled against them. The event, open to the public, will begin at 7 pm in the Bush Auditorium and will be followed by a panel discussion with his daughter, Laila Al-Arian, his attorney, Linda Moreno, and civil rights activist Ahmed Bedier.

# VALENCIA



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# Postseason Nuggets of Knowledge

**DANNY TRAVIS**  
sports editor

With warm weather comes the beginning of the NHL and NBA playoffs, an exciting time for all types of sports fan. The ensuing nuggets will guide you through this intense and draining time, especially if your team is involved.

1. In the Eastern Conference of the NHL, the most anticipated series has been the Philadelphia Flyers and the Washington Capitals. The three seed Washington and the five seed Philadelphia have made an incredible series out of two games, as the bad blood between the two teams has been boiling over. Game one featured the playoff debut of Capitals phenom Alexandr Ovechkin, but the Flyers physical play kept the 22 year old from making much noise until he scored the game winning goal. Marty Biron lay the pipe down on the Caps attack, recording his first postseason shutout in his second postseason game. In game three, Danny Briere showed us just how cold the ice is that runs through his veins with his remarkable accuracy scoring two goals and recording an assist. Ovechkin seems youthfully frustrated, which may doom the Capitals. The Canadiens will have no trouble with Bruins just as the Penguins will easily advance over the

Senators.

2. In the Western Conference, the matchups are highly competitive with two of the series split. The San Jose Sharks have tied up the Calgary Flames and the series will more than likely go to seven games, with the Flames taking advantage of the home ice and advancing. The Nashville Predators are giving the number 1 seed Detroit Red Wings an unexpected run for their money. Jordin Tootoo, an Inuit, has delivered along with Martin Erat. At least Nashville has filled the seats, their fans are notoriously dumb and uninterested (me).

3. Everyone loves when the NBA playoff picture starts shaping up because it makes for countless constructions of seeding situations. The best possible matchups in the Western Conference would be the Suns versus the Spurs and the Lakers versus the Nuggets. The best possible matchup in the Eastern Conference is Gilbert Arenas and the Washington Wizards versus LeBron James and the Cleveland Cavaliers. Gilbert Arenas has called out LeBron already, and the man of the people is poised to take down King James.

4. The Orlando Magic are surging into the Playoff, and Dwight Howard is leading our hometown team confidently, and they should be prepared to take on the Toronto Raptors in the First round of the playoffs.

Hedo Turkoglu is key to Magic postseason success and his production is where it needs to be. Hopefully, the Magic will break their recent postseason drought and advance.

5. If you watched the Los Angeles Lakers in their glory day, you may want to tune into the All Kobe All the Time show. With Kobe on his game, the star vehicle that is the NBA Playoffs will be amazing fun. Kevin Garnett in a Boston Celtics jersey, New Orleans basketball savior and MVP candidate Chris Paul should be producing highlight reel material through June. The Dallas Mavericks and the Phoenix Suns have become accustomed to sitting atop the bracket in the West, but they both suffered early exits last year. Both are successful playoff teams, and their place at the bottom of the bracket should make for great matchups in the West.

6. The Detroit Tigers early season ineptitude has surprised many, on paper they look like a great team, but lately everything has gone wrong. Curtis Granderson's return may reinvigorate the lineup, But the Detroit faithful may just have to accept that they can't possibly live up to pre season standards. Also, I'm just not ready to live in a world where the Arizona Diamondbacks are a dominant force. This is the beginning of the season, and all of this really means nothing.

