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The Sandspur

December 5, 2008

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Volume 115 Issue 13



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

We had too many submissions this week. Check out the rest of the articles online at www.TheSandspur.org



The holidays ring in with performances, shopping and festivities see pages 6-7

On-campus activism honored

STEPHANIE ELLENBURG
the sandspur

The political campaign has ended and Barack Obama will be taking the presidential seat in January 2009. There will be change and even though not everyone was prepared for the outcome, it is nice to know that Rollins College was involved in every step throughout the campaign.

Out of 52 college campuses in Florida, Rollins was recognized as the third college to display honorable political involvement and was awarded a trophy by Florida Campus Compact's iVote Campaign. Each of the 52 campuses involved belongs to Florida Campus Compact, which is part of the nation-wide organization known as "Campus Compact."

According to their official website, Campus Compact is a "coalition of college and university presidents committed to the public purposes of higher education. They work with colleges and universities in Florida to promote scholarship of engagement through research, academically rigorous service-learning, campus-community collaboration, civic engagement and collegiate volunteerism."

If you live off campus or have had a busy schedule this semester, you may have been unaware of all the activities Rollins provided for its students during the 2008 campaign. There were many courses surrounding the topic of the election which were studied in the Political Science, Critical Media and Cultural Studies, Environmental Studies and even Chemistry departments.

Many of Rollins' organizations on campus held voter registration drives. The Rollins Democrats and Rollins Republicans participated in both voter registration and a McCain/Obama Debate. Sigma Gamma Rho Sorority Inc. and Rollins' Student Government Association also contributed to the efforts. Even team members of the Rollins' radio station, WPRK 91.5 FM, ventured into the community and were trained as pollworkers while promoting their program, "WPRK Votes." Station Manager Kristen Stone said, "WPRK Votes was a chance



WTF Rollins: President Duncan accepts an award recognizing Rollins College as the third place college for displaying honorable political involvement in this year's election by Florida Campus Compact's iVote Campaign.



STEPHANIE DUESING / the sandspur

for Rollins' radio station to work with Orange County's Adopt-A-Precinct Program to raise money for the station and get involved in the greater community. Each election year, approximately 12 WPRK DJ's and staff get trained as pollworkers... to make sure your vote counts. I

think it's really important for all types of people to get involved at all levels of the democratic process, and WPRK Votes is a great chance to do that."

Other events on campus included Ward Hall debate-viewing parties followed by informative discussions,

the annual Global Peace Film Festival, an event in the Suntrust Auditorium about Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America, Take a Stand 2008, FORUM Social Justice events and Voting is a New Right.

■ See Democracy, page 2

Drug related arrests: Rollins cooperates

LAURA HARDWICKE
the sandspur

Before leaving for Thanksgiving break, Rollins College faculty, staff and students were greeted with yet another community security concern. Dean of student affairs, Karen Hater, sent out a campus-wide e-mail concerning recent drug related arrests on campus.

The college is currently cooperating with the Winter Park Police Department on investigations. This means that rooms on campus are subject to searches by campus security and the police department. According to the "Guide to Residence Hall Living," found in the Code of Conduct and provided by the Office of Community Standards and Responsibility, "The Dean of Student Affairs may authorize a search of a student's room in a residence hall by members of the College to determine compliance with federal, state, and local criminal law or College regulations where there is a reasonable basis to believe that a violation has occurred or is taking place." Furthermore, searches may be verbally authorized under the college's Illegal Substances policy. Despite the several arrests, Hater does not anticipate further room searches.



FATEMA KERMAI / the sandspur

DOUBTS: Gonzalez gained police attention while riding in the car with his family.

FATEMA KERMAI
the sandspur

It all happened during fall break at the Windsong Community off of Preserve Point Drive in Winter Park.

Marcos Gonzalez and his parents were driving around the area and admiring the large, luxurious homes lining the streets. This was not the first time Marcos had ventured into the non-gated community; his girlfriend had accompanied him before to pick out a dream home. They had never encountered any trouble.

This time, however, was different. Two Hispanic men (wearing backward caps) sat in the front seat; a characterization which Marcos thinks may have influenced the type of treatment they received. The only woman in the car sat in the backseat hidden behind tinted windows.

