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The Sandspur

WINTER PARK, FL

September 5, 2008

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Volume 115 Issue 2



Interested in some extra cash? Take pictures and write stories for **The Sandspur**

Open Mic Night hosted by **The Sandspur** livens up Dave's Down Under see pages 4-5

"Class of 2012, orient yourself!" Orientation 2008 evaluated. see page 6

Fay practice for hurricane Hanna?

ALEXIS
OBERNAUER
the sandspur

First years who thought they were coming to college in the Sunshine State were in for quite a surprise their first week on campus for orientation. Instead of absorbing some nice UV rays by the pool, students were reluctant to spend more than a minute outside for fear of being completely drenched and blown away by the gusting winds. Tropical Storm Fay hit Florida on the afternoon of August 18, and zigzagged back and forth across the state and into the Atlantic for five wet and windy days.

The fun began when residents of the Florida Keys were forced to evacuate their homes after Governor Charlie Crist declared a state of emergency in the days prior to the storm's landfall. The fierce weather conditions caused many local businesses to close their doors and airlines at Orlando International to cancel seventy-five flights. The sixty mile per hour gusts and five feet of rainfall caused massive flooding and millions of dollars of damage to the area. In addition, thirty six deaths were recorded; fourteen of those being Florida residents. Record breaking Fay was the first storm to hit land on seven separate occasions and strike the same state four times. Though Fay is only the sixth storm in the 2008 Atlantic Storm Season, it served as good preparation for the upcoming Hurricane Hanna.



WHEN IT RAINS IT POURS: Tropical Storm Fay caused some flooding and destruction with wind blown branches, flooding at the Campus Center entrance and leaks in Skillman Dining Hall. The forboding skies above the parking lot were warning of the minimal damages to come and campus housing leaks on campus.

which is expected to hit Florida later this week. Hanna will be the fourth hurricane this year and is already worrying officials in Georgia, South Carolina, and Florida. Even more troublesome are the two storms already forming in the Atlantic that will be gaining strength in the upcoming weeks.

Luckily, though, students at Rollins have already had some practice with emergency response procedures because of

the "Fay Day" lockdown, which forced all persons on campus to remain indoors for the better part of fifteen hours. Since hurricane season continues through the end of November, it is wise to familiarize oneself with the appropriate measures to take in the event of a natural disaster.

First and foremost, be sure to relax. The Rollins College Emergency Preparedness Plan will be activated to ensure the

safety of all students and staff. Information on the best course of action will be provided on the Rollins Website as well as via e-mail, flyers, and word of mouth communication. Students intending to leave campus must register online with Rollins Student Storm Tracker which can be found at <http://asp2.rollins.edu/Rollins/StudentStormTracker.asp>. In the event of another lockdown, Elizabeth Hall, McKean Hall,

Ward Hall and the Bush Science Center are all hurricane safe. If seeking shelter somewhere other than your residence hall is necessary, bring food, water, blankets, and a change of clothing. So, Rollins Students, be sure to stock up on bottled water and board games, because from the looks of it, there may just be a few more hurricane parties/lockdowns before the Atlantic Storm season officially ends on November 30.

JD CASTO / the sandspur

Bats invade Ward

LAURA
HARDWICKE
the sandspur

Eager first year students moved into Ward hall this year with high hopes. They are living in the newly renovated building and are going to have a great residence hall experience. Little did they know that darkness loomed in their near future.

Darkness came during orientation in the form of dozens of bats. Virginia Utley, a resident on the third floor recalls her first startling run in with the bats: "I just walked out my door and one swooped down at me and

I screamed". Virginia's fellow third floor residents are living in constant fear of the bats. If you take a stroll down the halls, you can see towels shoved under the doors; the bats are said to have gone into someone's room from the space between the floor and the door.

Of course there is always the option to fight or flee, and while some residents choose to take a defensive strategy, others are taking a more heroic role. Third floor boys armed with trash bags have attempted to catch the bats.

The bats, which are not unusual in Florida, are flying in through vents in the laundry

room. Their favorite spots include light fixtures, room corners, and windowsills. The Ward bats aren't much to be afraid of, with their small wingspan of roughly six inches. Technically they live on campus, but the bats don't need a meal plan because they feed mostly on insects.

Returning students may be having a case of déjà vu. The bats are not new to Ward. A triple on the third floor was converted into a study area for this year after the residents moved out because of the bats. However, last year there weren't nearly as many active bats. The room is now locked and is inaccessible

to students.