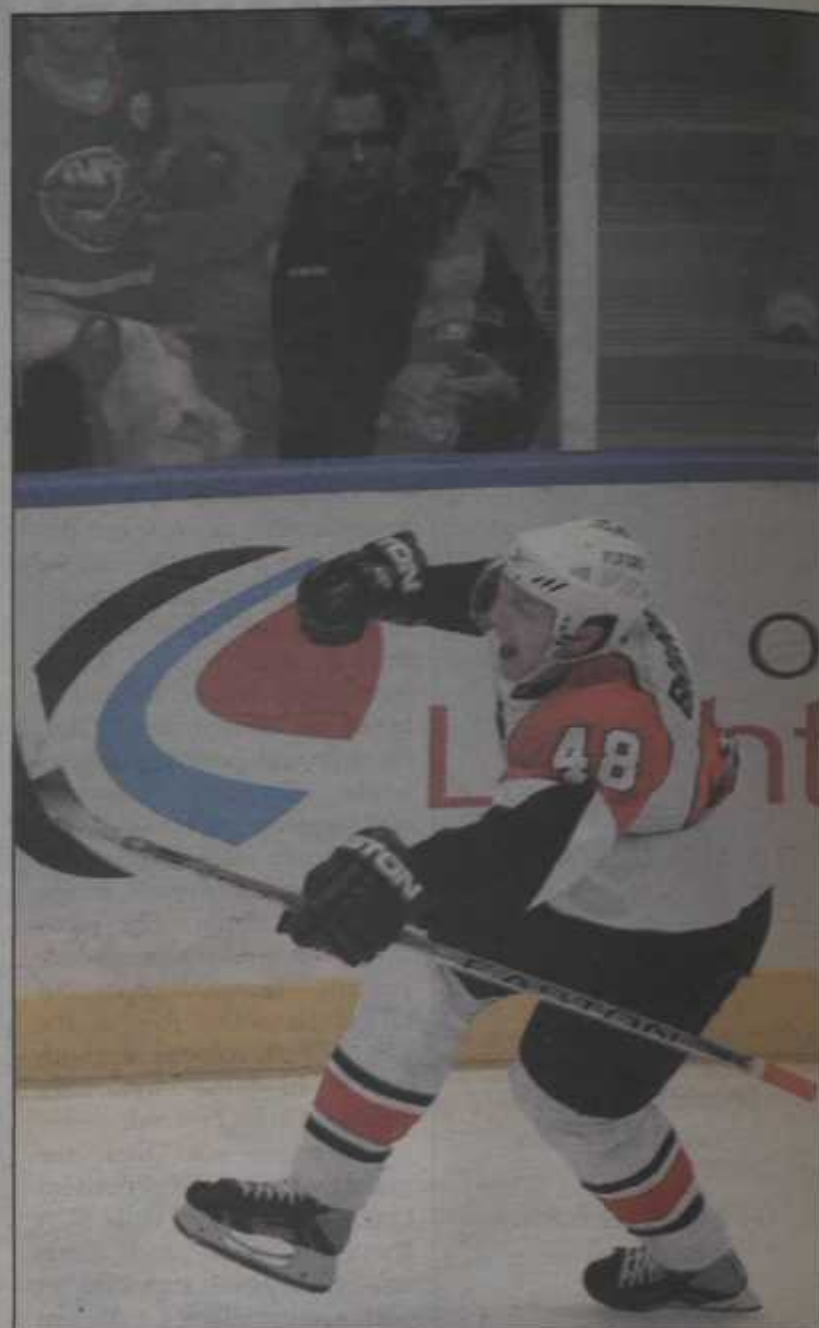


PHOTO COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

**TIME TO FLY:** Danny Briere, the undersized center for the Philadelphia Flyers, is playing with a laser sight on his stick. Briere has sniped four goals past Capitals' goalie Cristobal Huet.

## Karaoke a hit at Universal Citywalk's Rising Star

**JB BRAUN**  
the sandspur

There is nothing more horrifying than karaoke. The seemingly innocent act of glorified torture, which is often utilized in third-world prisons, can be both wildly entertaining and nauseating for audience members. The very thought of participation in such self-induced public humiliation is enough to send one into a fit of uncontrollable convulsions. However, with the right combination of alcohol and peer pressure, even those of strongest resolve will mount the stage of social suicide to be forever known as the guy who forgot the words and went irrecoverably out of tune halfway through Mambo Number 5.

An overwhelming fear of public displays of musicality can stamp out the rock and roll dreams of any aspiring artist. Yet a new ray of hope now shines brightly for those trapped in the dark, fortuneless world, devoid of song and fame. The debut of Universal CityWalk's Rising Star nightclub provides the perfect atmosphere for pop idol training. Formerly City



JB BRAUN / the sandspur

**IN TUNE AND ON TEMPO:** Citwalk's Rising Star Karaoke provided a wide range of no-talent diva wannabes and karaoke superstars.

Jazz, the new club started as a concept the end of last year. The idea was simple: everybody likes karaoke.

"Our goal was to take something accessible and make it unique," explained Michael Roddy, Director of Universal's Show Development & Entertainment. A brainchild of Michael's, Rising Star gives karaoke artists a truly authentic stage performance experience. After being introduced by a rockin' emcee, performing guests are placed center-stage, fronting a tight house band, complete with back-up singers. Amateurs will not be

able to find as genuine a taste of superstardom at any other venue.

Even before gaining entrance, guests are greeted as VIPs, passing through a velvet rope partition and following the red carpet to the front door from which the thump of bass can be felt reverberating. After paying a reasonable cover, one is instantly transported to rock and roll heaven, seated by an attractive hostess in a slinky black dress at a one of the many table in the spacious, tapestry-clad, two-story room. While perusing carelessly through the menu, glancing through an

array of gourmet finger-foods and exotically named cocktails, one comes across something unusual; items that are not edible. Each menu contains an ever-growing list of over 80 songs from every genre. Atypical order might go something like: "Yes, I'll take an "Open Mic-Tini," the cheeseburger sliders, and one Ice Ice Baby for 2."

Once an order is placed, one has just enough time to consume a sufficient amount "Liquid Courage," one of the clubs signature drinks, to bear the discomfort of sitting through the cracking voices of the diva wannabes before taking the ultimate onstage plunge. "I respect them for getting up on stage," said Brittany Bradley, a drunken attendee.

Weak performers should not have fear, as the presence of the live band adds an air of confidence and professionalism to any performance. The band members, all of which are local, rehearsed for weeks prior to the club opening to master a style of support, by helping out the struggling and rocking out with the talented. Rising Star puts the seemingly unattainable world of rock stardom at the casual club-goers' finger tips.

The last word.

compiled by  
Danny Travis

"You can discover more about a person in an hour of play than in a year of conversation."

-Plato

"Mr. Spock, the women on your planet are logical. That's the only planet in the galaxy that can make that claim."

-Captain Kirk

"Somebody call the police! There's a pants thief on the loose!"

-Spongebob

"I don't even need a G-Pass. I'm past that. I'm passin' em out now and you can't have that"

-Lil Wayne