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# The Sandspur

WINTER PARK, FL

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PHOTO COURTESY OF ROLLINS EXPLORATIONS

**BACK IN THE DAY:** Class of 2008 as first-years pose outside the campus center during orientation 2004.

## Poet Billy Collins to speak at graduation

CAROLINE  
SCHNEIDER  
*the sandspur*

This year's commencement speaker at Rollins promises to deliver an inspirational and thought-provoking address. Often compared to Robert Frost, Billy Collins has marked his illustrious career by deviating away from such set forms of poetry as the sonnet and the villanelle. He is a poet for the masses, preferring a readable quality to an indeterminable one. Collins has described his poetry as "hospitable." He acknowledges that his poems start out simply and travel into more complex terrain.

Billy Collins has been awarded fellowships by the New York Foundation for the Arts, the National Endowment for the Arts, and the John Simon Guggenheim Foundation. As a favorite of Poetry magazine, Collins has been awarded several prizes in recognition of his achievements. The magazine also selected him as "Poet of the Year" in 1994. In 2005, he was the first annual recipient of the Mark Twain Prize for Humor in Poetry, bestowed by the Poetry Foundation.

Many readers have noted Collins's unusual popularity. Some poets and reviewers criticize Collins for being too easily understood. Collins himself has spoken out against obtuse constructions and over-

interpretation of poems. Those critical of his poetry believe that if a poem can be read and understood by any individual, it certainly is not a quality poem. To be high art, they believe, a poem must reserve some part of itself to the privileged few, something Collins's work does not do.

Conversely, a number of respected journals have reviewed Collins's work far more favorably. According to Entertainment Weekly, "Billy Collins is a modern-day Robert Frost. In plain language free from pretension, he takes ordinary subjects (summer-camp crafts, time zones), and plunders their insides until the inner mystery pops out."

As Poet Laureate of the

United States (2001-2003), Collins had the unique privilege of reading his poignant piece "The Names" as a response to the 9/11 tragedy at a special joint session of the U.S. Congress in September of the following year. After his terms as Poet Laureate of the United States ended, Collins served as Poet Laureate for his home state of New York from 2004 to 2006.

During this time, Collins published a collection of poems entitled Poetry 180, a collection of 180 poems (one for each day of the typical school year) that he considers appropriate poetry

with which to introduce high schoolers to the form. Collins is in the center of the movement to re-popularize poetry among adolescent readers.

He believes that exposing young people to a clear, meaningful, contemporary style of poetry will interest them in poetry and help them see that it is not boring or inaccessible.

As the graduating class of 2008 waits for each name to be called, it is with pride and interest that Rollins College welcomes such an illustrious speaker.



## Unity Fest brings students together

AKIN RITCHIE / the sandspur

**DIVERSITY:** Office of Multicultural Affairs promoted diversity with food from different cultures and live performances. Students learned new skills from archery to salsa dancing and completed a banner.





## OPINION

# Truth about the Tibetan controversy

AILEEN STRATFORD  
*the sandspur*

After reading last week's article regarding the protest for Tibet in *The Sandspur*, it became clear to me that many individuals involved in the event had little outside knowledge beyond that relating to the protest. The protestors' argument proved to be one-sided in support of Tibet, without taking into consideration the violence that Tibetans are engaging in towards the ethnic Han Chinese in Lhasa, Tibet's capital. Furthermore, why was the protest on human rights in Tibet being aimed towards a panel discussion pertaining to doing business in the 1.3 billion large Chinese market?

The protestors would be surprised to know how often activists, big firms, and China's government are in agreement about the importance of human rights, and how they are working together to improve conditions. In fact, it is often thought that foreign firms entering troublesome markets, such as China, greatly improve the country's circumstances due to the policies they implement in order to uphold certain standards that are required in their mother countries. Additionally, foreign firms' entrance into China brings about greater economic prosperity for the country, which in return improves ethical problems that are associated with underdeveloped countries. For instance, Nelson Mandela later thanked some of the multinational corporations that defied sanctions and stayed

in South Africa to do what they could to help bring about change. Hence, foreign firms' entry into China can prove to be a strong force to bring about change if used effectively. Therefore, the information presented by the five speakers at the panel discussion on April 16<sup>th</sup> would have been a useful tool in educating the protestors on how foreign companies bring about positive change to China's environment.

