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The Sandspur

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Volume 115 Issue 9

October 31, 2008



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



Happy Halloween! Check out students' opinions and get ready for ACE's Rollins After Dark pages 6-7



Uncle Sam's After Poll Party on its way this Tuesday page 4

Better than TV but not in HD the debate they should have had



JUSTIN JB BRAUN / the sandspur

Politically Active: In an atmosphere of genuine public discourse and patriotism, members of Rollins Republicans and Democrats presented and debated the ideologies and policies of the Presidential Candidates this past Wednesday, Oct. 29, in the Galloway Room. The debate attracted the attention of "Good Morning America" as well as a crowd of nearly 100 students and faculty. Tune in next week for a more in-depth coverage of this historic event.

Political propaganda not appropriate on campus

BRITTANY FORNOF
the sandspur

What would Jefferson say?

Focus Statement: This story is about the Rollins College policy that political signage is prohibited around campus.

Rollins College does a lot to promote the global citizenship of its students. However, what steps is it taking to promote the rights of its American citizens? In light of our upcoming national election, a college policy arising from the archives and circulating through the minds of students all across campus. This policy, which is ignored by many, loathed by few, but affecting all, threatens the First Amendment rights of all Rollins students.

In December of 1791, one of the most important documents in the world's history came to effect. The Bill of Rights, the essential birth-child of the founding political intellectuals and social leaders of the time, was adopted by the original thirteen states. This document contains one of the most recognized and possibly the most cherished amendments.

Stating Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..." the First Amendment has become something that many Americans live by.

However, one might wonder if these freedoms always carry over into the private sectors in American communities. For instance, does this freedom of speech ring true in a small, private school located in the heart of Central Florida? Are the students that attend this institution free to express their political views as much as they want? One might assume that the answer is yes. However, if one were to look on the Rollins College website, connect to a link called the Office of Special Programs, and read the first point made under the "Signs and Banners Related to an Event" page, one would see that it plainly states: "Political signage is not permitted on campus, unless it is related to a sponsored educational event."

Hidden in one of the hundreds of rarely accessed website pages, it seems unlikely that the majority of Rollins students would even know about this policy. So what exactly does this clause of no "political signage" entail?

According to a representative of the Office of Special Programs, students are welcome to make flyers and set up booths supporting a certain candidate or political party. They can even wear t-shirts supporting a certain affiliation. However, students are strictly prohibited from displaying items such as lawn signs out on Rollins College property.

However, when an assistant

director in the Resident Life office was asked whether or not students can display political signage in their dorm rooms, the answer was not as encouraging as one might have hoped. He explained that students can put up campaign posters and signs in their dorm rooms "as long as it is not visible from the outside." In other words, students may not display their Obama '08 or McCain '08 posters in their windows for the rest of the Rollins community to see. Instead, they must shelter their laminated political views in the privacy of their own residence.

Both staff members who were questioned explained that this policy was established in order to keep Rollins from looking as if it supports one candidate or political party over another. However, that may not be the way that the student body sees the issue.

"I understand that Rollins focuses a lot of its attention on the aesthetic beauty of the campus," said Rollins College Democrats President, Yoni Binstock. "On the other hand, I feel that it restricts our freedom of speech and that so far [there is] nowhere on our campus [that] is... a 'free thought' place. Schools like Northwestern and UCF [University of Central Florida] have specific places where students can put up anything they want, and I feel that it encourages students to become active in something bigger than themselves."

When asked how she felt about this policy restricting political expression, Rollins College Arts & Sciences Student Government Association President, Marissa Germain, said, "It makes it harder to gauge if the climate is acceptable for political discussion and expressing political views."

So how does the rest of the Rollins student population feel about this strict policy? Based on the responses of several students, it seems that there are mixed emotions regarding the topic.

"I think it [this policy] is kind of lame because everyone has an equal opportunity of saying which candidate they want," said sophomore Libby Anderson. "There are just as many Obama as McCain posters. I can understand that they [the Rollins College administrators] don't want it to sway college students, but that seems kind of pointless since we are in college during a national election."

"I think that it's kind of a good thing and a bad thing," said sophomore Anthony Cusimano. "It's a bad thing that college student can not support their political candidates, [but] it might prevent some feuds that could possibly break out between political parties."

"I feel that our right to free speech is being hindered," junior Justin Braun said, "but I can understand why our campus doesn't want to be seen

as leaning in one direction or other."

To some, this policy barely has an impact at all. However, if students are really worried about their basic rights being hindered, one might hope that they act as the global citizens that they claim to be and use their First Amendment rights to peaceably assemble and petition the college faculty for a policy change, just as they did in the late 1970s when Rollins students protested the ban on the nudity scene in the play "Equus" by staging a march around Winter Park and placing undergarments on nude statues.

This year's election plays upon the theme of "change." So, if this policy really is an issue to some, why don't these students initiate a change and demand the First Amendment rights that were outlined for them over 200 years ago?

Sources:

Yoni Binstock interviewed on October 6 via online.

Marissa Germain interviewed on October 6 via online.

Unnamed assistant director in the Residential Life office interviewed on October 6 via telephone.

Unnamed representative of the Office of Special Programs interviewed on October 6 via telephone.

Anthony Cusimano interviewed in-person on October 13.

Libby Anderson interviewed on October 13 via telephone.

Justin Braun interviewed on October 13 via telephone.

Interview with a modern feminist

VERNON MEIGS
the sandspur

An interview with Toni Van Pelt, who lectured on modern feminism throughout last week.

VM: "So the title of this session is almost misleading, it's not actually that freethinking women are dangerous in society today as opposed to what was perceived before?"

TVP: "Yes, and if you read the abstract it said that it refers back to the Witches' Hammer."

VM: "Yeah, because most people, when they hear me talking about it, they say, 'How dare you?!' 'How dare you think freethinking women are dangerous?!' So it's a very misleading title."

TVP: "You know what? Somebody did send me an e-mail in that way and they didn't read the abstract, and so it can be taken that way. 'How dare you think that freethinking women are dangerous.' Well, you know, I think that that's probably appropriate. I agree with that. I think that there are people today that do think that, so it is a provocative title but it is timely."

VM: "So, what are your religious views?"

TVP: "Oh, my personal views? I am a Secular Humanist."

VM: "I see."

TVP: "And what does that mean? Do you know?"

VM: "Oh, Secular Humanism, well, secular means nonreligious, and it's human-positive; I haven't read too much on it but I get the general..."

TVP: "I think that's pretty good! Yeah, we're living in the here and the now and we're about the world being happy and we all have high principles, as opposed to the supernatural."

VM: "Are you working for a certain organization?"

TVP: "Yes, it's called the Center for Inquiry and we publish two magazines, actually we publish a lot, but they are 'Free Inquiry' and 'Skeptical Inquirer,' and we also publish 'Pensar,' which is a Spanish-language magazine and our sister organization is Prometheus Books. And the founder's name is Paul Kurtz. And the reason he started the publishing company is because he couldn't get his books published anywhere else."

A letter from your SGA President

Hey guys!

As we make it past mid-semester and SGA has had a couple of Senate meetings, it is time that you all get an update as to some of the biggest things that we have been up to.

Coming back from summer vacation several policies had been changed and the Division of Student Affairs was undergoing some serious changes. Offices like Residential Life, Office of Student Involvement and Leadership, Office of Multicultural Affairs, and TJ's lost and gained a lot of personnel. With new personnel comes new policy. In light of all of these changes members of SGA have begun to move on developing a Social Accountability Act that would empower students and grant us inalienable rights as Rollins students. This document is still in the draft phase and as it comes to fruition future updates will be posted here.

Winter Park Platinum, a Rollins-only discount card, is re-premiering soon. Executive Board member Artie Grizzle has been working tirelessly to get as many stores as possible in

the Winter Park area on board. As of a week ago at least 30 different stores, restaurants, etc. agreed to join the program. A full launch of the program will be taking place sometime next week.

Another initiative that has been brought up is the new strategic marketing campaign. The Strategic Marketing Team presented what the new brand was going to look like at more than three different town hall style meetings, as well as coming to Senate. They took a lot of feedback from those who attended and have sent out surveys to get more feedback.

More recently, Resolution #1: "Protection from Job Action for Resident Assistance and Peer Mentors," sponsored by Jimmy Colston and written by Christina Grass was passed. This resolution asked for the protection of RA's and Peer Mentors from any information found on gossip style websites. Explorations has taken the resolution and reassured the Peer Mentors that nothing would come of any information on these kinds of sites; however ResLife has yet to come out with their stance on the issue. SGA as a whole is still exploring how to deal with sites that allow for "online

bullying."

Rolley Trolley came back for this year's Fall Break. Morgan Davin, Transportation Chair, worked with Mears transportation to provide a cheaper ride to the airport on college-wide holidays. Rolling for its fourth year in a row, Rolley Trolley will also be in operation for the Winter Break, Spring Break and potentially summer.

These are the bigger objects we have been working with for the past several weeks. The month of November hosts TARNival, Rollins' first ever major carnival that brings together all three schools: Arts & Sciences, Holt, and Crummer. If you ever have any questions or just want to know what is going on feel free



to stop by the Student Organization Center in the Building. Or to get a first look at SGA Senate meetings come to the Galloway room 6pm every Wednesday.

Stay classy!
Marissa Germain
Your SGA President

mZurie inspires students to take a stand with civil rights nostalgia

FATEMA KERMALLI
the sandspur

On Wednesday, October 15th, the Black Student Union held an event in the SunTrust Auditorium highlighting the importance of voting. Co-sponsored by the Office of Multicultural Affairs, the History Department, the Women's Study Department, the Young College Republicans, and Voices for Women, the event featured New Jersey born writer and singer mZurie as civil rights activist Fannie Lou Hamer.

Turnout for the event was modest, but as one club member said, "...better than expected. We were not really expecting to fill the auditorium, but those who did attend thoroughly enjoyed themselves."

It definitely seemed that way. Following a short clip about the real Ms. Hamer, mZurie came out in front of the audience playing the role of the civil rights activist raised from the grave to advise the audience about the importance of voting. She told them stories of the past, of working on a plantation, of all the hardships blacks faced just for trying to register to vote and of seeing people

—"strange fruit"—hanged from the trees.