Former Resident Assistant Luke Taylor challenged the bats last year. He caught and released two bats on two separate occasions. He describes one occasion: "They were sleeping in the light fixture and we corralled them into a garbage bag and released them outside". Luke also claims "they pee a lot".

Bat urine, high in ammonia can be toxic, and is the biggest threat to the residents in Ward. Both Facilities and Campus Security were unable to be reached for questioning on the current measures being taken to safely remove the bats.



NICK ZAZULIA / the sandspur

DIRTY LAUNDRY?: Bats making their way into Ward pose a nuisance for residents. This bat was caught in a laundry hamper then released into "the wild."

Living an eco-friendly dorm life

SARAH GRIFFIS
the sandspur

Welcome to Rollins class of 2012! As you make your way through the hectic and exciting days of moving-in and orientation, don't forget to take a deep breath since you more than likely need it. Eco-Rollins, your campus environmental organization, and Rollins Recycling ask that you take into consideration (and hopefully put into action) a few suggestions to help you make a "greener" transition.

- When shopping, remember that every choice you make has an impact, so try to keep in mind what went into the product you're purchasing. Many stores now offer natural fiber/organic sheets and bedding, providing you with earth friendly sleeping options.

- Extra Boxes? Rollins' warehouse (located behind McKean) will take your boxes and store them for any student who might need one in the future.

- Instead of the usual incandescent bulb, try opting for a compact fluorescent bulb, which can reduce carbon emissions by nearly 150 pounds!

- While your recycling bin (the blue bin in your room) is useful for carrying your stuff during move-in, try to remember its actual purpose! Simply place your recyclables (paper, plastics, glass) in the bin, and empty them into the large black bins in the common area when full. I promise it's not that difficult.

- Try using reusable water bottles - Whole Foods down the street sells some nice ones - plates, and utensils, instead of the disposable kind.

- When loading up on caffeine in the morning, bring your own mug, an eco-friendly and sturdy alternative to prevent any tragic and painful coffee accidents.

- Why not check out the Winter Park Farmers market for a delicious selection of local foods? It's occurs every Saturday from 7 am to 1 pm and is located within walking distance!

- Finally, simple steps such as turning off the water when you're not using it and the lights when you're out - or better yet, making use of natural light - can make a huge difference!

Once again, welcome to the Rollins community! I hope that you are able to keep these suggestions in mind as you adjust!

Hypnotist show a surreal success

ANNABELLE
KEMPSTER
the sandspur

Among the many modules and meetings that came along with being welcomed into the first semester, some fun events were hosted to help the freshmen better enjoy themselves during orientation week. One of these events was being able to watch students being hypnotized. Hypnotist Mark Maverick from Las Vegas had the stage set up at Dave's Down Under, and once an adequate amount of volunteers were ready, the show began. The show was not planned out in advance, nor did the volunteers have any idea what they were getting themselves into. The first people to make it to the stage were the lucky ones to be hypnotized, and when this was announced people began to run toward the stage to make it on before others.

Many question the validity of hypnosis, and whether volunteers actually enter a hypnotic state or are simply acting, but once the hypnotist began his work, some of those questions began to disappear. As the volunteers were made to do all-around crazy and sometimes embarrassing things, the audience enjoyed the show more and more, and began to realize that the hypnotist definitely seemed to have some sort of control over these people.

"I was skeptical at first but it truly was amazing how he got the participants to do such embarrassing things! I'm so glad I didn't volunteer though,"

freshman Kayli Ragsdale said.

From making the volunteers think they were at a horse derby cheering on their horse, to making them believe that paper napkins were hundred-dollar bills, to making one believe a broom was the most beautiful woman in the world, the hypnotist made sure that the show was a lively and entertaining one. "There was never a dull moment, and the show kept me laughing. The hypnotist was aware of how the audience was reacting to things and made sure to always keep the audience enjoying themselves as well as the show," freshman Nehal Bellani said.

The show maintained its entertainment for those who are returning students. "This was my second time getting hypnotized on stage and I can happily say I have retired from any future hypnotist shows. Being on stage is fun, but from what I've heard from everyone is that watching the show is a totally different experience. Sorry to all my faithful fans," sophomore Scott Marchfield said.

In observing some of the volunteers after the show, it seemed like none of them could remember what they had done while on stage. When their friends began to tell them the stories of the things they had done, they honestly seemed to be in disbelief.

Overall, the show seemed to be a success as first-time viewers enjoyed themselves as well as people who had seen it in previous years. "He was hilarious!" freshman Jonathon Emmet said of the hypnotist



ZAC CHENAILLE / *the sandspur*

HYPNOTIZED: First-years and peer educators starred in the antics of hypnotist Mark Maverick. After being hypnotized (bottom) students became unpredictable, falling in love with brooms (top) and even dancing like Madonna.

and the things that he made the volunteers do. As many students who had seen the hypnotist take place in previous years, this year's freshmen seem to agree that they would definitely recommend it to take place again next year.