Since the protestors were absent during the panel discussion, I would find pleasure in informing them on the key points made during the various presentations. The first speaker, Rebecca Karnak, representing the U.S. Department of Commerce in Orlando, emphasized the opportunities immediately available to foreign companies after China's accession to certain economic reforms, such as Deng Xiaoping's opening of China to outsiders. Expanding on Karnak's ideas was Ken Wright, an attorney of Baker and Hostetler, who offered information on China's investment climate. Particularly, he voiced China's increased opening of its borders to foreign investment, due to the country's decision to join the World Trade Organization (WTO) in 2001. Both Karnak and Wright proposed how economic reform leads to increased foreign direct investment, which boosts the development of the economy and results in improvement of issues tainting China's reputation, such as human rights.

The third speaker,

James Sun, a native Chinese from the Renmin University of China, offered an insightful presentation on how certain aspects of Chinese culture can influence China's habitual environment. According to Sun, one must realize the importance Chinese place on the principal of "guanxi" (maintaining personal relationships) and saving face in order to understand the motives behind certain actions. For example, harsh foreign criticism towards the policies of the Chinese government reflects poorly on the Chinese, causing the government and individuals to unite in order to protect themselves and their country from losing face. Thus, when China is put to shame, the concept of "guanxi" and saving face is first acted upon before the consideration of ethics. However, increased Western influence could transform the Chinese mentality of "guanxi" and saving face, resulting in the Chinese culture's gradual understanding of the immoral implications of the abuse of human rights. The two concluding speakers, Richard Wang from the Rosen College of Hospitality Management and Christoph Lattemann from Potsdam University, offered additional evidence on how foreign direct investment is directly related to the development and increased civilization of China's socioeconomic status.

As a result, the protestors on Tibet's behalf should consider the strong impact foreign firms can have in improving the human rights issue in China.

## Graduates prepare for promising careers

G. KEITH EVANS  
*the sandspur*

When you attend a college the caliber of Rollins, it is reasonable to expect doors to open upon graduation. For Rollins students, the doors that open are often quite impressive.

According to the Rollins Career Services website, 65% of Rollins students gain full-time employment immediately upon graduation. A full 30% continue on to attend graduate-level courses. With numbers like these, it seems almost an understatement to say that Rollins graduates have their choice of opportunities.

Some, such as adjunct professor Stephen Fussell, not only go on to a profession in their field but also come back to teach. Employed full time at Siemens, Fussell spends at least one evening each week at his alma mater teaching subjects

he loves, such as Computer Mediated Communication. Several other Rollins professors and adjunct faculty also graduated from the same school where they now teach.

Many Rollins graduates pursue a career in business, and have excellent credentials backing them up when interviewing for positions. It's no secret that Rollins is a renowned business school; *Forbes* has ranked the Rollins business program number one in Florida while *US News and World Report* has placed the Crummer Graduate School of Business at the top of the list of business schools in the South for several years in a row.

Mark Weeks, manager of Managed Network Services at Sprint, is a 2003 Crummer School of Business graduate. During his years at Rollins and immediately after graduation, Mark managed a mid-sized

group of technicians within the company. Since graduating from Rollins, he says, he has "held four different leadership roles in various organizations within Sprint." Without a doubt, when you graduate from the number one business school in the South, employers take notice.

Some students claim to have been actively recruited just because they did well in the demanding programs offered by Rollins. Others were more likely to seek out jobs on their own. For these students, the office of Career Services offers assistance. Going above the typical advice of keeping an active eye on job search websites such as CareerBuilder and Monster.com, Career Services offers a full blown boot camp for finding a job. With advice on job search methods and resources, rejection letters and job offers, long distance job searching and job hunting online, the office's

# Fabulous: not so "Fab"

DANNY TRAVIS  
*the sandspur*

If I'm going to be some sort of "journalist" when I grow up, then Fabolous will have to start being more punctual. I have better things to do than sit around and wait for someone who was once a minor player in an industry in dire need of an adderall.

Fabulous, a rapper who you may have heard of, has put out hits such as "Can't Deny it" and "Breathe". Since his music was relevant in the age of misspelling your name and not just adding "Lil" or "Young" to your name, it just felt right for him to be opening up for a one hit wonder whose hit has already faded.