As the Gonzalez family drove by, a police vehicle on the side of the road put off its lights and began trailing their car, checking their tag number as it did so. After following

Student questions police motives

them outside the development, its lights flashed on again, and the Gonzalez's were pulled off to the side. As Marcos recounts it, the officer came up to the car asked for a driver's license and car registration, refusing to confirm his status as a Rollins student. When asked about the reason for their being pulled over, the officer mentioned that there had been theft in the area - an act that Marcos did not appreciate being automatically associated with. The officer also questioned the family's being out to look at homes, incorrectly stating the time as 10:30 pm instead of just past 9:00 pm. When Marcos told her that they were not doing anything wrong and should not be profiled, the officer began to speak loudly. She reportedly said, "You will not tell me how to do my job," and was also quoted as remarking, "Oh wow, there's more of you," upon seeing Marcos' mother in the backseat.

No ticket was ever issued. So goes the story as told by Marcos, a student who

has received high praise from various members of the Rollins community. Leon Hayner, Director of Residential Life, describes him as "a man of high character" who "has proven to be a distinguished leader on campus and a very dependable and valuable employee." Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, Director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, calls him "a role model for all students here," and Dr. Barreneche describes him as a selfless person and "one of the most energetic, enthusiastic, and yet thoughtful students" he has ever had at Rollins.

Could there then be truth to this claim of racial profiling? Dr. Tome certainly thinks so. Asked about other instances of racial profiling by the Winter Park Police, she recalled the time her bike was stolen from her apartment building. The officer whom she spoke with at the time asked where she was from - an unrelated question.

■ See Serve and protect, page 2

Ethnobotanist wows crowd

LINDSEY HIRSCH
the sandspur

Being bitten by a vampire bat, trapped in a village in the midst of a civil war, hallucinating via natural species in the Amazon and getting healed by and living with Shamans are just among a few of the experiences that the latest Rollins speaker had to share with the community. This world-renowned ethnobotanist, who has been published in various media outlets such as Time magazine, The Smithsonian, Newsweek and People, is now brought to you by The Sandspur.

When Rollins advertised that a "spellbinding orator and storyteller" was gracing our campus with his presence, I automatically made the assumption that this was just a routine, exaggerated advertisement in order to encourage students to attend the on campus event. However, I stood corrected, for a new

standard of Rollins speakers has been set by Dr. Mark Plotkin.

As president and co-founder of the Amazon Conservation Team (an effort to help with the conservation of the biodiversity and culture of Indigenous peoples of the Amazon), author of "Tales of a Shaman Apprentice," named "Environmental Hero For the Planet" by Time magazine in 2001, selected as one of 35 people who made a difference by The Smithsonian magazine in 2005, and recently chosen as one of the "Social Entrepreneurs of the Year" by the Skoll foundation, this distinguished ethnobotanist had some life lessons to drop on us.

If you were not amongst the fortunate people in attendance at the event, then you may be asking yourself, "What the hell is ethnobotany?" By definition, ethnobotany is the study of the relationship between plants and humans; however, as Dr. Plotkin puts it, "the only difference between me and an Anthropologist is that I jump at the opportunity to try

hallucinogenic plants."

On November 20, Bush Auditorium was filled to capacity with anticipation as the clock struck seven; the crowd ranged from students who were required to attend for their RCC classes to the elderly and involved Rollins community members, all anxious to bear witness to what the illustrious ethnobotanist was going to enlighten the crowd with.

Plotkin began the evening with a presentation inundated by his wit on some of his work and experience in the Amazon. He literally invoked "ooh's and ahh's" from the crowd as he exhibited pictures of fungi that becomes a parasitic leech on its migratory prey and disturbing pictures of flesh eating bacteria.

Plotkin explained that, "there is no need for science fiction when Mother Nature is so perverse and creative..." In reference to the photos mentioned above, he stated, "don't worry about wars, the economy, or terrorism. Worry about resistant bacterial infection." Plotkin later went on



COURTESY OF THE AMAZON CONSERVATION TEAM

HALLUCINATING: Ethnobotanist Dr. Mark Plotkin amazed students in the Bush auditorium with stories of his life's work, invoking "ooh's and ahh's" throughout his presentation.

to clarify the interconnectedness of our planet and how antibiotics of the future will come from nature, just as they always have in the past.

Above all, a recurring topic throughout the evening was Plotkin's emphasis on the vital importance of a liberal arts education. Plotkin, who himself was a college dropout, took seven years to get through what one normally gets through in four years. He encouraged students to do the same, and to not spend their summers smoking weed with friends at home, but to instead immerse oneself in a culture or a job that will help further one's career later in life.