Interspersed between these heart-rending and sometimes even funny stories were songs of faith and struggle. These songs, chosen for their relevance to both the topic and the actress, included the famous "This Little Light of Mine" and a twist of "Go Tell It on the Mountain," featuring "voter registration" and "freedom fighters."

The words themselves were captivating and touching. But when mZurie sang, the listeners sat absolutely enraptured by the sound of the moment. And when she recited "Strange Fruit," the horror moved every one of us.



COURTESY OF MZURISINGS.COM

Her strong voice filled the room and resonated with all members of the audience.

Renee John, who attended the event, also thought that it "...was amazing. mZurie was such an inspiring performer, with such a captivating voice and she really made me interested to learn more about who Fannie Lou Hamer was. Her performance also opened my eyes as to why voting is so important because it has not always been a right enjoyed by all. There were people who came before us, such as Fannie Lou Hamer, who had to work and fight so that the younger generations would not have to go through the same pain, and I am very grateful."

A leader in the civil rights movement, Fannie Lou Hamer faced many hardships for trying to exercise her voting right. At one point, she and a group of activists were arrested on a false charge and then put in jail, where they were harshly beaten. Eventually, she prevailed, attending the Democratic National Convention in New Jersey as the Vice-Chair of the Mississippi Freedom Democratic Party.

This fact only reinforced the message about the importance of voting, a point the Black Student Union seemed to especially be trying to

hit home. Between the and the question and session, they even showed short clip from the document "Unprecedented" about deliberate disqualification ballots from the 2000 election.

The Black Student Union hopes to have more and bring out more throughout the rest of the year. In the words of BSU member Renee John, "The Black Student Union is just beginning! We have for all types of events that raise awareness of African American life in America those represented at Rollins. We are super excited to the momentum going on the students of Rollins College know that we are here and are happy to introduce our culture."

BSU is open to all members of the Rollins community. Interested students may contact the president, Ciera Parks, at cparks@rollins.edu for information and meeting times.

Corrections

Phish reunion brings more than music: In Friday's issue of the Sandspur, an article on the band Phish reuniting was incorrectly attributed to reporter Leah Hardwicke. The article was written by Alexis Oberman.

NEWS



Free coffee a fair deal

AIMEE CERVENKA
the sandspur

This was the question posed to visitors at the Cornell Campus Center on October 13, which was Fair Trade Awareness Day at Rollins College. From 11:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., EcoRollins and Dining Services came together to promote fair trade awareness among members of the Rollins Community. Sodexo provided the Starbucks Fair Trade-certified coffee, which members of EcoRollins then handed out to passing students, faculty and staff. They also provided pamphlets with information about fair trade practices, taking the time to explain the benefits of fair trade to all who were interested.

Fair trade practices are intended to support the communities which grow and harvest a number of common commodities, the most well-known being coffee. Other fair-trade products include tea, sugar, rice, bananas, cotton, honey, wine and chocolate. Fair trade benefits local communities by empowering the producers of these goods in the global market so that they receive a greater price for their goods. It also requires that both the producers of these goods and the workers who harvest and process them are paid a sustainable living wage. In addition, fair trade certification guarantees a safe workplace and ethical purchasing practices, as well as adherence to more environmentally sustainable practices and protection of natural resources. For example, because coffee is usually grown in elevated areas subject to erosion, fair trade coffee is often shade grown, which means that trees are grown throughout the grounds and reduces the chance of soil erosion.

Unbeknownst to many members of the Rollins

community, Sodexo recently switched to serving exclusively Fair Trade Starbucks coffee throughout the dining locations on campus. One purpose of Monday's event was to raise student awareness of this switch and to expose the campus community to the benefits of purchasing fair trade coffee. The event also allowed students to sample the new fair trade coffee, which many claimed tasted better than their preferred "non-fair trade" coffee.

The switch to fair trade coffee is just one of many steps that Sodexo has taken in order to create a more environmentally friendly dining atmosphere. Some of the other things done this year include switching completely to biodegradable to-go containers and implementing a "Grounds-for-Growth" program, which was launched on Monday as well. The premise of the Grounds-for-Growth program is that Sodexo packages the coffee grounds produced by the various campus dining locations and then provides them to the Rollins community for use in personal gardening. Another program that Sodexo has undertaken is the sale and promotion of the use of "Green Bags," which are canvas bags that students may use in place of plastic bags, on campus at the C-Store, or off-campus at any grocery store. It is expected that more such changes will be occurring as the year progresses.

If you would like to support fair trade, there are many stores in the area where you may purchase fair trade products. Whole Foods and 1,000 Villages are two great places. Many of the stores where you may shop on a regular basis also carry a more limited selection of Fair Trade items, including Wal-Mart, Publix and Target. Just look for the Fair Trade Certification symbol (shown above) marked on the package!

Moon festival a cultural exposure

KEREM RIVERA
the sandspur

The Office of Multicultural Affairs, in conjunction with the Asian American Student Association presented the Mid Autumn Moon Festival on Wednesday, October 15 in front of the Campus Center. The Mid Autumn Moon Festival is a Chinese event celebrating the fall harvest. It usually occurs on the fifteenth day of the eighth month by the Chinese lunar calendar. The festival abounds with legendary tales. One such tale is that of Chang Er (The Lady). Legend has it that ten suns circled the earth, each taking its turn to illuminate the earth. One day, all ten suns circled the sun. The earth could not withstand the heat produced by the suns. Hou Yi, a tyrannical archer, saved the earth from the scorching heat by shooting down nine of the suns. Afterwards, Hou Yi stole a goddess' elixir of life. Hou Yi's wife, Chang Er, drank the elixir in an attempt to save her people from her husband's tyrannical

rule. The elixir caused Chang Er to fly to the moon. Hou Yi loved his wife so much that he did not shoot down the moon. It is said that Chang Er dances on the moon during the moon festival. Along with stories such as the latter, the festival includes the recitation of poems, singing, moon gazing and the consumption of moon cakes. Moon cakes are the staple food at the festival. Moon cakes consist of a thin glutinous rice crust stuffed with lotus seed paste, egg yolk or durian, a type of fruit notorious for its unusual flavor and odor.

While the moon festival is a traditional Chinese celebration, the AASA festival featured a variety of dishes and activities from a number of different Asian countries in an attempt to display the diversity within the organization. The cuisine included Chinese rice cakes, glutinous cakes made out of rice, sesame seed cakes and almond and mango tofu covered with cocktail fruit. The most popular dish was a Filipino desert called halo-halo. It consisted of a layer of shaved ice, one scoop

of taro ice cream and a variety of toppings including halo-halo (tropical fruit mix), sweet mung beans and condensed milk. Different versions of halo-halo are found throughout Asia. For example, in Korea halo-halo is referred to as Patbingsu. Along with the diverse cuisine students were also able to paint lanterns and fans.

The festival was attended by a large group of students. The goal of the festival was to expose students to Asian culture and to reinforce the idea that one does not need to be of a particular ethnic group to partake in the organization or activities of another ethnic group. The Asian American Student Association encourages all those interested in Asian culture and those looking to have fun to attend their meetings. Their next meeting will be held on Saturday, November 29 at 6:00 p.m. in the Darden Lounge located in the Campus Center. For more information contact Mengdi Yao at myao@rollins.edu or join the Asian American Student Association Facebook group.

Feeling the heat with the LLC

LINDSEY HIRSCH
the sandspur

If there is one thing that can be said in order to sum up the environmental issues of our world today it would be that there is too much talk and not enough action. Our political leaders continuously talk about energy efficiency, clean coal and low carbon emissions, yet what changes has our government actually implemented and what changes have we as citizens tried to incorporate into our lives? As much as we may do, there is still plenty that needs to be done. One major aspect that must be conquered is environmental education.

Thankfully, people on the Rollins College campus are concerned. On Tuesday, October 21, Dr. Michael Gunter hosted a Ward Living Learning Community event that showcased global environmental problems that are presently unfolding. The event was focused around a two hour Frontline show entitled "Heat", which explored India, China, America and Europe.

Martin Smith, the investigator throughout the show, liberated upsetting information such as the fact that forty percent of the glacial ice in the Himalayas is currently lost, and all of it is predicted to be gone by 2035. This ice provides the free service of storing water, and with it melting, the environment in Himalayan locations is out of balance. With more available water, more settlers populate the area, which leads to several types of environmental degradation, and in this case, deforestation.

The documentary

investigation exposed how China's development is reducing any chance for stability in limiting carbon emissions. The country is experiencing such rapid growth that two new coal plants are built per week. The CEO of Shenhua Energy remarked about his company that, "we will do our best to reduce carbon emissions if we can...but we must create money, not lose money..." meaning that the interest of the shareholders is prioritized over the concern for public health and a future safe world.

When looking at America, it became evidently clear that no one else in the world can live like an American. Our consumption is so beyond terrible, and our governmental regard for our planet must be reevaluated. In "Heat," it was often questioned that if Congress cannot clean up their own backyard, how are they going to help the world? In America, we have coal plants that are claiming to be clean coal friendly and claiming that they trap carbon gases and plant them into the ground. However, this process has yet to be tested because no state government will fund the testing since it appears to be very hazardous and dangerous to the public health if some process were to go wrong.

Dr. Gunter commented that the "Rollins experience with LLC better connects the classroom with an outside of the classroom experience." Students are given more options and opportunities to delve into their education. Education cannot be limited and confined to the barriers of the classroom walls, schools cannot get in the way of education and more will be learned in college outside of the tangible desk and

chair in front of the whiteboard. Because of the Christian Johnson Foundation grant that Gunter received, events that are catered to have some type of focus around the election are able to come to Ward, which is how "Heat" was able to be shown to the students.

Crowds vary from event to event, and in this case, the event was small which made for an engaged and beneficial discussion after the showcasing of "Heat." In regards to the student response, Gunter commented that, "hopefully, they were alarmed, and motivated to pursue fundamental changes in the way we use and get energy in the United States." Gunter also believes that, "the students gained a healthier knowledge." He continued, "A lot of public education needs to be done, but we need to also point the finger back at the self."

Gunter also recognized that Americans, and the world in general, has an alcoholic's attitude towards oil, and like every addict, the first step is to admit the problem. He stated, "We are addicted to oil. Now, we have to find out how to fix the addiction so that we can push for a change in meaningful sustainable environmental policies."