Campus Safety causes insecurity

JENNIFER STULL
the sandspur

There are two words that strike fear in the hearts of partying college students everywhere. Two words that can make the most drunken fool at the party sober up so fast he could drive a semi truck. Two words that bring about the ultimate buzz kill to a Saturday night. Those two words are "Security's coming," and those words have been echoing the dorm halls for the past two weeks.

Now, the main issue does not seem to be that there is drinking on campus, rather that those who are under 21 have access to alcohol. However, just because an under 21 student is around alcohol, does not mean that student has chosen to drink the alcohol. Unfortunately, just because the student was in the room where drinking was taking place, he or she is grouped in with those who have committed an offense and therefore face a potential disciplinary

problem with the school. Is this a fair way to deal with the alcohol related issues on campus?

First off, according to Bay Rodriguez (3rd shift supervisor), campus security is defined as, "pretty broad, we need to ensure the policies set forth by the president and make sure they are followed and forced." Seeing as this statement is very "broad," it leaves much confusion as to what exactly a student can and cannot get in trouble for. So let's get to the point: should students who are obviously not involved in the illegal activities be grouped and sentenced to a hearing with those who are? Rodriguez's response to this is, "It's our job to annotate what we see. We just say this is what we saw, this is what we found. CSR is who really writes you up. We simply document what was wrong. In an ideal world with no money factor (I know this will not happen) it would be where only people of age can live in certain buildings and the underage would not be allowed in. It's a nearly impossible problem to solve."

At this point it seems as if socializing on campus if under 21 is a catch 22; the risk factor is prevalent no matter if a student chooses to consume alcohol or not. For example, a female freshman student, who wishes to remain anonymous, fell into one of these catch 22 situations earlier last week. She attended a party where alcohol was present, but did not drink. When campus security showed up, her name was documented even though she was not seen holding or drinking alcohol, and she had to have a hearing with CSR. "I think it's not practical for the administration to try and stop underage students from socializing in certain atmospheres. This is college; we are all adults and therefore able to make our own decisions about where we go and who we associate with," she says. "I understand law is law," she continues, "I also understand that drinking can bring about bad situations at any age and that the college is trying to prevent that, but if you're obviously not drinking, then it is unnecessary to put innocent students at the

risk of getting in trouble, because even if I am found not guilty at my hearing, my name is still cited and documented for the rest of my college career."

While a large amount of freshman students probably agree with the previous statements, there are some students who feel the methods of campus security and CSR are appropriate and fair. Billy Yates, a freshman, says that "by putting yourself in a situation you know has illegal activity going on, even if you are not participating, still make you responsible. There are plenty of places you can go to socialize and not drink. Even if you are not drinking, campus security has the legal



ROLLINS COLLEGE

FEARSOME: This year's campus safety force poses for a photo in front of the Mills building. Not only do they stop a party faster than officers arriving at a door.

responsibility to report you.

So what's the solution? There's a right way to go about prosecuting the rule breakers on campus while making the innocent go free? Or, do those two ominous words continue to reign supreme on Rollins College campus? Smart fellow students, you are all innocent until proven guilty, but documented and questioned forever.

"China, Costa Rica, and Scotland, oh my!" Students travel the world in field studies

LINDSEY HIRSCH
the sandspur

Let's face it; reading is not everyone's favorite subject and school is notoriously boring. Why read about a civilization or a culture when the real deal is only a plane ticket away? That is the hands-on educational approach of field studies here at Rollins.

Hiking up the Great Wall of China, waking up in the middle of the night to see the eruption of volcano Arenal in Costa Rica, participating in a performing arts festival in Scotland, and bringing food to children in the inner cities of Costa Rica are just some of the experiences and highlights of Rollins students from this past summer. How many people can say they've done that?

Since its founding, Rollins has promoted the idea of students becoming global citizens who are enriched and educated in the various cultures of the world. Through two-week field study sessions, students travel to various countries around the globe, immersing themselves in the history, culture, and action of a nation.

This past summer, Rollins students were offered the opportunity to study in the countries of China, Costa Rica, and Scotland. Environmental studies professor, Dr. Barry Allen, believes that there is no better way to understanding subject matter than actually physically being where it is that one is studying. "When we talk about

environment... getting people in foreign environments is invaluable. You can't understand issues associated with a 'place' until you've actually experienced that place."