However, keep in mind that he did not just drop out to drop out; he began working at Harvard University's Museum of Comparative Zoology, working alongside influential masterminds of the time. Soon thereafter, he was persuaded to finish his schooling and received his Bachelor's degree from Harvard, his Masters of Forestry at Yale University and later his PhD at Tufts University.

The most integral part of the evening was not the stories that Plotkin shared, but his ability to provoke us all to think about our future, about the world and what we wish to do in life. It may have cost the college an arm and a leg to bring this eloquent speaker to our school, but the investment was well worth it.

To learn more about the Amazon Conservation Team, check out their myspace page at www.myspace.com/amazonconservationteam.

Q: What sparked your interest in ethnobotany?

A: I took a class, I dropped out of college and I took a night school class at Harvard on hallucinogenic plants, and met this amazing professor who became my mentor. What you need to look for in school is a mentor. It could be anyone and not necessarily a professor. You need someone to advise you and put you on a path while in college who will give you good advice.

Q: On your journeys, have you deciphered whether the transition of culture is desired on the part of the indigenous people, or is there some kind of pressure and influence from outside sources?

A: You and I, we don't listen to the same music because we

grew up in different times, people change. When you see a lot of this change it's brought on by people to tell them to change. People saying this is what you got to do, you have to be a Christian, you have to use technology, because you're stupid. Imagine if people showed up from outer space telling us everything we're doing is wrong, and we just assume that they would be right...we look to higher authority for answers.

Q: What is the craziest thing you've ever encountered?

A: I've seen Shamans cure things that are supposed to be incurable, Shamans that claim to teleport or turn into a jaguar... I have learned that you can reject something that you don't understand.

Q: Have you ever hallucinated?

A: Are you kidding, I'm an ethnobotanist. It's part of my job.

Q: Are the Shamans under their own care?

A: They always have other people taking care of them. Interestingly, the healers of Shamans are always women.

Q: Have you been treated by a Shaman, and if so have you been converted and no longer use Western medicine?

A: Yes, I injured my arm playing racquetball. I went to the doctors and tried massage therapy, and it hurt for two years. I lived with a Shaman for a month, who treated me twice a day and now I'm beating the shit out of people half my age [in racquetball].

Q: What was your education like, or any pointers because you sound like you have a lot of radical ideas on the approach to education?

A: Some came because my education took 7 years to get out of college. I was a dropout. Don't do it just to do it. I went to a lot of schools to put me on the path I'm on. Hurrying through college through four years is missing out. I worked my way through school, and then something about having a job while going to school which creates a sense of responsibility. We're in a strange time. Who knows what the future is going to be? So, four years just studying business is short sided. I think what you're hear at Rollins is to do is to continue to learn, which is a deep structured lesson that everyone should know...and your teachers aren't telling you

Democracy

Continued from page 1

"WTF Rollins" (We Tackle the Future at Rollins), is a new student organization that is made up of a collaboration of other student groups and was formed this fall semester. On election night, this new student organization put together the "Uncle Sam's After-Poll Party." This event included more than 250 Rollins students, faculty, and staff members who gathered

together on Mills Lawn to view the election results on a large projector screen from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. WTF Rollins, in partnership with funding from the Christian A. Johnson Endeavor Foundation, also provided rides to polling locations on election day.

"All these events and the dedication of Rollins' organizations helped offer many opportunities for student involvement in the democratic

process this year", stated iVote Democracy Cup Application Coordinator, Kathryn Powell. She also announced in a campus-wide email, "Congratulations to students, faculty and staff involved in civic and political engagement activities this election year! The Democracy Cup will stay in the Office of Community Engagement for the rest of the semester and then will go to the Rinker Building as its final home."

Serve and protect

Continued from page 1

Tome writes, "When I told her I was from Spain, she immediately told me that the thief was probably one of my 'Latino friends...' When I called the Winter Park Police Department to complain about her racially-charged comment, I was told she probably meant to say that most thefts in that area had been committed by Latinos."

It wasn't just one isolated incident. Dr. Tome says she has sensed "condescending treatment" by most government employees as soon as they realize she is from a different country. Such acts of discrimination she views as the most offensive that can be perpetuated against another person, and they are made worse if they emanate from those who are meant to protect us.