This event was a great motivating wake up call to our generation. It seems like whenever a terrorist threatens our future, we respond with immediate and violent action instantaneously, but when we ourselves and our neighbors are the ones causing the most detrimental effects on our home nation, we do nothing about it. And because of that, we are the most unpatriotic patriots that ever lived.

Modern feminists try to be what they're not

VERNON MEIGS
the sandspur

It is interesting to see that many women continue to pursue activism for their liberation in these days even after decades, even centuries, of fighting for it. Relatively speaking, however, women today are enjoying great rights and exercising various freedoms alongside men. I am running into a bit of confusion here: is there any more that can be gained for women? How far must feminists reach into the government to ensure absolute, homogenized egalitarianism?

Nobody must misunderstand me, however; I do believe in the liberation of women and the elimination of the social dogmas and stigmas of old that sought to oppress them. I actually like women who think freely and are smart. They are definitely preferable to the majority of women who are stupid and prove it through each

encounter. Unfortunately those who are stupid seem to permeate the world greatly and there is no avoiding them. I feel that some of you, including women, would feel the same way.

The main critique I have about the modern feminist movement is that instead of pursuing equal treatment with men, they are seeking governmental handicaps for women. Furthermore, a great number of feminists today seek social freedom while sacrificing men and men's rights. It is like an often jargoned idea of castrating men in order to ensure women's supremacy, while this is never an effective case in determining the equality or supremacy of the genders.

Very few people can actually comprehend what is meant by equality of the genders. If the genders of the United States indeed are treated in absolute equality, it would mean that women will not have any spe-

cial protection or "handicaps" from the government in order to "protect their rights" or their womanhood. As long as joining the military requires the shaving of one's head, the same should apply to women joining, assuming there is absolute equal treatment. I refer to a fallacy in

...I accuse modern feminists of doing their extreme best to try and be like men instead of just being themselves. I do not think it is wrong for women to be feminine, same with a man who wants to be masculine. It is a feminine nature that is healthy; why don't you women take advantage of that instead of hating your own womanhood?

Plato's Republic, in which it is stated that in order for women to function as equals in the guardian class, women as the weaker sex will be given lighter armor. I say that this is the beginning of the idea of feminine "handicaps" because in order for a militia or national defense force to function effectively, the

normal, heavyset armory and weaponry will be required, and if women cannot handle that, they are not suited for such a force. I can make a similar argument in the impossibility of an Asian to portray a black man in a film, or a slim woman to take part in Sumo wrestling.

To make a point, I accuse modern feminists of doing their extreme best to try and be like men instead of just being themselves. I do not think it is wrong for women to be feminine, same with a man who wants to be masculine. It is a feminine nature that is healthy; why don't you women take advantage of that instead of hating your own womanhood?

A main issue that women and modern feminists suffer from, in my opinion, is that they continue to pursue social approval in order to justify their lives. They continuously look for the rest of the world to exalt them instead of simply advancing

themselves regardless of social approval. Take a look at Joan of Arc, who was among those few women in history who simply took matters into her own hands and made a difference without anyone's approval. The best sort of women that exist there are those that are rational, free, and unashamedly embrace their own physiological attributes to shape them into unique individuals.

Another thing that I tend to find annoying in modern feminists, and a great deal of sensitive women, is that they seem to have a huge problem being called beautiful. Are you implying that you are not? If I were you, I would take great advantage of that beauty and use those charms unique to the human female, for you, no men, are capable of such. Men can use their attributes to function and you women can do the same with your own.

I await the age in which women's minds become aligned with their bodies, making them both intelligent and beautiful!

Amendment Two Writes Put the party Discrimination into Law back in politics

G. KEITH EVANS
the sandspur

On November 4th, Floridians will turn out to the polls in what are projected to be record droves. The recent eruption of passionate support for Barack Obama, John McCain, Sarah Palin and "Joe the Plumber" is driving an unprecedented number of voters to cast their ballots.

When these voters show up at the polls however, they will face a decision that could affect millions of fellow Floridians. Florida's Amendment Two, also known as "The Marriage Protection Amendment," will present voters with the following proposition: "In as much as a marriage is the legal union of only one man and one woman as husband and wife, no other legal union that is treated as marriage or the substantial equivalent thereof shall be valid or recognized."

On its surface, the amendment appears to be just another attempt at a now-passé ban on gay marriage. Further analysis however, reveals a considerably darker side of the proposition. At its root, Amendment Two is intended to deny the privileges of married couples to those who love someone of the same gender. In addition, certain verbiage within the proposition may have the unintended effect of criminalizing domestic partnership benefits offered by

many large organizations such as Disney and the City of Orlando. Domestic partnerships between heterosexual couples—one man and one woman who simply haven't taken the steps of a formal set of vows—would be wiped out should the amendment pass. Finally, one particularly dark clause in the proposition would prohibit judges from overturning the amendment even if they find it unconstitutional.

Supporters of the amendment downplay the less-than-ideal language with a stern

formation of their own. Florida Red and Blue, the principal opposition group to the amendment, set up a website at the address SayNo2.com. In the FAQ for this site, the organization explains that, "Every unmarried Floridian will be impacted by this amendment—especially divorced or widowed seniors and public employees who, under existing programs, can share some benefits such as hospital visitation privileges and health care coverage without being married."

Therefore, voting Floridians have some serious decisions to make at the polls on Election Day. Whether in favor or in opposition to gay marriage, voters should be reminded of the purpose of certain laws and amendments to ensure rights are granted, protected, and never taken away. If instead, Amendment Two

attempted to define lunch counters as open only to white men, it would unquestionably be overwhelmingly rejected. In its attempt to restrict marriage to only one man and one woman, the bill is basically proposing a rejection of marriage rights to homosexual couples. Approximately 55% of polled voters indicate support for this amendment, so there is a considerable likelihood that it will reach the requisite 60% of "yes" votes to become a law. With this kind of support, maybe the amendment will help Floridians feel better about their own marriages while simultaneously denying the right to others.

No society, ancient or modern, has ever sustained itself with a buffet-like mentality when it comes to marriage and family.

warning about what could happen if the proposition should fail. "If Amendment Two does not pass, then the institution of marriage remains vulnerable in Florida to the national movement of homosexual activists who are working to redefine it," states the FAQ on the website of Florida4Marriage, the organization that sponsors the amendment. On the Florida4Marriage.org website, the FAQ section elaborates further, "No society, ancient or modern, has ever sustained itself with a buffet-like mentality when it comes to marriage and family."

Opponents of the Amendment have fought back with websites and a myriad of in-

BRITTANY FORNOF
the sandspur

News anchors, political pundits and talking heads tell us this is the most important election in decades. We invite you to join us in celebrating the process of democracy. Throughout Election Day, members of WTF Rollins (We Tackle the Future at Rollins) will be coordinating buses

from Mills Lawn to Winter Park polling stations. Students can catch a free ride from 8:00 a.m. until 6:00 p.m. Be sure to take advantage of this service!

Instead of hibernating in your room after a day of classes, why not stroll over to Mills Lawn for "Uncle Sam's After-Poll Party" and enjoy a condiment-covered hotdog or a giant slice of apple pie? The party, hosted by more than a dozen student organizations, starts at 8:00 p.m. and doesn't end until we know who our next president and vice president will be.

Where will YOU be on November 4th?



I want YOU at Uncle Sam's After-Poll Party
TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 4TH on Mills Lawn, 8pm
to whenever our future is decided!

Smear campaigns and misconceptions about Barack Obama in the 2008 Election

ELIZABETH ROGERS
the sandspur

Presidential candidate Barack Obama has written two best-selling biographies, spent more money on TV ads than any other presidential candidate in history and employs over 1,000 paid staffers just to spread the word about him and his policies throughout the United States (according to The New York Times). After all of this effort, one would think that some truthful, basic facts about Mr. Obama would make it into voters' heads.

Due to chain e-mails, blogs and rumors that circulate through the internet constantly, many voters pick up false information about candidates, especially Mr. Obama, which affects the way they perceive our future leaders. Rollins College in Winter Park, Florida, registers hundreds of potential student-voters on their campus. So the question must be posed: How much have smear campaigns and misconceptions about Mr. Obama affected the way these students may vote in a few days?

"Lots of people don't believe [Obama] should be elected for their own personal reasons, so they send out e-mails to try and sway people to not elect him for false reasons," said Stephen Oddo, 21, a student at Rollins College and registered Republican who is voting Democrat in the 2008 election. "People should vote for a president based on their policies, but there are a lot of people out there who say, 'Oh, he is black so he won't make a good president.'"

Recent polls prove just how misguided voters really are about simple facts on Mr. Obama: one poll conducted by the University of Pennsylvania's Annenberg Public Policy Center (as cited on their official website) found that seven out of twelve independent Virginia voters thought Mr. Obama was

actually a Muslim and questioned his patriotism. Other focus groups found that some voters think that, if elected, Mr. Obama would refuse to be sworn in on the Bible.

"I don't know if Barack Obama is a Muslim and I wouldn't mind if he is," said Michelle Wilson, 19, a Rollins College student who plans to vote Democrat. "I don't think the smear campaigns are going to affect his ability to win the election. The only people who think poorly of Obama are the Republicans, and they aren't going to vote for him anyway."

According to the news website "Salon Daily", it is not just Obama's race or religion that has people sending out these false rumors. "There are a lot of people out there with certain misconceptions," said one Democratic strategist, who asked for anonymity to talk in more detail about what voters have been telling private pollsters. He elaborated, "From the broad to the specific to the crazy, there's all sorts of that kind of stuff still out there... He is a somewhat exotic figure in the sense that he is the first African-American [candidate]. He does have an unusual first and middle name. He even has an unusual last name for that matter."

It's hard not to associate the name Barack Hussein Obama with other infamous names circulating through the news. Smear campaigns have even gone as far as using slogans that say, "Obama-Biden - Osama bin Laden: Coincidence?"

"The optimist in me wants to say that the American people won't let a little thing like race and lies taint their political views," said Marissa Germain, 21, the president of the Rollins College Student Government Association. "But the realist in me believes that there are a good amount of people who do see Obama as a threat and discredit his abilities as a leader due to his ethnicity and name." However, those who are educated enough



KELLY MCNOLDY / the sandspur

CHANGE WE NEED: Democratic Presidential Candidate Sen. Barack Obama (D-Ill.) and Sen. Hillary Clinton (D-N.Y.) spoke at a rally for Obama on Oct. 20 in Orlando.

to know that Mr. Obama is not Muslim, but a Christian, will know that his name is actually derived from Semitic words and that fourteen of our forty-three presidents have had Semitic names. Barack is a Semitic word, derived from the Hebrew form, barak, meaning "to bless" or "a blessing," and is a word used throughout the Bible. Obama's middle name, Hussein, is derived from the Semitic word, hasan, meaning "good" or "handsome." This name was given to Obama in honor of his grandfather, Hussein, a resident of Nairobi, Kenya.