Dr. Allen has been leading field studies to Costa Rica for years now and keeps returning to give students the opportunity to witness first-hand the innova-

picking up new skills such as screen printing and stained glass work.

Field studies are a great way to spend your summers. In the student's own words: "you get credit and have fun at the same time... I didn't even mind doing the visual journal project that was required for the course. It helped to visually record our trip as well as give us a place to write about what we were thinking."

But wait a second, let's put it back into perspective... just because the opportunity is available to travel, does not mean that you are tourist. In fact as Dr. Yusheng Yao explains, "...you're not a tourist at all-you're

a student studying the culture and history."

On the other side of the world, while students were busy making art in Scotland and hiking through the tropics in Costa Rica, another group of students were busy trying to catch their breath walking up the Great Wall of China.

During this two week course, students resided at Jian Qiao College in Shanghai, China where they were directly thrust into the society of Chinese students their age. Dr. Yao said, "This year was an experiment, we wanted there to be more educational components. It was a very cultural learning experience by creating contact with the Chinese students through home stays."

China is an enormously vast place, so there was only enough

time to visit Shanghai and Beijing. These cities were picked because of their drastic contradiction. "We chose Shanghai because of the economic development, the modernization, and the western influence. Beijing was a must because it is a political center, the Olympics were being held there, and it is the capital as well as a symbol of a communist state." This course was designed to feature China through history and culture through the past and present.

Dr. Yao believes that two weeks isn't long enough, but also that Rollins students may not be able to handle it much longer than that. "...I remember after about a week everyone

was already sick of the food." When they finally went to a pizza place, everyone gorged themselves on Papa John's pizza.

So everybody agrees that field studies are a great way to learn and experience the world. But why do they have to be so expensive when we're already paying out the derriere for tuition money? Granted, there is a good amount of scholarship available for those who are attempting internationalization, but it's just not enough to go around. If Rollins wants us to be "global citizens" so much, don't you think that these opportunities provided to us should already be included in the cost of our attendance?

LINDSEY HIRSCH / the sandspur
EXPLORING THE TROPICS:

Students in Dr. Allen's two-week field study class traveled to the tropical country of Costa Rica, a world leader in sustainable development and conservation.



LINDSEY HIRSCH / the sandspur

IN FRONT OF THE GREAT WALL: Students experienced the culture of China through visits and home stays during their two-week trip.

Coping with life as an international student

NEHAL BELLANI
the sandspur

From August 14th to the 16th, before the freshman orientation week had begun, Rollins held an international students' orientation. About fifty international students have been accepted into Rollins this year. They hail from various countries all over the world, including Hong Kong, China, Thailand, Canada, Ecuador, Nepal, Brazil, and Taipei. These students, from freshman to exchange students to graduate students, make up the largest number of international students Rollins has had, making our campus culture more diverse than ever.

A welcome dinner was held on August 14th for the international students and their parents. They had been given the whole day to check into their dorms, giving them the advantage of having more time to settle in without the usual rush of people. The welcome dinner was a good start as the students got to meet and get to know

each other. Jenifer Leon, director of International Student and Scholar Services, welcomed everyone and had a chance to speak to all the family members and new students.

The second day began with morning sessions on being an international student, which addressed issues such as employment, the drinking age, and maintaining student visa status. A boat tour was also scheduled for noon, but unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the rain. The day ended with taking all the international students for bowling and pizzas. That was the highlight of the day as everyone got to mingle with each other and eat as much as they possibly could!

When Jenifer Leon was asked how the international students are coping, this is what she had to say: "Most are settling in well as far as I am aware. There have been some situations that have come to my attention and with which I have assisted. In most cases, the students have difficulty bridging their culture to the U.S. culture

- whether this is knowing how the basics work (adding / dropping classes, etc.) or dealing with U.S. laws on the drinking age which for many is much older than their home country's age limit."

Suggestions are always helpful, especially for the new international students out there. Here are some suggestions from Jenifer Leon about settling in on campus: "Coping with the adjustment to college life, a new city, a new country, and a new culture can be very stressful. Some suggestions that I make to new international students are to be sure they talk about their adjustment with other international students, because most likely everyone else is having similar issues or feelings. Keeping oneself healthy, by eating well and exercising, will also help. Physical strength can have a big impact on one's mental strength. Finding a balance between class work and recreation, the new culture and one's home culture, and making new friends and keeping in touch with friends from home

is critical to successfully adjusting. Of course, I also encourage students to come to talk with me."