The task of interviewing Fabolous fell to me, in hopes that the publication might create interest for the Crocs Concert Tour that came to Rollins on April 20<sup>th</sup>. I was contacted by Fabolous's people to set up an interview time. They also reassured me that they were cool by using "Fab" as an abbreviation. Nevertheless, I was to interview Fab by phone on a given date and time.

I admit, I was a Fab fan, but it has been a long time since his name showed up on my iPod. His lyrical flow is impressive and his rhymes were credible, but he slipped into churning out music that didn't quite make it into the club or onto the TRL countdown. His most recent efforts have been... well they haven't quite made it into my ears.

Fab and his people stood me up. Not once, but multiple times I was called and told that Fab had something better to do than be interviewed by me. I was insulted.

I was determined to interview Fab, but I also live by set of strict principles which do not tolerate lateness or liars. The next time I was called by Fab for

an interview, I stood him up. We were even.

Now that I had the upper hand, I was over it. Fab was out of my system and out of my life. Then, through a series of connections, the opportunity arose to interview and meet him in person after the concert for the Sandspur and RTV.

The well attended concert impressed me even though I was transported back to middle school gym dances due to the setting. He played his old hits and even remixed some new beats such as "Pop Bottles" and "Umma Do Me". During the show Florida-based rapper DJ Khaled made a special appearance, despite the fact that he probably had better things to do as he has had chart topping hits in the recent past.

After waiting an hour for Fab to have some sort of "meeting" in his tour bus, I grew impatient backstage. I could only imagine the exciting resolutions and career decisions being made in a tour bus meeting on 4-20. He finally arrived and the local news affiliate interviewing him before me promptly pissed him off by asking to "do a little rap".

After the interview, I came away with almost no information regarding him or his music and just a cool video of me interviewing Fabolous. Maybe this career path and I need to end our relationship, but how could I ever break up with someone that is so accepting of sitting around and doing nothing.



services are far-reaching and comprehensive.

They also offer helpful advice on easing into a career straight out of college. Some of their advice is simple, common knowledge information: "Arrive early to work," and "Never work on personal affairs on company time." Other suggestions go a step further to ensure Rollins grads are ideal employees. "Observe the manner in which people communicate in the organization," one entry on the office's website reads, "These observations will help you understand the standards of acceptable behavior for your organization."

For graduates such as Neila Wilson, another former Crummer business student, advice such as that doled out by Career Services is priceless. Wilson holds an MBA from Rollins and the impressive title of "Manager of Network

Engineering" at EMBARQ Corporation.

No matter how a former student chooses to look for a job, simply having a degree from Rollins College is an impressive credential every Rollins graduate has to offer. The education experience at Rollins has been nationally recognized for excellence, and employers recognize the achievement of completing a Rollins degree. For Mark Weeks, graduating from Rollins was more than a great career boost; it was a life-altering event. "My education at Rollins definitely helped me grow in ways I would have never expected," he said. "My responsibility grew tremendously after graduation, which has led to a number of different leadership opportunities."

Certainly, Rollins graduates have effectively exchanged the years of study, research and



# Toxins sprayed over Winter Park

ADAM ABRAMS  
the sandspur

Recently, students at a Rollins College have spotted numerous high altitude aircrafts spraying thick white trails over campus and Winter Park. According to these students, the trails are sprayed in the Orlando area regularly. These trails have in fact been identified as "chemtrails" (chemical trails).

Chemtrails are not contrails. Contrails emitted from commercial aircraft dissipate over the span of a few seconds to a few minutes.

Chemtrails are sprayed into the clouds by the Department of Energy, the Air Force and the Military in the U.S. and by other governments around the world, for unknown reasons. The most popular theories on the purpose of chemtrails are biological testing, weather manipulation through the HAARP program and believe it or not, population control (depopulation).

Numerous tests on rainwater collected after chemtrail spraying has revealed that the trails contain an alarming number of toxic aerosols hazardous to our health. These toxins in-

clude barium oxide, aluminum phosphate, molds, gold, silver and pesticides; all of which are inhaled by the populace once sprayed into the atmosphere.

According to my Orlando sources, the chemtrail spray operations have been going on in the

Orlando and Central Florida areas for at least seven years. The last few

years have been especially heavy. The government and most media outlets deny that chemtrails exist; they insist that we are only seeing normal contrails. What they say is far from the truth however.