Still, smear campaigns featuring chain e-mails are the most damaging attacks on Mr. Obama's image. The Obama campaign has now unveiled a web site, "Fight the Smears," where its aides can fight back against false rumors.

"Whenever challenged with these lies, we will aggressively push back with the truth and help our supporters debunk the false rumors floating around the internet," spokesman for the web site, Tommy

Vietor, said. "It's not enough to just know the truth, we have to be proactive and fight back."

The web site features almost twenty different attacks and misconceptions about Mr. Obama and treats each one separately, simply stating, "Get the facts." The smear against Mr. Obama claiming he is a Muslim is also addressed on the web site: "...shameful, shadowy attackers have been lying about Barack's religion, claiming he is a Muslim instead of a committed Christian. When people fabricate stories about someone's faith to denigrate them politically, that's an attack on people of all faiths." The web site even has a place where supporters can trace back the origins of certain smears and report them as well.

As reported by the New York Times article, "The Man Behind the Whispers about Obama," theories about Mr. Obama's background have taken on a life of their own. But every independent analyst seeking the origins of the cyberspace attack that Mr. Obama

is a Muslim, winds up back at a press release posted on the Free Republic web site in August 2004 by Andy Martin, a law school graduate who was denied his license because a psychologist found that he had a severe character defect that manifested itself in paranoia. Mr. Martin had accused President George W. Bush of cocaine use in a television commercial in 1999 and, most recently, he appeared on the Fox News Channel and falsely asserted, without challenge from the Fox program, that Mr. Obama had once trained to overthrow the government.

As the election nears within the next few days, hopefully malicious smear campaigns will not sway voters and their views on the presidential candidates. "Educated people, who know Barack Obama's campaign platform and positions on important issues, will vote based on his policies - not his race, religion, or name," Mr. Oddo said. Rollins College students and the nation need to get the facts before voting in 2008.

Mormon lifestyle affects Ohio's economy

JOHN STEINMARK
the sandspur

Who doesn't want to live in Utah? The Mormon state is every man's dream come true. If someone moves there and becomes a Mormon, he or she can enjoy all of the benefits from religious conservatism. Take several hot wives out on a ski trip to the Rocky Mountains, or show them some favorite rock combinations while residing in a 21st century metropolis. Of course, give up drinking alcohol because there is simply no time for unimportant stuff like that.

Come on, admit it, no one enjoys all the "bad" things that happen in life. Abandon shameful living and come to Utah where the economy is still running strong. Or stay here because the Mormon option is boring.

On the other hand, the unemployed should seriously think about moving to Utah. I read an article in The Economist titled "The Mormon work ethic". The article's subtitle was "Why Utah's economy is soaring above its neighbors". In it the author states that while the US economy in general is in a state of plummeting, Utah's economy in particular is still going strong. Utah's unemployment

rate of 3.5% is 2.6 percentage points below the national average. Furthermore, Utah's housing market is also doing better than most despite the fact that the nation's highest rates of foreclosure filings come from states nearby. It should be a surprise that Nevada is number one, with gambling being legal there, Nevada simply represents. Who wouldn't apply for a mortgage having the chance to go to the casino every day? Eventually, they will win big time, right?

So the question is, why is Utah doing so much better than the other states? The answer is simple: instead of one woman on their backs, men from Utah

have several wives getting on their nerves. It is understandable that they are workaholics. They want to spend as much time as possible away from their homes. The harmonious life I described before really is a façade. After a couple years of marriage, relationships to more than one wife turn from wonderful to horrible. There are constant rivalries. The big companies have spotted this potential a long time ago. That's why they settle in Utah because they know there are plenty of educated men longing to work through day and night (another part of being a religiously conservative person is that there are fewer mess-ups in school).

No wonder the country is in a recession. All the companies move to Utah where life is still good - being haunted by six wives and nineteen children. As a result, America is in severe danger. Because Mormons tend to marry young, Utah's population is growing at an outrageous speed. Generations and generations of men that can't wait for that moment early in the morning when they go out to work, and men that don't want to think about returning to their families late at night are to come. Soon, there will not be enough land for all. Mormon Imperialism is on the rise. Beware, America, be where?

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Murderous Muppets

LAURA HARDWICKE
the sandspur

Jim Henson ignited children's imaginations with his funny, furry monsters on *The Muppet Show* and *Sesame Street*. Now his legacy, the Jim Henson Company, is seeking to ignite something else with the upcoming movie project, "Happytime Murders."

The live action movie is set in a world where puppets live alongside humans, but the furry friends are fiercely discriminated against and considered second-class citizens. The story follows a disgraced puppet detective with a drinking problem, who is charged with the difficult task of solving a string of murders associated with a children's show entitled "The Happytime Gang."

This sounds similar to the cult classic "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," where the discriminated class consists of cartoon characters rather than puppets. However, Jim Henson's son, director Brian Henson ("Muppet's Treasure Island" and "A Muppet Christmas Carol") asserts that the film is specifically and exclusively for adult audiences. Happytime Murders will have the dark gritty feel of film noir and the comedic absurdist feel of famous Muppet parodies.

Parody is what Muppets do best, lending merit to the project. Speculation concerning "The Happytime Gang" has been surfacing. Recently, Disney

bought the rights to all Henson Muppets, excluding the *Sesame Street* gang. No doubt this is a great way to harass the pristine image that Disney masquerades. Unfortunately, avid fans are faced with a barrage of questions: Will there be blatant similarities between the new characters and our beloved Muppets? Can those of us who grew up with Miss Piggy and Gonzo stomach to see their look-a-likes murder? Or even worse...fornicate.

Can the same people that brought us creatures like Elmo and the not-so-frightening Cookie Monster successfully create a dark comedy involving puppets? Jim Henson tampered with mature puppet movies in 1982 with "The Dark Crystal," which contained dark themes and even nudity in one scene. The traditional use of puppets has been challenged in recent years, with Broadway's avant-garde "Avenue Q" and the comedic genius in Jason Segal's "Forgetting Sarah Marshall."

If "Happytime Murders" springs out of pre-production, it will drastically divide Muppet fans. Those that adored Oscar the Grouch's evil, disgusting ways will most likely thrust full support behind the adulterated puppet feature. Those that saw Brian Henson's "Muppet Treasure Island" as an epic failure and departure from Jim's initial vision will most likely avert their eyes in disgust as the film ushers in new audiences. Nevertheless, just the idea of the film has sparked concern and excitement throughout Hollywood.

Halloween from

G. KEITH EVANS
the sandspur

Over two thousand years ago in parts of Northern Europe, winter was a cold and foreboding season. With the lively summer months long gone and the harvest of seasonal crops just completed, ancient Celts observed the Earth going into a state of dormancy, a death-like period of cold rest during which survival became significantly more difficult.

As the last glimpses of summer warmth waned, the Celts celebrated the birth of their new year. This was the period during which the Horned God prevailed over the Sun Goddess. The Horned God was meant to represent deer, elk and other horned animals which were killed for meat during the time when fruits and vegetables didn't grow. The night leading into the Celtic new year they believed was the one night of the year when the veil between the world of the living and the realm of the dead was at its weakest; it was on this one night that long-lost loved ones could be contacted, the dead could be celebrated and spirits from the "Summerland" could roam the Earth once again.

As these spirits passed through

the veil and rose, the Celts felt they were being taken back to the dead. To fend off the demise, folks dressed in costumes of the creatures they believed lived on the other side of the veil. The dead, they believed, were mistaken by roving spirits of the deceased, reducing them to a state of Summerland.

This holiday of a mixed reputation in the 800s, the Celts receding as the Christian religion spread throughout Europe. Later, the Catholic Church replaced the Celtic gods with their own bonties as a century ago, the restricted fall of Halloween celebrated. Citing potential witchcraft, and essentially outlawing religious or not. Any form of fortune telling practiced by the presence of spirits was dismissed. Psychological restrictive comm





Ghoulish gourds

ZAC CHENAILE / the sandspur

CARVED: All Campus Events and Rollins Outdoor Club hosted student on Mills Lawn for Pumpkins and Knives and Paint, Oh My! Students carved Jack-O-Lanterns and painted mini pumpkins in anticipation of Halloween.

to candy

of the devil

This ancient holiday of Samhain survived and is celebrated today, though with much less religiosity. As with many holidays tracing their origins back to Pagan roots, the holiday of All Hallow's Eve, or Halloween, is now observed with fun costumes, friendly gatherings and drunken parties. Fall festivities such as corn mazes, hay rides, and bobbing for apples, replaced old Celtic traditions of bonfires and harvest blessings as the preferred goings-on ahead of the holiday.

Halloween enthusiasts of the 21st century adorn their dwellings and homes with decorations such as paper skeletons, plastic skulls, stuffed black cats and a colorful array of fall produce. Children and adults alike still find a measure of joy in hollowing out a pumpkin, and the smell of a candle burning inside one of these fruit is a treat in which some wait all year to indulge. Those who revel in Halloween fun—those who go all out for decorations and parties—are celebrating a holiday with thousands of years of torrid history, as centuries of religious attacks have shaped and molded a once-spectacular celebration of the dead into the family-friendly atmosphere of fun recognized today.

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 sponsored by the Alumni Association
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Costume Contest & More...
Friday October 31st
10:00pm-1:00am Mills Lawn

Never too old for this

LAURA HARDWICKE
 the sandspur

If you were raised in the United States, chances are you had the privilege of parading around in a ridiculous costume demanding candy from your neighbors. I, too, grew up with a craving each year to dawn the most disgusting costume imaginable and present my neighbors with that one-ended ultimatum "trick-or-treat."

The transitions were never clear. You started out trick-or-treating escorted by your parents or older siblings. Then at some uncertain time, you broke through that stage and started going with just a group of friends. But where does it end? When is the line drawn? When do you become too old to trick-or-treat? Never!