Another international student, Fernanda Dassum, was asked how she was coping to the lifestyle at Rollins. She said, "It's been easier to adjust since everyone is trying to make new friends, but still hard in the sense that people here are very different compared to Ecuador. For example, saying 'Hi' out here is very different. Back home we would kiss on the

cheek as that is the way of greeting, but over here all we just say is a 'Hi'. However I have settled in well over here. The weather is amazing and the campus is gorgeous."

The international students have definitely settled well into Rollins with a few small problems here and there, but that is natural. The orientation week seemed to have helped them a lot in meeting new people. Hopefully the suggestions and advice given will make their first year at Rollins easier.



NEHAL BELLANI / the sandspur

BOWLING THE NIGHT AWAY: International Students had a fun night at the bowling alley during their second day of orientation.



SANDSPUR OPEN MIC NIGHT NIGHT OF THE SEASON

KATIE SCHWARTZ
the sandspur

What better way to spend a Wednesday night than with a free platter of Panera Bread pastries, eager musicians, an electrified crowd, and, of course, Danny Travis. The Sandspur's Open Mic Night on Aug. 27 at Dave's Down Under was, in fact, "The Grandest Night of The Season" as promised by the fliers. With a stage decorated by collages of newspaper sections and an ambiance that resembled that of a coffee house, Open Mic Night provided the perfect setting for a mid-week night out of the dorm. By nine o'clock the room filled with enthusiastic upperclassmen freshly returning from their summer looking to socialize with old friends and freshmen seeking another event, not as corny as orientation ice-breakers, to make new ones. Danny Travis, the master of ceremonies for the night and editor of the sports section for The Sandspur, began the show by enthusiastically announcing the theme of the night: KEEPING IT REAL!

With a cinnamon crunch bagel in the left hand and cup of hot java in the right, each audience member sunk in their cushioned seats in great anticipation as junior Maia Ryan rose to the stage as first performer. Her beautiful voice alongside her guitar playing captured the crowd, and got them actively applauding and energized for a great night ahead of them. In between sets, Danny Travis enlightened the audience with hilarious commentary,

personal stories, and jokes. He even offered his own advice: "sometimes shit happens, but keep it real!" The dark room never ceased to roar in laughter in Travis's presence.

The excitement remained high as Aaron Childree performed three of his own songs beginning with "Beautifully Hopeless Kiss" followed by "In a Dream" and "Tie Me Down". He announced that these songs were about the boundaries between reality and dreams, and having that chance to be with that one special person. The night continued with performances by David Franz, Mark Lambert, and freshman Chase Jennings.

Chase Jennings, winner of the talent show that occurred a few nights prior on the very same stage, illuminated Dave's Down Under alongside backup singer, Becky Ainsworth, and drummer, Billy Yates. Despite technical difficulties with Ainsworth's microphone, the band began with a cover of "Naked as We Came" by Iron and Wine followed by "Theme from Pinata" by Bright Eyes. The audience clapped in rhythm with the songs, and Jennings even got people shouting "Yee-Haw!" The band ended their act with the hit from Jennings' band, Cadet, called "You're Okay with Me Kid". Upon asking Jennings' opinion of the night, he fervently responded, "It was really cool. I'd do it again!"

People even acquired a dosage of another language, as musician, Boris Seva, enriched the crowd with Spanish songs. The elated audience filled with noise as Seva led everyone into yelling "Que Paso", meaning "What's up?". If learning Spanish

REVELING IN THE GLOOM
embraces host Danny Travis

wasn't thrilling enough, then to Justin Braun sing his original songs "Not Gay as for Disney" and "G-Spotter While some stared in amazement, as they listened to the lyrics, they began to cry from laughter.

The final act was by the college's own band



CONNIE CAMMARATA / the sandspur

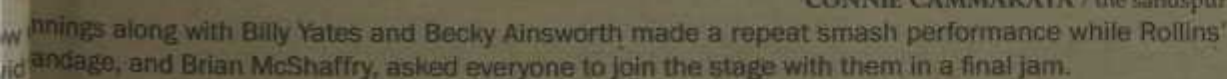
SINGING ALL NIGHT LONG (from top to bottom): Host Danny Travis kept the night real with rants. Editor-In-Chief Justin Braun sang why he wasn't gay enough for Disney and David Franz wooed the ladies with his Dave Matthews Band covers.



JAMMIN': First-Year Orientation Talent Show
very own Thought Doctors: Eric Bindler, David

The Tars are back in town

If you have a problem with the way student organizations interact with one another, the rules instated by the administration, or even a simple logo redesign, I encourage you to not only stand up for your beliefs but to do so together. For it is with a unified presence and voice that we, the student body, can break the cyclical nature of the mundane and make the coming school year one that is truly different.