In response to an inquiry that was sent to the Police Department regarding racial profiling, Deputy Chief of Police Bill McEachnie wrote that the department "does not engage in profiling and the practice of profiling using race, color, ethnicity, national origin or any other particular trait is prohibited by policy." The Bias-Free Policing process begins

early, through the selection of professional, educated officers; the Winter Park Police Department is "the most educated Police Department in Central Florida with over 80 percent having undergraduate or graduate degrees, several from Rollins College."

In addition, the department believes that its interaction and communication with the local citizens "helps to foster relationships between all types of people and instills trust between our members and our community. We reinforce our values through regular training related to diversity issues and by having a significant number of our officers trained to deal with people in crisis [which is] occasionally due to differences in cultures." The department also meets with a number of diverse organizations and interfaith groups in order to "maintain a familiarity with people from many backgrounds."

Police contacts with citizens are also reviewed routinely to ensure freedom from bias, and the number of complaints that are received are analyzed and reported on annually. Four such complaints were filed last year, none of which resulted in evidence of bias. "To put these complaints in perspective,"

McEachnie wrote, "the department responded to over 80,000 calls for service, made in excess of 1,200 arrests and issued in excess of 15,000 traffic citations."

Still, members of the Rollins Community have already mobilized. SGA President Marissa Germain has met with Marcos, and says that "meetings with Dr. Duncan, Provost Casey, and other important decision makers on campus are to take place." Cultural tolerance is especially important to the school as it looks into diversifying.

Dr. Norsworthy, Co-Chair of the Rollins Diversity Committee, also agrees that racial profiling affects both the general public and Rollins in particular because "when students, faculty, or staff of color consider Rollins, many report that the larger community climate is an important factor in their decision to work or attend school here."

Marcos himself never thought racial profiling could happen to him, but now he's not willing to give up the fight for equal treatment. "This experience was embarrassing for my family and I, and the officer attempted to shatter my dreams," he says, "but it won't work."

Pottery, pancakes, and public humiliation

JENNIFER STULL
the sandspur

Imagine, it is a cold November night in Winter Park. No one is to be found on campus, and the urge to go out on a Friday night is kicking in. Where do you go? What do you do? And where has everyone else gone? Well, this past Friday night, ACE hosted a Rollins After Dark special event which brought about a rather large turnout.

At this event, free pottery was provided by "All Fired Up," which is located right down Fairbanks. Not only was there pottery to be painted, but there was also karaoke provided and performed on the Dave's Down Under stage.

The event seemed to have something for everyone to do no matter what their interest was. Not only was there karaoke and pottery, there was also Wii games and Guitar Hero being played on the TV's.

Of course, late night hunger settled in after some time passed and the Grille was opened to serve many students as they painted and sang. Also, seeing as the night was rather cold, free coffee was provided to ease the cold winter weather.

It seems as though the night was enjoyable for all who attended. Freshman Renee Fiorot says, "I think it's a really good thing for the school to do on Friday nights. Sometimes the weekends seem a little slow around here, so it's nice that there is something going on, on campus that's free and fun." She goes on to say, "I wish there had been a little more space. It was really crowded and hard to find somewhere to settle down and relax. Once we found a place though, it was a lot of fun."

Another student, Amanda Bartling, says, "Everything in Orlando is so expensive. I really liked that everything was free or I was able to use my R-card. I would definitely go to another Rollins After Dark later in the year." Bartling goes on to say, "I really liked that they had free coffee since it was so cold outside. It made me want to stay and see what else they had to offer. The whole event just seemed like a chill way to spend a Friday which is good because students need that sometimes especially since finals are coming up. It's just low stress and easy."

So, while a night at Dave's Down Under may not have the same level of excitement as a

night downtown in a club, it does have the positive aspects of having a relaxing and fun atmosphere for students looking for a night away from spending money and staying out late. It seems to be a nice alternative to the typical weekend at Rollins College and a good way to socialize with fellow students. So, if you have not checked out a Rollins After Dark event yet, check it out. You may be surprised at how much fun you can have right here on campus on a Friday night.



YOU THINK YOU CAN SING: Students spent their Friday night singing along to popular karaoke songs, creating pretty pottery, and stuffing their faces with pancakes.



ZAC CHENAILLE / the sandspur

Relaxation tips for surviving finals week

ALEXIS OBERNAUR
the sandspur

When discussing finals season, only three words really come to mind: kill me now. Frankly, I never really learned this stuff in the first place, and now I am forced to regurgitate thousands of facts across four or five different disciplines while uncomfortably sitting in a stuffy classroom. AHHHHHHH!