In my nineteen years, I can only think of two or three years where I did not trick-or-treat for at least a short while. How dare society tease me with years upon years of free candy and gruesome fun, and then decide I'm too old?! I'm not even old enough to legally drink yet.

Last Halloween, I was gallivanting around in a friend's neighborhood full of upper-middle class houses. It was usually a gold-mine of sugar, with some houses giving out king size Reese's Cups. We graciously waited as the hordes of chocolate hungry kids pushed past us, and walked up the path to a house

decorated with black cats and fall decorations. There were no ghouls or goblins, no fake spider webs, and no attempts at any tricks. We knocked and exclaimed the infamous words "trick-or-treat."

Instead of compliments on our incredibly well crafted costumes, or a snarky yet light-hearted remark at our age, we received a scowl on the bitter old lady's face. She simply said, "You're too old for this!" and slammed the door in our faces.

If you choose to open up your door on Halloween and pass out candy to costumed children, you better not discriminate. It would be wrong to refuse a child candy if they were fat, black or a girl. This same idea is projected in employment — you can't discriminate based on gender, ethnicity, or age. If I took the time to swallow my pride and embrace my inner child to trick-or-treat, who are you to refuse me candy?

Or would you rather me join the rest of America's youth and take my trick-or-treating to the clubs. I could trade my gruesome attire in for a scantily clad, sorry excuse of a costume and the snickers bars in for drinks. Is that the future you want for the Tinker Bell you so willingly handed Dum Dums before I arrived?

The lady who rejected my simple request of trick-or-treat last year will be faced with the same question this Halloween. Only this time, if she declines on the treat I will be prepared with a trick.



2008 Politics: A racy affair

ZACHARY JOHN
the sandspur

Tension is building between Republicans and Democrats over each other's presidential candidates. For the GOP, John McCain is trying to prove to voters that even though he is an old white man with a long history in Washington, he can promote change. Meanwhile, the Democratic camp has Barack Obama, a Senator who is new to the political scene and lacks strong ties to Washington, as their figure for change.

"Many voters will get caught up looking at [Obama's] appearance, not [his] policies, as a factor of change," says Andrew O'Sullivan, 20, a Rollins College junior from Longwood, Fla. "[Democrats] are using race as a staple for change."

Many students at Rollins have said that while neither candidate really appeals to their individual tastes, they think race will be a prevalent topic in many Americans' minds. As their official website states, the Obama campaign has worked very hard in the state of Florida to register 300,000 new voters. The Democratic nominee is spending more campaign dollars in Florida than in any other state.

"We hope to have all of those registered [to vote] come to the polls," says one member of the Obama campaign interviewed in Time Magazine, "but we know come Election Day we won't get 100% participation."

Black voters in Florida are going to be crucial in this

pending election. In an article in Time magazine, David Bositis, an analyst from the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, predicts that black voter turnout will be around 65% this year. In the 2004 presidential election, only 45% of the black voters in Florida showed up to the polls.

"Obama better hope that all of the black voters show up at the polls," says a Rollins student who wishes to remain unnamed, "Black voters don't typically make their presence known at the polls."

As described in a 2004 election study, only 58% of eligible black voters actually participated at the polls nationally. That number is projected to increase to 70% for the 2008 election. It appears evident that having a black presidential candidate will affect who comes out to the polls.

"I think having Obama as a candidate gives young black voters a reason to participate," says Samantha Rothenberger, 23, a Rollins senior from Wyomissing, Pa. "Being able to relate to a candidate, if only by skin color, is enough to establish interest."

Much interest has been shown already all over America via television and the Internet. All different forms of media have focused on the election, making the process more accessible to many more people. "Race is going to be a huge factor in this election," says Cole Thomas, 20, a Rollins junior from Winter Park, Fla., "We are seeing history each and every day. If [Obama is] elected, it will be very important to use him as a role model for young black kids everywhere."

BRITTANY FORNOF
the sandspur

This is an interview that took place between Mayday Parade's Derek Sanders and Jake Bundrick and The Sandspur's Brittany Fornof.

The Sandspur: So tell us about your experience following the 2006 Warped Tour when you unofficially followed the tour in your van and handed out over 10,000 demos.

Derek Sanders: That was a pretty awful experience.

Jake Bundrick: It was definitely one of the roughest experiences we've ever had. We had a plan from the get go to record an EP and follow the tour. So we decided to just do it, and it worked. A lot of kids really enjoyed our music.

DS: It was the first thing that we had done with this band. So it was a really good start.

TS: So you did the whole sleeping in the back of the van thing?

DS: Yes, like driving at night and hardly getting any sleep, and then being out in the sun all day selling cds.

JB: No showers!

TS: You never showered?

JB: The longest we ever went was fourteen days without showering.

DS: But usually it's about once a week we would get to shower.

JB: We were the smelliest dudes by far.

TS: But you probably wouldn't be where you are today if you hadn't followed the tour.

DS: Oh absolutely. That was really what got things going, for sure.

TS: Did you get to hang out with the bands that you followed?

JB: We were more the outside crowd. We never got to park with the other [bands].

DS: Yeah, we really never got to hang out because a lot of the

hanging out happens at night, and we would have to drive at night.

TS: And how was your trip to the United Kingdom when you toured there this past April?

DS: London was awesome. That was a great tour. We have had a few overseas trips. We've been to Japan, the UK, and Australia, and all of those have been a blast and fun. We are excited to go back.

TS: What has been your favorite place to go so far?

JB: Japan. It's the cleanest place we've ever been to, and it seems like the people there take tons of pride in what they do. Like the food is amazing, and the city is amazing looking.

TS: Did you pick up a love for sushi while you were there?

JB: Actually, I did. I never ate sushi before until I went over there. When I came back to the States, I was too scared to eat American sushi, [but] then I did.

TS: On the tour you are on now, you will be experiencing quite the temperature change. You are currently in Florida, but soon will be traveling to Texas, Las Vegas, Ohio, Ontario and New York.

JB: How did you pack for all of this?

JB: It's really hard to park for this kind of thing. I have like light jackets, and I have heavy jackets.

TS: I think I'm the only person that really did pack like that. I mean it's still hot in the South in October, and in November in the North it's going to be snowing.

TS: Do you guys have any time to just relax?

DS: A little bit. I mean it's a show every night, but now, having the bus, we play [a show] and then we can relax and hang out. So it's way easier.

TS: But as far as days off, maybe like once a week we have days off.

TS: On a different note, do you guys help with the design of your merchandise, or do you have a separate group for that?

JB: Every design that we have comes through the band first.

DS: Yeah we don't design anything.

TS: You guys have had a crazy photo shoots. What with the random camera photograph and the one the guy in a chicken suit?

DS: Well, in all honesty, ideas weren't even our photographer sent us these ideas, and he was adamant about that we chicken suit one. We actually him the day that we were the photo shoot [that] was really like that chicken suit.

TS: And he's like well I'm just to go ahead and bring it on.

TS: It was really weird, but I it's funny though...so what?

TS: How would you describe your music to people haven't heard it before?

DS: First of all, for anyone hasn't heard it, [our music] pop rock. It's rock and roll of stuff but poppy and happy kind of catchy. The songs are just really about relationships and breakups and that kind of stuff, just because that's stuff we were going through at the time we wrote them.

JB: It's just about real experiences. Nothing is made up. Everything that's in about in the record is like "Jamie All Over" but dream, it was really a dream.

TS: You guys worked in studio with producers like Odom and Kenneth.

DS: Since they have had experience working with bands like Cartel, All Time Low, and Avenue, were you ever worried that they would mess up the sound of your music?

DS: We had never worked with a producer before. So we were like how that worked, how they say they had, or whether they really had a choice and whether we were worried, but we all got along with them really well.

A Mayday before an All Time Low

BRITTANY FORNOF
the sandspur

Walking into the House of Blues last Saturday was like walking into a mob scene, as hundreds of bodies milled around anxiously waiting for the show to start. The back of the bar was littered with a few dozen middle-aged boozies, watching skeptically as band t-shirted groupies mingled about. The deck in front of the bar was covered in teenagers searching desperately for a way to reach the coveted pit in front of the stage while those lucky few who were already there rigidly stood their ground.

Nearly fifteen minutes after their scheduled start time, the lights dimmed as the curtains pulled back and revealed the night's first performers. Every Avenue was greeted by the shrill screams of hundreds of puberty-stricken fans. The first act of the show, they succeeded in warming up the stiff crowd. They were like the first drink

before a long night of partying, and soon after playing a few songs, they began demanding that those in the pit get rowdy. "We want to see a circle pit!" they screamed from the stage. For the most part, their request was not met. However, it was humorous to see those novice concert-goers give it a try.

After a solid half-hour performance, the curtains closed, leaving the hyper crowd standing around fidgeting. Their anxiousness was only cured when The Maine appeared fifteen minutes later. After playing their opening song, lead singer John O'Callaghan breathlessly yelled, "Holy crap, what's up?" A question that was met with eager screams from all audience members. Their set, filled with many of their most popular songs including "Girls Do What They Want" and "I Must Be Dreaming," was highlighted with the passing around of a fake mustache, similar to that worn by Sonny during his performances with Cher.

Next up to take the

stage was Mayday Parade. Performing as the third act of the night, they were met with quite the enthusiastic crowd. Bodies crowded in the pit and thronged against each other as a wave of mosh-like pressure reverberated throughout the audience. By the time that they came to their song "Take This to Heart," the crowd surfing session was full-on, and a few lucky risk-takers made it to the front of the stage, where they were greeted by chunky body guards lifting them over the fence.

Thirty minutes later, the curtains closed, leaving hundreds of tired-bodied teenagers singing along to the continuous Blink-182 songs playing overhead. The lengthy break before the next performance consisted of body guards passing out cups of water, which were soon used for entertainment purposes when people began tossing them up in the air and soaking other audience members. However, waiting amidst the hundreds of sweaty, smelly bodies all became worth it when All

Time Low took the stage.

The played their first song, which sent the crowd reeling, and then opened with the words, "Hello Orlando, F** me in the butt." Sadly, All Time Low didn't see it fit to perform their cover of Rihanna's "Umbrella" in their briefs. In fact, they didn't perform "Umbrella" at all, and they remained fully clothed throughout their entire performance, unfortunately.