The funnyside of sex

AMANDA HAMPTON
the sandspur

When it comes to orientation (whether it be for work or school), sex education is usually too mundane for even the most optimistic of newcomers. There are only so many times a person can hear "Rape is bad," before feeling like the target of an after school special.

That's where Sex Signals comes into play.

The comedic improv duo show, called 'Sex Signals,' performed twice in one night for two audiences of the Rollins class of 2012. On August 21, Sex Signals took place in the Bush Auditorium where the duo brought both comedic effect as well as pure sex education to incoming Rollins students. Sex Signals got most of its entertainment value for the night through its comedic portrayal of realistic sex and dating scenarios which have been tweaked to apply to college student standards. Whether they were playing the parts of a creepy guy annoying a presumably naïve girl in a bar or inebriated strangers at a party, the duo truly brought familiar aspects of the miscommunication between men and woman to the surface but they also kept the audience smiling. Because Sex Signals is an interactive improv show, its real comedic effect comes in conjunction with audience participation. Throughout this two-person show, audience members are encouraged to throw out pick-up lines and dating scenarios for the two actors to use on stage. With some less-than-innovative lines such as "What's your sign?" the audience interactions offstage were sometimes a close match to the improvisations happening onstage during the show.

The audience was busy laughing while learning valuable tools in regards to staying

informed on sexual assault; and the all-too-familiar reverberation for incoming freshmen that the word "consent" has some significant meaning. Seemed like brand new information to show-goers that night. This is because Sex Signals strives to create a balance between laughter and education. The night's performances took on a more serious note with a scenario involving a college student who had to prove that he did not rape a classmate. This is where Sex Signals portrays the multiple layers involved in rape cases among acquaintances. They do so by citing how these cases are often difficult to judge because the so-called "rapist" is a likeable person.

Throughout the entire night, Sex Signals delivered an important message to the audience. They relayed that men and women have completely different ways of communicating and that these differences must be taken into consideration when interacting with the opposite sex, especially within the context of sexual and dating situations. Judging by the night's laughter and the audience's applause, it seems that the class of 2012 thoroughly enjoyed the performance. First-year student, Sarah Grinnell, commented that "Sex signals was a surprisingly funny and entertaining program that was equally informative. You got a good message in the end and got entertained [while] doing it." Sex Signals seems to have succeeded in informing audiences about the prevention of rape; and the improv duo made audiences laugh while doing so.

Who would have thought that sex education could ever be so funny?

For more information about Sex Signals, go to

<http://www.catharsisproductions.com/index.html>



KELLY MCNOLDY / the sandspur

CROWD PLEASERS: With Chase Jennings taking first place at the talent show and gators surprising students at the Involvement Fair, first-years were in for an unpredictable week.

The reality of Orientation

PETER TRAVIS
the sandspur

On the eve of my departure to Rollins College, I laid in my bed back in Memphis and giddily dreamt about my freshmen orientation experience. The dream began in the Alford Sports Center, where all the freshmen had been locked in. Surrounding us there were fifty ping pong tables, a wall of kegs, and a box of condoms. Out of nowhere, Doug Little, colorfully clad with an Indian headdress and war paint, came to the center of the gym, called the room to attention with a few raps on his bongo, and shouted in a rich baritone voice, "Class of 2012, orient yourselves!" And the fun began.

Of course I knew then that Orientation would not be anything like that and would instead resemble something closer to a cumbersome summer camp session. However, having been officially "oriented," I can now say that Doug Little and the crew of Rollins Explorations did a superb job of dismissing the summer camp stereotype that I, along with many of my classmates, had held. Yes, there were

several parts of the process that could have been a lot shorter or less boring, but most of them were unavoidable and maybe even good for our tender, impressionable minds.

The first half of Orientation was dominated by Tropical Storm Fay, and what was supposed to be one move-in day quickly turned into three move-in days and one 15-hour lock-in. The lock-in occurred in Ward Hall, Bush Science Center, Elizabeth Hall, and McKean Hall where several activities such as ping pong tournaments and movie marathons took place. Some of the more courageous first-years called the authority's bluff and snuck in and out of the buildings all day.