Though, because going into this upcoming week a frantic, caffeine-addicted mess of a zombie probably is not the best approach, perhaps employ the following techniques to relax.

1. Exercise. Yoga especially, because the ultimate goal of yoga is to reach complete peacefulness of body and mind; it is great for helping you relax and manage stress and anxiety. The quiet, precise movements can draw your focus away from your busy, chaotic day towards the calming moment as you move your body through poses that require balance and concentration. The Alford Sports Center offers group fitness classes on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday at 6:30 pm and Friday at 5:30 pm in the dance studio, room 139. If you're more active by nature, any cardio activity will stimulate blood flow and release much needed endorphins in times of hopelessness and despair such as these.

2. Take advantage of the on-campus opportunities sponsored by RHA and Plug-In. The relaxation nights and Zen Den offer massages and tranquil environments in a centralized location such as the Campus

Center. While there you can try out aromatherapy or a variety of stress reducers without paying a cent. In case those events don't fit your study schedule, there is a variety of salons off-campus on Park Avenue that offer student discounts for spa services. Treat yourself to an early holiday gift with an hour-long massage or facial. Flashing your Winter Park Platinum Card or Rollins ID can get you up to 30% off various services.

3. Get sleep. Eight hours of it. The human body functions at maximum efficiency after a full night's rest, so turn off "Call of Duty," log off Facebook and crawl into bed. Though, one night of eight hours will do little to reduce your compounded sleep debt. To really feel your best, stay in the entire week before finals and avoid going out so you can secure five days in a row of those requisite ZZZ's.

4. Eat (and stay) healthy. You will feel top notch if you make a sincere attempt to eat a nutritious diet during the week of finals studying. Salty and fatty foods can leave you feeling tired, lethargic, and all around blah. During flu season especially, it is vital to consume extra nutrients (vitamin C in particular) to keep your immune system running in tip-top condition. Airborne and Emergen-C, which are conveniently sold in the C-Store, are easy and inexpensive ways to fend off illness. While in the C-Store, be sure to pick up some nuts or trail mix, because new studies suggest that snacking on these healthful options while hitting the books will lead to increased memory retention and recall.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

5. Avoid stimulants. Though coffee, cigarettes, Adderol and energy drinks will help you through those late nights in Club Olin, overdosing will leave you feeling jittery and unable to sleep. We have all consumed a few too many mid-afternoon venti-sized lattes only to regret it while tossing and turning, still wide awake at 4 am.

6. Do as much advance preparation as possible. Whether it is packing your backpack or picking out your clothes, listen to Mom's advice from third grade and do it the night before. The less you have to rush the morning of a big test the better. Feeling frantic does not contribute to a relaxed mind. Furthermore, leave for class a few minutes earlier than you normally would to ensure you get there on time to collect your thoughts and ask any pressing last minute questions.

Good luck, study hard, and do some deep breathing. You will do great. And if not, well, Rollins is not such a bad place to be during this economic recession, so kick back and soak up some rays for another year.

Driving green

ERIK KEEVAN
the sandspur

Has our dependency on oil finally died? Students at Seminole Community College revealed their new car that runs completely off of ethanol at the Central Florida International Auto Show Wednesday, November 26. Dubbed the SCC Top Alcohol Funny Car, this vehicle is the epitome of 20 SCC automotive students' work, taking four months to complete.

When designing the car, the first thing they had to do was make it safe. The initial months involved testing the body for structural damage and making sure that it is safe from fires. The last thing they wanted was their car to go up like the Hindenburg. Then they worked on the body of the car, to make it appealing. The car's body was given to them by Chuck Moore, the famous funny car driver, and was taken from his own collection. Once they made the modifications needed for their special car, they turned to the other hurdles they had to jump.

The most important factor that makes a car run off of ethanol is the engine. A common engine draws in some combustible material; generally, it is gasoline that is used. After the gas is drawn in, the mixture is put under extreme pressure, to use as much as possible. Then the material is ignited, or combusted, giving off the kinetic energy needed with the heat. The last process is the exhaustion, which can be seen coming from cars that are in desperate need of a tune up. The ethanol engine has a problem with this process, however. Ethanol is a highly unstable material and can explode if not mixed properly. If you've ever seen the movie "October Sky," it is the same

idea; too much alcohol and all you create is a gigantic Molotov cocktail, too little and the car won't run. The manufacturers needed to make sure that the engine could draw just the right mixture so that no one would get hurt. And after many trials and errors, they succeeded.