Regardless of this small let-down, their set was amazing, including such hit songs as "Dear Maria, Count Me In" and "Poppin' Champagne."

With each and every song they played, a sea of hands lifted out from the audience, reaching towards the stage, reaching towards the ceiling, reaching towards anything. It was a flashback to what their parents' generation must have looked like, waving their hands in the air and swaying to the



PHOTO COURTESY OF MYSPACED

sounds of Blue Oyster Cult except this group had cell phones and had sideburns rather than lighters and

All in all, the band's insanely awesome performance, playing some of their famous songs for their fans, making it just an awesome concert to go to the House of Blues history.

First Year Reality Check

JENNIFER STULL
the sandspur

I honestly don't know how I got here. My dad went here. I've been visiting this school since before I could walk and I know more about the graduating class of '72 than I would prefer. I went my entire life saying "Dad, I'm not going to Rollins. Dad, no more Rollins shirts. Dad, please don't make me go to your 25th reunion!" So, like I said, I honestly don't know how I got here. But in the end, as the letters filed in from schools across the east coast, Rollins turned out to be my best option. So here I am, living out the "freshman experience."

On my first night at Rollins College, I had a warm welcome from Hurricane Fay, who turned out to be all talk and no action. But, of course, we all must air on the side of caution and were transferred over to Bush Science Center, where I spent the night on the ground with two strangers on each side of me sharing one small blanket in a freezing cold classroom. Welcome to college.

Flashback to July: I get two letters in the mail from my peer mentors, James Giordani and Sarah Hartman. As I read the

letter, I soon find out that my peer mentors are music majors and yes, mentor for the music RCC. I also found out that because I am in this music RCC, I am now a part of an LLC and living in Rex Beach Hall. And then on top of that, I am signed up for music theory and harmony classes with all the music majors. What's the problem? I'm an English major! Needless to say, I decided I should make a phone call because this had to be a mistake. Of course, they told me it was no mistake. The ResLife woman explained that I had put Masters go to the Movies as my third choice and I was lucky to have received one of my top three choices. (To this day I still think she is mistaken).

In the end, though, my classes changed, Rex was fun, and the music majors adopted me into their musical world. However, as the weeks pressed on I couldn't help but think the feelings of high school were still lingering into my college experience. A few weeks ago, one of my peer mentors was fired. The reasons seemed rather sketchy, but nonetheless it happened. His choice on his own time was to still participate in RCC activities. However, the powers that be seem to have other plans. Our RCC has been

babied and coddled through the experience, rather than being treated like adults and letting us as an RCC handle the situation in our own way.

I believed that the point of college was to learn equality. To learn what it's like to join the adult world and be responsible for your own life. I don't dislike Rollins; it has a lot to offer and I look forward to being able to take part in the opportunities. Unfortunately, though, I feel the school is in a state of change and whether those changes turn out positively or negatively, it is having a serious effect on the classes, especially for freshman.

College is said to be the best four years of your life—a time when real maturity occurs and pettiness of high school is left behind. Well, after seven weeks I suppose my freshman experience is far from over. There are still RCC points to be won, people to meet, and flex dollars to spend. I still have many nights at the Grille ahead of me accompanied by all nighters due to my problematic procrastination. I only hope though, that through this school's change, future freshman experiences can bring about a feeling of adulthood in students rather than an extension of high school.

Dating on a budget

CAROLINE SCHNEIDER
the sandspur

If you've gone on a date recently, you know that a night out on the town with a new (or not-so-new) amour can cost more than a week's worth of groceries. With the state of the economy right now, it's important to make every dollar stretch. At the same time, nobody wants to come across as a penny-pinching tightwad, especially not to someone they find captivating and attractive. So where's the middle ground? Let's find out.

Stay local. It sounds obvious, but staying closer to home will save on the amount of gas you use and on the wear and tear on your vehicle. This also allows for the exploration of somewhere you might not have thought previously to try. Most museums offer a student discount and several offer free admission to students. Why not research several of the ones near the Rollins campus and discover one that appeals to both of you? The Charles Hosmer Morse Museum of American Art, the Albin Polasek Museum & Sculpture Gardens and the Cornell Fine Arts Museum are three fine examples in close proximity to the Rollins community.

Join Rewards Programs. For services you already use and enjoy, why not apply for the e-mail coupons and certificates? Many companies and restaurants send out buy one, get one free incentives to loyal patrons. If movies are your idea of a great date, most theater chains have student pricing set lower; some even have student days. Be sure to take your R-card with you just in case. Planning your evening ahead of time allows for crafty strategies. If Thursdays are student day at the movies, why not suggest it? Don't be embarrassed! Thursdays are typically less crowded at restaurants and theaters than weekends, which allows for more conversation and getting to know each other time.

Get creative. If your date is someone you've gone out with for awhile, why not have an Artists' Date? By this point, you've hopefully gotten comfortable enough with each other to share certain elements of who you are personally and what your professional ideas entail. If this is the case, why not agree to meet in an outdoor location—a park, for example, and trade and grade each other's work? To do this successfully, great sensitivity must be applied, because nobody wants to get heavily criticized. For example, if you both paint, why not paint together? If you like to write and your sweetie likes to sketch, why not exchange your pieces and point out things you like or things you'd like explained? This is a great way to connect and share together in something that isn't usually revealed. It also doesn't have to cost a cent!

Take a class together. Whether or not you share a mutual interest in cooking, taking a course together can strengthen your bond. If this is more than you can afford to do, why not teach each other a favorite recipe? Creating a cooking class for two in a dorm or apartment can be just as, if not more, fun for a date. Challenge each other to find a recipe you will both enjoy and head to the grocery store together to buy ingredients. Try to find two recipes that share components to keep the price down. Even if the dishes don't turn out according to plan, the fun is in the creating, not the creation.

Enjoy each other's company. If your best date of the week involves grabbing two Big Gulps from 7-Eleven and taking a walk down Park Ave., don't panic. If you love spending time with the person you're with, the details of your plans fade from importance. Having a meaningful conversation can be just as special as a five-course dinner. Talk to each other to find out likes and dislikes and go from there. And most importantly, remember to have fun no matter where you are!

Ballroom Dance takes the Lead

JENNIFER STULL
the sandspur

This past Saturday, the McKean Gymnasium was transformed into a room full of girls in extravagant dresses and boys in suits and ties where they danced hand in hand to smooth jazz. No, this is not the prom. It is the ballroom dance competition held here at Rollins College. This event was exclusive to Rollins Dancers and gave them the opportunity to test out their skills for later, more intense competitions.

Teacher of the Ballroom Dance class, Stuart Nichols, says, "Even though this competition only involves Rollins students, we have had ones before with schools such as UT and USF." He goes on to say, "the style of dance the dancers will be competing in today are the waltz, fox trot, swing and I think someone is actually even doing the hustle." Nichols also says, "We organize this to give our students experience before we send them to higher level competition."

The whole atmosphere of the competition seemed other professional however, or it being a strictly Rollins event. The girls were dressed in Cinderella-like dresses with hair pulled back tightly and faces full of makeup. It was interesting to see this especially because there was a serious lack of men in the class; therefore most partners were female and made for an interesting look.

There were three judges. The whole experience seemed very "American Idol" in the sense that they wrote down



ASHLEY LIGHT / the sandspur

DANCE WITH ME: Rollins Dancers competed last Saturday in the McKean Gymnasium against one another.

critiques for the couples and cut them down until there was only one almighty dancing couple left to take the title as America's favorite ballroom dancers. Also, this is actually the second competition of the year. Nichols notes that "the next competition is 'Ballroom Blitz.' We won it last year against several other colleges around the area and we hope to win again this year."

The competition was also rather strict. There were specific rules on how to enter and exit the dance floor of the "ballroom" (aka upstairs gym) and there were parameters in which the dancers were not to step outside. The judges were sure to be watching quite carefully. It came off as a rather serious ordeal.

One competitor, freshman Katie Jones, says, "I'm not really good at ballroom dance, but it's fun. I don't mind having to go to the competitions as a class requirement. I might even take the next level of ballroom

classes depending on how the rest of the semester goes." So, for those of you looking to get your physical education credit out of the way, check this out.

The whole atmosphere of the competition was cute though a little hokey. The MC of the event was a happy little red-headed man who surely did not mind showing off his dance skills to the rest of the room. He spent the better part of the competition encouraging people to cheer on their favorite dancing couple. However, this brought little to no enthusiasm. Can't blame the guy for trying.

In the end winners were announced, champions were born, and the weak took the walk of shame off the ballroom floor. Who knows, you may see your classmates in the next season of "So You Think You Can Dance?" But, until then, these dancers focus on the highly anticipated Ballroom Blitz and hope to show their skills while getting an 'A'.

NEED SOME ADVICE?

Then write to *The Sandspur*! Keep an eye out in upcoming issues for our brand new advice column!

Send your questions with subject "ADVICE" to editor@thesandspur.org

The Sandspur

The Oldest College
Newspaper in Florida
Founded in 1894

October 31, 2008

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The Sandspur is a weekly publication printed on recycled paper, and we want YOU to get involved.

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Where do you fit into the Sandspur?

At the Sandspur, we are constantly looking for more voices, be they involved in editing, writing, or photography. This year we are adding a new Staff Reporter position. Staff Reporters will attend weekly assignment meetings and write articles to be published in the Sandspur.

What do you get for contributing to the Sandspur?

Other than seeing your name and work in print, you will be paid as a correspondent for the Sandspur.

How will I get my written articles into the Sandspur?

Articles for the Sandspur are typically 500-700 words in length and must be submitted no later than 5 p.m. on the Monday prior to the corresponding issue's publication. Submissions will be e-mailed to Editor@thesandspur.org.

Where is the Sandspur?

The Sandspur office is located on the 3rd floor of the Mills building, two floors above the post office.

How can I get involved with the Sandspur?

Sandspur meetings are held on each Thursday of every week at 5pm in the Sandspur office on the 3rd floor of the Mills Building. Any questions can be e-mailed to editor@thesandspur.org, and respective editors can be reached at their Rollins e-mail addresses (first initial, last name@rollins.edu).

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Nick & Nora worth a watch

JENIFFER STULL
the sandspur

There are two main loves in my life: movies and music. The combination of the two is sure to make me happy. This weekend I went to see the movie "Nick and Nora's Infinite Playlist" starring Michael Cera and Kat Dennings. The movie revolves around Nick and Nora's adventure in New York to find their favorite band that is playing a secret show. The evening turns into an all night quest involving love, hate, exes, friends, enemies and, of course, music.