Once the storm had finally passed, there was some catching-up to be done on postponed activities, so the community service portion, or SPARC day, was cancelled. During the day, first-years were sent to several modules, some more interesting than others. In the Office of Multi-Cultural Affairs module, I discovered that the last time I cried was when Tom Hanks lost his volleyball in Cast Away. Another module treated first-years to an improv show which was skillfully put on by Rollins Im-

prov Players, or R.I.P. At night, if one was not brave enough to take the risk of being written-up for one's first college party, there were calmer events planned such as Curtis Earth's Trivia and a show with a hypnotist that had an uncanny ability to make brooms sexually attractive. Orientation ended Sunday night with the Talent Show where the first-years' talents of song, dance, and comedy were put on display. Chase Jennings won the top prize with his band who performed a mellow cover of "Paper Planes," and Cristian Kebbel's captivating stand-up routine took second place.

By the end of the week, there was a general sense of readiness among first-years for classes to begin. And although I never got to witness Doug Little's headdress or a line of fifty beer pong tables, I would still say that I have been sufficiently oriented to the Rollins College community. The process could have been considered arduous, but the main goal of eliminating awkwardness and tentativeness from the first year experience ultimately was met by keeping students busy with activities that, with the right attitude, were informative and sometimes truly fun.

Meet Joe Biden

LINDSEY HIRSCH
the sandspur

All eyes are on the election that is rapidly approaching. With the appointment of both McCain and Obama's running mates this past week, there is no doubt that our television sets and billboards will be outfitted and enveloped in the latest campaigning fashion.

When asked about Obama's Vice President choice, Sophomore Zach Lee, responded by stating that he had called it back in March. "Biden was my second favorite contender [for the democratic nominee] after Barack. However, I was kind of disappointed Barack didn't choose Evan Bayh...he's from Indiana...I'm from Indiana."

Because many people are

not aware of Joe Biden's policies, they may find Obama's choice of a hypocritical manner. But why? Because he is an older Caucasian gentleman who appears to be the archetypal democrat? Well, don't judge a book by its cover.

Joe Biden was born in Pennsylvania in November of 1942 but later moved to and grew up in Delaware. For undergraduate school, he received his diploma for a double major in history and political science which led him to pursue his J.D. at Syracuse University College of Law. When elected to the Senate in 1972, Biden was thirty years old, which made him the fifth youngest senator in the history of the United States. Biden has run for the U.S. presidency twice in his life- once in 1988 and then recently in the 2008 election. When he came in fifth

in the Iowa caucus, he decided to withdraw from the campaign. Biden's failure to secure the presidential nomination may be his greatest success yet seeing as how he has the potential to be the future Vice President of the United States.

Obama has made a strictly political move in this race for the presidency. After all, Obama is criticized for lacking governmental experience and foreign policy, but Biden more than makes up his deficit. With more than thirty-five years of Senate experience, it is safe to express that Biden knows what he's doing when it comes to political science. Along with Biden's experience comes his position as Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on foreign relations which he has served on for years. Sophomore Yoni Binstock believes that Obama made the right decision here. "I think it was a good idea to get people who he [Obama] didn't have before. An older white man in the senate with lots of experience

appeals to more people."

It's safe to say, without a doubt that Obama has secured himself with the right person who will be able to step up for him if the time ever occurred, heaven forbid. The thought must be considered when voting for president whether or not the vice presidential candidate is someone who has the capability of rising to the occasion. Yoni believes, "He definitely has experience. Though his policies aren't as well known...his experience will allow him to step up."

Many people are asking the question whether or not Obama based his decision on trying to appeal to swing states that he did not have a firm grasp on before. Biden is someone who believes in change in D.C., and though his policies may not be as well known as Obama's, Zach Lee said, "The selection was made on who would make a better Vice President instead of who would bring more votes."

If elected, Joe Biden will

be the first Roman Catholic vice president alongside the first African-American president. Zach Lee remarks about the potential historical breakthrough, "I think it's great! It shouldn't be an issue; neither should Obama being black be an issue, but it is...which is an issue all in itself."

Both Yoni Binstock and Zach Lee are members of Rollins Democrats, who are promoting general political activism. Yoni makes a valid point when he states, "The country can agree that McCain is an American hero. But for the country to change its current path, we need Senator Barack Obama."

So there's only one subject matter left to discuss. You. The power now resides with you- the voter. The voter holds the key to voice their opinion every election. Too many of us grow up thinking and believing the same views and opinions as our parents; it's time to start thinking for ourselves so we can create the change in this politically lethargic America.

Kite Runner flies high at first-year Orientation 2008

AMANDA
HAMPTON
the sandspur

As a requirement for incoming Rollins students, a summer reading book is assigned and sent out to all new students each year. This

summer's selection, *The Kite Runner*, is author Khaled Hosseini's debut novel.

For the Class of 2012, a newly-accentuated cultural awareness has been established with the selection of *The Kite Runner*.