In 2001 Congressman Dennis Kucinich introduced the Space Preservation Act of 2001 (House Bill HR 2977) that seeks to ban the testing of exotic weapons in space and over the U.S. The bill specifically

cited "chemtrails", but the word "chemtrail" was removed in a later version of the bill.

In April of 2002, the British government released a report on biological weapons testing between 1940 and 1979. These reports revealed that the British

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bill entitled "Weather Modification Research and Development Policy Authorization Act of 2005" was proposed in the U.S. Congress. Two years later a bill entitled "H.R. 3445: Weather Mitigation Research and Technology Transfer Authorization Act of 2007" was introduced in the U.S. Congress. The apparent purpose of which is, "...to develop and implement a comprehensive and coordinated national weather mitigation

policy and a national cooperative Federal and State program of weather mitigation research and development."

Today the chemtrail spray operations can be seen taking place throughout many different countries. Unfortunately most people are unaware of the chemtrail spray operations even though they are taking place in plain sight right above our heads.

Look up "SKYWITNESS" on Youtube. This particular Youtube channel features nearly one hundred videos; most of which document the chemtrail operations that have been taking place over the Orlando and Winter Park Florida areas since May 2007. The videos show that the spraying is taking place on a regular basis.

If you would like to take action, start documenting chemtrails with photographs and film. Contact local media outlets and give them your documented evidence. Another option is to approach your local congressman with any evidence of chemtrail spraying. Chemtrails are a hazard to our health and environment and must be stopped.

Keep your eyes in the skies!

The Sandspur  
The Oldest College  
Newspaper in Florida

Founded in 1894

May 1, 2008  
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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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# Softball brings campus together



WILSHARD WATKINS  
the sandspur

Have you ever heard of the City of Winter Park Fellowship Course? It is an interdisciplinary course taught by Cara Meixner, Director of Student Involvement and Leadership, and Chip Weston, Director of Economic and Cultural Development for the City of Winter Park. The class meets on Thursdays from 3:30 until 5:00 pm at various site locations in Winter Park. Although the class meets for about an hour and a half, many students agree that the time goes by fast due to the educational yet entertaining nature of the class. This semester, the class visited such places as Casa Feliz, located on the 9-hole golf course at the end of Park Avenue, the Winter Park Commission Chamber, and the Morse Museum, also located on Park Avenue.

The Winter Park Community Fellows Program pairs Rollins students with community leaders in departments such as cultural and economic development, security enforcement, historical society/affairs, public policy, and city governance. The hands-on course is designed to inspire, teach, and engage students in the processes of leadership and citizenship.

One of the most important aspects of this course is the final project. The class has to come together to create a great final project that will benefit both the City of Winter Park and the Rollins College community. The

students are given no guidelines for the project, allowing them to have unlimited freedom; something rarely given in college life. This semester, the class decided to bring together the Winter Park Fire Department, the Winter Park Police Department, and the students of Rollins for a friendly game of softball. Although it was to be a friendly softball game, the natural competitiveness between police officers and firefighters would be hard to conceal.

The softball game took place on Saturday April 26 from 11am until 1pm. The game was played on the Sandspur Field (soccer field). The students who attended the event were surprised to see that not one member of the police or fire departments attended. However, the students did not let one minor set-back ruin their day. They enjoyed hamburgers and hotdogs, and some even walked away with great prizes. Various Rollins staff and faculty also showed up to enjoy the BBQ. The students later organized themselves into teams and played students vs. students.

Even though it was important for the two departments to see the students in a different atmosphere other than the typical social nighttime environment, the game did foster a greater relationship between the students in the class and the Rollins community as a whole. Although the game missed its target goal of bringing together policemen/firemen and students, it was still a great success in the eyes of all those who attended.

WILSHARD WATKINS / the sandspur

UP TO BAT: Students, faculty, and staff enjoyed a day of softball and barbeque on the Sandspur Field this past weekend. No members of the Winter Park Police or Fire Departments attended.



# MURDER WE WROTE

JUSTIN BRAUN / the sandspur

**MURDER!** The Annie Russell Theater filled these past weeks playing *Murder We Wrote*, an improv murder mystery with characters and situations chosen in a manner like the board game *Clue*. The unique play experience was written by the talented group to the left.



For the first time commencement will be available on the Rollins.edu Web site via live streaming video... so grandma can watch her Rollins student graduate right from her couch....

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