The movie was definitely what I expected it to be: a romantic comedy aimed at the teenage population. However, I found myself sitting in the theatre actually laughing out loud, and at moments "awing" with the rest of the theater. But, what could have been a "lame teen movie" turned out far from lame.

We all know Michael Cera for his roles in "Superbad" and

"Juno" and he stays true to his usual cute and awkward character that you cannot help but love. His co-star Kat Dennings also plays her usual, Indie chick character with quick wit and attitude. The two actors have great on-screen chemistry that pulls the audience into the story.

However, I found some of the dialogue in the movie a little awkward or slow. I felt as if the writers and directors were trying to make it seem as real to how teens actually act as possible; yet, at moments I almost felt uncomfortable, simply because the characters' conversation was so awkward to the storyline. Those moments were few, though and did not take much away from the film.

My one other complaint about the movie comes from the character of Tris, Nick's ex-girlfriend. The woman who played the character has the face of a 24 year old (which is her actual age) and the body of a 12 year old. I did not find her convincing as a high school student. Her character was also meant to be annoying and mean, but I was more annoyed with her act-

ing rather than the character itself. She just seemed too unreal for the story. Honestly, Nick (as cute as he is) is not meant to be a heartthrob and therefore is not meant to be with the high school beauty queen, which the character of Tris portrayed. I thought the choice of actor for that role could have been better.

If I had to use one word to describe this movie I would say "cute." It makes you smile and

laugh and you definitely happy. You like the characters and want to see them happy ending. The music in the movie is also rather good. I recommend buying the soundtrack to anyone who likes alternative music. So, date, a friend, a brother and go see this movie. It will change your life, but when actors and good music come together, it's got my vote.



COURTESY OF NICKANDNORA

Nick and Nora won't change your life, but it will brighten your day.

Rollins rates book rankings

CAROLINE SCHNEIDER
the sandspur

Rollins students and faculty met Tuesday to discuss the eye-brow-raising "new literary classics" from the past twenty five years as assembled by Entertainment Weekly. The one hundred best reads from 1983-2008 have been widely discussed since first being released back in June and many academics dispute some of the top choices. English faculty members hosted a casual chat in Andrew Carnegie Hall in order to hear from students and each other about what the list means to them personally, what each person would have added or taken off and what books should stay put.

The discussion began over vegan cookies and delightful beverages. The invitation was extended to the Rollins community, regardless of major. After everyone had taken their seats, introductions went around the room. Most assembled were English majors or minors, but a few psychology and music majors joined in, too, which helped round out the informal book chat. Faculty members Jill Jones, Paul Reich, Philip Deaver and Mary McGowan helped get the ball rolling by distributing the list in order to ruffle feathers and get opinions out front and center.

The number one choice for a new classic according to Entertainment Weekly is "The Road" by Cormac McCarthy, which was met with immediate controversy. The story centers on a father and his young son who journey across a post-apocalyptic landscape. Jill Jones stated that the novel was stark and painfully depressing. Many of the students had never heard of it. Those who did know the book declared it shouldn't have been in the

top fifty, let alone hold the number one position over so many other great works. The number two pick of "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire" by J.K. Rowling didn't fare much better with the assembly. Many felt this wasn't even the best Harry Potter book, and couldn't reconcile themselves to its status as the second greatest novel in the past twenty five years. Paul Reich observed that most, if not all, of the top ten in this list involved the death of a child. Others said it was perhaps this shock-value quality that put them in so high a ranking.

The decision to place Toni Morrison's "Beloved" in the third spot drew an indignant response from several of the students while another argued that she couldn't even get through the novel because of how much its slavery portrayal saddened her. This ranking by Entertainment Weekly differed from The New York Times, which gave "Beloved" first place for literature in the past twenty five years. Jill Jones stated that "Beloved" is the only book out of the entire list that she believes will still be discussed two hundred years from now.

Rounding out the list's top ten were "The Liars' Club" by Mary Karr, "American Pastoral" by Philip Roth, "Mystic River" by Dennis Lehane, "Maus" by Art Spiegelman, "Selected Stories" by Alice Munro, "Cold Mountain" by Charles Frazier, and "The Wind-Up Bird Chronicle" by Haruki Murakami. While a complete agreement on such a list is almost impossible, the group of students and faculty nevertheless enjoyed the discussion of authors, works, plots and placement. For a complete list of Entertainment Weekly's New Classics, please visit: http://www.ew.com/article/0,,20207076_20207387_20207349,00.html

TREK is back

VERNON MEIGS
the sandspur

"Star Trek" is still alive. That's what the makers of the upcoming brand-new "Star Trek" film would like to prove when it comes out on May 8th, 2009, providing that they won't push the date back again.

The eleventh installment in the "Star Trek" film series will travel back in time towards the beginning of the five-year mission of the original series cast. Captain Kirk, Mr. Spock, Dr. McCoy and everyone from the Original Series will be back on the screen. As many might guess, in order for this to happen, new and younger actors will be required: Chris Pine as James Kirk, Zachary Quinto as Spock, Karl Urban as Dr. Leonard McCoy, Simon Pegg as Montgomery "Scotty" Scott, Zoe Saldana as Uhura, John Cho as Hikaru Sulu, and Anton Yelchin as Pavel Chekov.

Chris Pine previously appeared in the romantic comedies "The Princess Diaries 2: Royal Engagement" and "Just My Luck." Zachary Quinto is well known for playing an antagonist named Sylar in the television series "Heroes." Karl Urban previously played Éomer in the "Lord of the Rings" series of movies. Simon Pegg played the title character of 2004's Shaun of the Dead. Zoe Saldana appeared as the pirate Anamaria in "Pirates of the Caribbean: Curse of the Black Pearl." John Cho gained fame for his roles in the "American Pie" series and as Harold Lee in the Harold and Kumar series. Anton Yelchin starred in various TV shows and movies including "Charlie

Bartlett."

Also featured in the "Star Trek" will be Eric Roberts, who has starred in various such as "Black Hawk Down," "Hulk," "Troy," "Chopper," "The Nemo" and "Munich." "Star Trek," Bana will play an antagonistic role of a Roman named Nero. This proves versatility as an actor; in addition to past roles in romantic comedies, action movies, and voice acting (for "The Nemo"), this time he gets to play a green-blooded bald with pointed ears! If you're a "Hulk" fan, however, this was the first time he's portrayed a green character.

It is important to note, however, that Leonard Nimoy, who is famous for having portrayed the original Spock, will appear in this film portraying Spock from the future, his younger self. This is another meaning to the traveling element in this series.

Originally, the film was set to be released on Christmas Day, 2008, but was pushed back to May 8th next year. Amount argued that this would be more successful if released during the summer. Another reason, by the vice-chairman of Paramount, Rob Moore, is the release date push was to be known to the audience that this is a brand new franchise.

It is said that should the film be successful, two more will be planned as well, continuing the trend of movie series' to make the world a better place. For dedicated "Star Trek" fans, however, this proves to be a completely no problem. Unlike "Trek," finally beams into theaters, may you all live long and prosper!

The emotions of Motion City

JENNIFER STULL
the sandspur

On Wednesday, October 15, my most fantastic music dream came true. I had the opportunity to hang out with one of my favorite bands: Motion City Soundtrack, and interview their bassist, Matt Taylor. Taylor shared insight, embarrassments and future projects for the band.

The Sandspur: How did Motion City Soundtrack get its start?

Matt Taylor: It was 1997, Josh and Justin were in the same band, and I think Josh approached Justin about playing together because he liked his music and it just kinda started when the rest of us joined. Tony and I met Motion City on tour in 2000. It's kind of a crazy story, but Jesse worked at a pizza shop and Josh liked his shoes (laughs) and said, "I know you've never played keyboard, but you have nice shoes."

S: So how does songwriting work? Is it a collaboration of songs or one person?

MT: It depends, sometimes someone will start in and then bring it to the rest of us, and then we'll all write out our own parts. Then other times it's like just somebody randomly playing something, and then it kinda shapes itself.

S: Where did the name come from?

MT: I wish it was a cool story, but it's just not. I've heard it was the name of a store. Josh's brother was throwing out these names, and Josh said, "I like that. I'm trying to start a band. Do you mind if I take it?"

S: What is the weirdest or craziest thing a fan has ever done to meet you guys?

MT: I don't know if this person did it on purpose or if it was accidental, but I've had someone on the same flight as me that was a monster fan. I don't know if there's some way to find what happens people get on, but then they also ended up staying at the same hotel as us in this big city, so I was like, "alright, well that's weird."

S: What's your most embarrassing onstage moment?

MT: I don't think we've done anything too bad. I think it was winter '06 during our first big headlining tour. During the second show we're enter-

ing the stage and everything is so bright from the lights, very cool, and Josh just fell up the stairs on the stage. He fell on his guitar and knocked his guitar out of tune so we were messed up right away. So that was actually pretty embarrassing, especially for Josh. But that is probably the big one. We just wanted to go out and get everyone pumped, and immediately we blew it. That's kinda how we roll.

TS: Who are your personal musical heroes of musicians that you really look up to?

MT: I love Radiohead a lot. Their bass player, Colin, is just really good. I really respect his playing and the rest of the band just for creating a cool sound. They are just really on the cutting edge of finding new sounds that work. There is a band called Jawbox that I'm really into from the late 90s. Their bass player had this tone that I'd never really heard before that he achieved by playing with a pick and turning up the amp, which just gave it a biting kinda sound.

TS: So when did you personally feel like the band had made an impact musically?

MT: I mean I still don't feel like we've made it, but I don't think I ever will. I think that's kind of what keeps you going. If you feel like you've never made it, it keeps a healthy incline. I mean we've hit that point where if we were to break up tomorrow I'd be happy with everything we've accomplished which is all we really wanted to do from the start. You know, if we sold 10,000 records so that many people know our music, we would be happy. It's been very rewarding because we were a really young band and we had a label and a major coming after us and offering the same deals and everything. We just went with our guts, we went indie, we just kinda stayed on the road and build that way rather than have big radio success. It's kinda scary for a young band to jump in and get that success, so we know how the business works now and can kind of watch ourselves.

TS: Are there any future projects coming up?