What's next for this funny car? Well, the students are planning to drive the car to local high schools to teach about alternative energies to the oil. They will use their car to demonstrate that it is possible and will integrate the differences in ecological harm. Then, when it catches the eye of companies, the companies will weigh the cost of making the car and the benefit it will give them. If the cost to make the car will make it practical to make and sell, we might have cars on the road that run completely off of ethanol. This could completely remove our dependency on oil, which can have impacts beyond just preserving oil. If the United States can remove the need for oil, then we can remove our need of foreign countries' oil. Prices would lower and we would not have to worry about price leaps like in recent times.

The only drawback to ethanol is that you cannot go as far per gallon as you can with oil, so the price may be outweighed by need. If it costs \$2.95 for a gallon of gas, but you get 32 miles to the gallon that works out to about nine cents a gallon. However, if ethanol is also sold at \$2.95 and only gets 15 miles to the gallon, you end up losing about ten cents per gallon. But we will see about costs in the future. In the mean time, keep your eyes open for new advances like this. The world keeps striving more and more to help our planet.

ROLLINS GEARS UP FOR

Upcoming Holiday Events in Winter Park

FATEMA KERMALLI
the sandspur

'Tis finally the holiday season! During these winter months, individuals from many different religious groups will be gathering together to celebrate the gifts of their faiths. Here are some of the highlights for the weeks ahead in Winter Park.

Christmas Vespers:

Enjoy a night of carols presented by the Rollins Music Department! Between songs, students and members of the Rollins community will read scriptural passages reflecting the Christmas season, which celebrates the birth of Jesus. Service is free and begins at 6:00 pm December 5-7, but tickets are

required. A donation of \$5.00 is requested.

Christmas Parade:

On Saturday, December 6 at 9:00 am, Park Avenue will come to life with its 56th annual Christmas Parade. An all-you-can-eat Pancake Breakfast will take place at the Central Park main stage from 7:00 am to 11:00 am for just \$5 per person with proceeds benefiting Winter Park area elementary schools.

Eid-ul-Hajj:

On December 8 or 9 (depending on the sighting of the moon), Muslims will celebrate Eid-ul-Hajj, the most important holiday in the Islamic Calendar, which occurs during the time of the annual "Haji," or pilgrimage, to Makkah. Local mosques will hold prayers during the morning hours. Many will also open their doors for people on "Arafat" which occurs the day before

Eid and is meant to be a day for supplication.

Christmas Concerts:

Winter Park's 13th annual Merry Tuba Christmas will begin at 1:00 pm on Saturday, December 13th. It is a free, one-hour concert from the main stage in Central Park. The Florida Symphony Youth Orchestra will be playing an afternoon of holiday favorites from the Central Park main stage on Sunday, December 14, at 2:30 pm.

Hanukah:

On Sunday, December 21 from 5:00-8:00 pm in Central Park, join the community for a celebration of Hanukah, an eight-day Jewish holiday celebrating Jewish national survival and religious freedom. The festival will feature the lighting of a giant Menorah as well as live entertainment and Hanukah treats for all to enjoy.

Winter P concert a

G. KEITH EVANS
the sandspur

The event sounded like an excellent idea, something no one would really want to miss. A world-class orchestra—the Orlando Philharmonic—was to perform a holiday pops concert on the stage in Central Park, just a short walk from the Rollins Campus. A guest conductor was to lead the orchestra in their renditions of holiday classics such as White Christmas, O Holy Night,

and Winter Wonder internationally soprano was also lend her award-winning to lesser known "I Know that My Liveth," "Snow," and Three Ships. Best musical merriment be performed for fe of the Winter Park celebration.

The day of the didn't seem too p winds whipped fro area, torrential d drenched Orlando Park and a tom confirmed to have

Brighten someone else's holiday this season

ELLESE BENDER
the sandspur

As you read this, visions of home probably lie in the back of your mind. You may think of all of the packing you have left, the mass of finals that lie ahead, the holiday shopping yet to be had. We look forward to the food that awaits us, the warmth of our home base and the gifts to be received. We think of the friends we must catch up with and the holiday traditions that accompany this time of year. Yet, as we often think of ourselves and our immediate family, we forget the context in which this holiday season 2008 lies. Thousands upon thousands of Americans are currently losing their homes. Layoffs have become a characteristic of

day-to-day life. A war remains brewing overseas and 1 in 8 Americans currently go hungry. While surely everyone hears every year to give back during the season, in no other time in our recent holiday history does it hold more true. It isn't hard—it's actually quite easy. And here are a couple of excuse-free simple ways to share your holiday:

1) Donate food. Are you REALLY going to eat \$300 dollars worth of food in your final week back at Rollins? Do you really want to let that money just vanish into thin air if you don't use it up?