The novel, which takes place in both 1960s Afghanistan and present day California, follows the life of Amir as he goes through the trials and tribulations which accompany the life of a privileged Afghan with a Hazara servant. According to Rollins Explorations, the sum-

mer reading program aims to introduce incoming students to "topics that challenge their conception of the immediate world around them to the larger world of which we are all an integral part." As much of a coming of age story as it is a tale of rebellion and cultural identity, *The Kite Runner* has surely succeeded in introducing the incoming Class of 2012 to new cultures and their connections to the Rollins community at large.

In addition to the summer reading, an optional essay contest was available to interested parties. The contest, which featured multiple essay choices, ended on August 8 and the winners were announced soon after at the Class of 2012's Convocation ceremony. The summer reading and essay contest were accompanied by both a guest speaker and a book discussion. This year's guest speaker was Iran Davar Ardalan, who works at NPR News in Washington

D.C. Ardalan has more than sixteen years experience in public broadcasting in both the United States and the Middle East, and is the author of the book *My Name is Iran*. Ardalan spoke to the Class of 2012 about her life as a person who has gone back and forth between America and Iran throughout her life. After her speech, there was time for questions and other discussion. Here, the Class of 2012 brought up some truly thought-provoking questions for the speaker as well as for the audience to ponder. It is during this question and answer session that Ardalan spoke freely of her expectations for the internet, which she sees as the meeting place for all people and cultures throughout the world.

The following book discussions, which occurred in each of the RCC classrooms across campus, were truly varied depending on each student's personal response to Hosseini's novel. For some, discussion focused on both the vast similarities and differences between Amir and Hassan and the question of whether or not the two were truly friends, while others honed in on the concept of Eastern versus Western customary differences. Of the discussions, one member



KELLY MCNOLDY / *the sandspur*

IRAN SPEAKS: To the Rollins class of 2012 at Orientation

of the Class of 2012, Christine Henderson, remarks "My class discussion was very insightful and spurred a lot of positive comments about *The Kite Runner*." No matter what the discussions focused on, or whether

or not all the RCC discussions were as positive as Christine's, one thing is clear: Hosseini's *The Kite Runner* has definitely sparked a sense of knowledge of another culture in the minds of incoming Rollins students.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

GLAMOROUS: The Hills' Audrina Patridge and Lauren Conrad pause to pose for a paparazzi picture while attending an event.

LAURA
HARDWICKE
the sandspur

Grab your over-sized sunglasses and designer handbags, it's time for Season 4 of MTV's hit "reality" show, *The Hills*. The past three seasons have given us insight into the dramatic lives of over-privileged Lauren, Heidi, Lo, Audrina, and Whitney... and this season's fourth installment

promised the same. However, as an avid Hills fan, the first couple episodes have been nothing but a disappointment. I don't doubt that common rooms across campus have felt the same let down that I have.

With recent celebrity bloggers such as Perez Hilton confirming suspicions of fabricated drama, I'm beginning to feel like a five-year old that woke up to find my mother instead of the

The Hills have eyes watching them every week

tooth fairy. Audrina Patridge recently launched a website confirming that she was an out of work actress laying out by her apartment pool when MTV pursued her to be on the show.

Possibly the show's most level headed cast member Whitney Port seems to be getting less and less air time. This is most likely due to the fact that Whitney's less dramatic life does not bring in the big numbers for MTV. Previews even suggest that Ms. Port might take a job opportunity in New York, leaving *The Hills*. I hope I'm not the only one who will miss Whitney's priceless facial reactions.

It's not just that Audrina is being paid to be Lauren's friend or Whitney losing more air time that has ruined the show, but the substance has been incredibly watered-down. While some may say you can't lose what you didn't have, there is a difference. Two thirds of last week's episode was merely Lauren telling all her friends that they were going to Stephanie Pratt's (Spencer's sister) birthday party. The actual party was highly anticlimactic, consisting of 2 minutes of muffled gossip in a club.

Previews enticed viewers with the appeal of seeing Lauren and her arch nemesis cross paths, but with today's special effects the scene could have

been created in an editing room. Further suspicions aroused in the season's first episode. During the confrontation between Lo and Audrina, it seems that the Audrina's diabolical words "We'll never be friends" was a simple voice over!

The season preview promises drama, but just like after uncovering the truth of the tooth fairy, I'm not expecting much. It

has become clear that MTV is using as little of the cast's real lives as possible to make money.

Has anyone else noticed that the most important part of Lauren's life has been eliminated completely from the show? The fact that she is a huge reality star followed in most tabloids isn't even acknowledged! "The Hills" just isn't keeping it real anymore.

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