MT: This is actually our last show for probably 6 months. We're going to get back to writing. We've got some stuff and ideas generating, so it's cool. We're going record within a year so we're going to be writing for a couple months.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF MOTIONCITYSOUNDTRACK.COM

James Morrison is no Jim

JENNIFER STULL
the sandspur

It seems as though in today's musical world every artist just blends together within their genre. Sure, every once in a while there is a shining star that deviates from the norm and gives a breakthrough to the music scene. However, these artists are few and far between, and for the most part, we as listeners are left unsatisfied by the popular music genre.

Specifically, I've recently listened to the new James Morrison Album, "Songs for You, Truths for Me." And, the truth for me was that this CD was, as most pop CDs of our time, mediocre. While Morrison's voice does have a nice bluesy tone to it, the sounds of his songs lack any originality from other singer/songwriters.

After listening to his CD I feel like he has potential to play good music; however, the songs on this album are nothing exciting, and personally, I'm glad I did not have to spend the \$12.99 to listen to it. After listening to the first four or five songs, they really all start to blend to-

gether and you begin to wonder, "Didn't I just listen to this song?"

Also, when it comes to his songs, most, if not all, deal with lost love and his depressed feelings. It almost sounds as though he were trying to fit into an emo folk genre, which might be the weirdest combination of music ever made.

Poetically, the lyrics don't appear to have much depth. They are shallow and generic, and left me quickly forgetting what the song even sounded like. That is, until the next song started, because they tend to all sound exactly the same.

Personally, I feel music is worthwhile if I can remember it once it is over. If just one song has made a lasting impression on a listener then the artist must have done something right. However, in all twelve songs this did not happen once, and if I did not have the CD in front of me, I probably would not even remember one of the songs' names.

James Morrison has one other CD currently out entitled "Undiscovered." While this album was popular in places such as the UK and New Zealand, it did little for the American population, which I assume will be the same outcome for his most

PHOTO COURTESY OF JAMESMORRISONMUSIC.COM



recent album.

In society today, it seems a new pop star is born every ten minutes. Between reality TV shows, privileged wannabes and MySpace stars it is hard to find any real talent in the music scene. James Morrison's album does little to fix this situation that the pop genre is dealing with, and I do not expect to hear much from him or about him in the future unless he is pulled over for DUI (which is where most wannabe celebs get their fifteen minutes of fame). Again, to his credit, his voice has redeeming qualities that could be channeled into good songs and music. However, if James Morrison's music stays as it is in "Songs for You, Truths for Me," then he will probably soon fizzle into the background of pop stardom like too many before him.

Smitten by Holy Hell

VERNON MEIGS
the sandspur

HolyHell is a female-fronted symphonic power metal band from New York. Uniquely, rather than releasing a debut album, they chose to first tour with power metal greats Manowar and Rhapsody of Fire. On March 23, 2007, however, they released the first single for their song "Apocalypse."

The Apocalypse single CD contains four strong symphonic metal pieces that will prove a strong taste of what's to come in the future with their as-yet-unknown debut release.

Before getting into the songs in detail, I would like to comment on the overall sound of the band. I must say, it's magnificent, and the most magnificent part about it is Maria Breon's vocals. These are not the sort of female vocals I usually encounter. As opposed to increasingly poppish vocals of most modern bands, and also the very operatically focused vocals of other symphonic metal bands, Maria's voice is extremely raw, for a lack of a more appropriate term. On the second song, "Resurrection," for example, the beginning verses are almost alto or tenor and very clean, as if they are actually sung from the heart. This is not at all to say she is incapable of classical and enhancing techniques, as she shines on their live cover of "Phantom of the Opera."

It's also nice to see a female-

fronted band actually incorporate the other members of the group. Guitarist Joe Stump plays in a very virtuosic manner and makes the guitar sing, blurring the line between Maria's vocals and the guitar. All the musicians make sure that the songs are of quality both in being a song and an entity of compositional complexity. HolyHell's compositions would make for healthy competition with those of Nightwish, and could soon become an excellent champion of symphonic metal.

"Apocalypse," the first single for HolyHell, is a downright epic, fast-paced symphonic metal tune with layered angelic vocals, a driving church organ riff and technical proficiency on the part of the musicians. The song

"Resurrection" is my personal favorite of these four songs. This is primarily a ballad where Maria shines in her "raw," pure vocals, and delivers a shocking angelic, operatic chorus. Joe Stump gets to shine as well very much on guitar soloing as well. I recommend this song to epic ballad lovers across Rollins.

The third track is a live rendition of "Phantom of the Opera," which they covered in concert during their tour. For the male vocals, Eric Adams of Manowar, which is the band that HolyHell supported, sings with Maria on the female vocals. It is highly likely that "Phantom of the Opera" buffs will appreciate this version.

Fourth song "Last Vision" has a very melodic and epic chorus with graceful musicianship. I like how the raw aspect of Maria's voice is used for the first chorus, implying that operatic choruses are not the only style in her range; a very good song and a fine way to close the short CD.

Considering we've waited well over a year

for Holy Hell's debut, it is now apparent that there should be something big in store for us. Pick up this CD and spread the word!



COURTESY OF HOLYHELL.COM

REPENT: The power of Holy Hell compels you... to buy their new CD.

sets the standard for HolyHell's music in that amidst the bombastic heavy music mixed with symphonic atmosphere, Maria's vocals provide the contrast with an angelic voice.

OCT / NOV

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

	27	28	29	30	31	1
		ACE & ROC Pumpkins and Knives and Paint, Oh My! Mills Lawn by ROC 7:00 p.m.	Speed Dating Mary Jane Plaza 6:30 p.m. Diwali Dave's Down Under 7:00 p.m.	Orchestra Halloween Concert Tiedtke Hall 7:30 p.m. LASA Tapas Party Case Iberia 7:30 p.m.	Women's Soccer vs. Florida Southwestern 7:00 p.m. ACE: Rollins After Dark Halloween 10:00 p.m.-1:00am	Halloween Howl 2:00 p.m.-5:00 p.m. Rollins Volleyball vs. Palm Beach Atlantic 4:00 p.m. Rabbit Hole 2:00 p.m. 8:00pm Fred Stone Theatre
2	3	4 Election Day	5	6	7	8
Rollins Volleyball vs. St. Leo 2:00 p.m. Rabbit Hole 2:00 p.m. 8:00pm Fred Stone Theatre	Larry Coryell Concert Tiedtke Concert Hall 7:30pm	WTF Rollins Uncle Sam's After Fall Party Mills Lawn 9:00 p.m.-1:00am.	Wind Ensemble Concert Tiedtke Hall 7:30 p.m. ACE: Coffeehouse with Robbie Hazen Dave's Down Under 8:00 p.m.	Rollins Volleyball vs. Barry 7:00 p.m. Rollins Men's Basketball vs. UF 7:00 p.m.	Bach Mystical Tibetan Monks 8:00 p.m.	
9	10	11 Veteran's Day	12	13	14	15
		ACE: Street Sign Making 7:00 p.m. Dave's Down Under	Rollins Volleyball vs. Florida Tech 7:00 pm-9:00pm Alford Sports Center			Rollins Volleyball vs. NOVA Southeastern 7:00 pm-9:00pm Alford Sports Center
Greek Week						
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
			ACE: Strallo's Dessert Tasting 8:00 p.m. Strallo's Cacio Dine on Fairbanks	Guest Speaker Mark Plotkin Bush 170 7:00pm	RCC Olympics Mills Lawn 2:00pm ACE: Rollins After Dark Karaoke and Video Games 8:00 p.m. Dave's Down Under	
They're Playing Our Song- Annie Russell Theatre						
23	24	25	Rollins College www.TheSandspur.org			
Faculty Recital Keene Hall 3:00pm. In God's Bedroom Fred Stone Theatre 4:00pm.						

**Sandspur-ian
of the Week**
Scott Cohen
For falling asleep while on the job

Rays rise from the ashes

LINDSEY HIRSCH
the sandspur

For those of you who did not grow up in the Sunshine State, you may not exactly be the biggest and most enthusiastic Rays fans. Well, hop on the bandwagon you fair weather fans, because everyone else seems to be doing just that. With this being their most successful season yet, the Tampa Bay Rays have headed to the World Series to face off against the Philadelphia Phillies.

Now, being a season ticket holder since their debut as the Devil Rays in 1998, I, along with many avid Rays fans, have been practically flabbergasted by their current accomplishment. The World Series always seemed

to be this intangible object that only the Red Sox or the Yankee monopoly...I mean team...have been able to grasp.

Finishing in last place every season except for 2004 and this current season in the Eastern Division of the American League has essentially made the Rays a joke amongst the more experienced teams of the sport and their fans. As of the 2008 American League Champions, the Rays have gained some official "street cred."

Last year, an issue of "Sports Illustrated" predicted that the Rays would be the best team in the league by 2010 because of all the young potential listed on their rosters, and it appears that the Rays beat that prediction by two years.

How did the Rays suddenly become this World Series



PHOTO COURTESY OF MCTC

material baseball team? Well, I believe the credit can be giving to Stuart Sternberg, the majority owner of the team, because in November of 2007, he made the decision to implement a makeover for the St. Petersburg based team.

The Tampa Bay Devil Rays got their name sliced to just the Rays, and their colors were changed to columbia blue, navy blue, and gold from the original colors of black, blue, and green. When asked about the changes, Sternberg responded that the new Rays name will represent, "A beacon that radiates through Tampa Bay and across the entire

state of Florida." That is some heavy responsibility for a team that usually finishes last.

Way back before they were even known as the Devil Rays, the team was just an idea, just an adolescent hope and dream. Dating back to 1966, leaders in St. Petersburg, Fla., had made the effort and tried to pursue a major league baseball team for the city rather than just host a site for spring training. Throughout the 1980's and 1990's teams ranging from the Twins to the Giants and the White Sox all considered relocating to St. Petersburg, but to no avail. Then, in 1995,

new franchise expansion, the MLB association and an investment group in Tampa Bay a baseball team that would eventually become the Rays.

The Rays have truly become a 180, which has given Tampa Bay "a beacon" of light in a time of economic crisis and weapons of mass destruction, which is exactly the purpose of baseball: to provide a safe escape for the fans. The Rays have literally risen from the ashes and picked themselves up from being a joke team to potential World Series Champions. I think this calls for some champagne.