Before the C-store shelves go bare, take that unused money and purchase a few cans,

gallons of water or boxes of cereal to bring home or have a local friend drop off at a food bank. Professionals, families and those you may never think would resort to a food bank are indeed relying on these facilities for their weekly groceries in these tough times. By donating your share you can truly make a difference in a family's life whose holiday may be a bit different from those of holidays past. Go to www.feedingamerica.org and use their search tool to find the food pantry nearest you. It takes little to no extra effort and the gesture will surely go a long way.

2) Donate whatever leftover dorm materials you have. The Freshman 15 hit you already and you find yourself taking home a few items? Did you bring double of anything to college? Find yourself with one

too many blankets for Florida? Or have you arrived home and found that the number of items received far exceeds the closet space you have? Don't trash it. If it's in the dorm, donate it to local area organizations so you don't have to lug it home. More and more families in these rough economic times are resorting to thrift stores and consignment shops for necessary items. Local organizations aiding the homeless need resources to help these citizens through the cold winter season. ODK (the National Leadership Honor Society) at Rollins is collecting blankets for Help the Homeless (Ripple Effect). According to the

organization's email, "I would like to make a \$5 donation for new blankets that I can purchase from IKEA or a blanket, you will be able to on December 1 and December from 11:30-2 pm at our the Campus Center. If you like to donate a blanket, not able to stop by during times, please e-mail Kelly Haase (krolfshaase@rollins.edu) to set up a time."

2) Help out at Funfest. More information available in this issue of Sandspur. The event takes on a reading day and is a crowd-pleaser. As you give gifts of your holiday, don't forget the of others. Exercise Rollins global citizenship and start by sharing your today.



2008 HOLIDAY SEASON

Holiday Pops Facing wash-out

In Orange County, the afternoon, however, had cleared to a crisp—perfect for a celebration!—and the sun had moved well west. A quick check of the Park and Orlando websites revealed cancellations; by 5 p.m., the concert was a wash-out.

At 5 p.m., however, the sun didn't seem right. On the north end of the park, the sky was dark and the air was for two young boys playing while their parents watched nearby. No one illuminated the park, and the traffic clogging the road was destined for the Mass at the Catholic Church.

As the sun would-be, the boys meandered the park, looking for a place to hold their game. The boys were looking for a place to hold their game.

At the Central Park, the concert was a wash-out. The boys were looking for a place to hold their game. The boys were looking for a place to hold their game.

Orlando Philharmonic had disappeared; or the concert had been rained out. A few patrons, wandering aimlessly about the darkened park, queried one another before going home. A few stayed to enjoy the wine and picnic dinners they had brought.

As of Monday, December 1, the Winter Park website still lists the November 30 concert as a current event. An unnamed spokesperson, who answered the phone at the offices of Orlando Philharmonic, though, advised that the concert was cancelled and would not be rescheduled. She went on to offer alternative venues in which one could hear the orchestra perform—for a fee, of course—in places like the Winter Garden, downtown Orlando, and SeaWorld. Calls to the assistant director of communications for the city of Winter Park were not returned before press time.

Despite the wash-out of the Holiday Pops concert, the city of Winter Park has many other upcoming events which are sure to spark the holiday spirit.

According to the city's website, The 30th Annual Christmas in the Park, a display of Tiffany windows and a free concert by the Bach Festival Society, is scheduled to occur between 6:00pm and 8:00pm on Thursday, December 4. Unlike the Philharmonic concert, this event offers a rain date of December 5.

Also happening on December 5 is the annual Tree Lighting Ceremony and Holiday Stroll, an evening that offers festive carols by local ensembles, a lighting of the municipal holiday tree and a visit from Santa Claus. This event is followed by Popcorn Flicks in Central Park, a public screening of "Gremlins" on a large screen in the park; the movie starts at 7:00pm.

For those who prefer morning events, the city's 56th Annual Christmas Parade will kick off at 9:00 am on Saturday, December 6 and features holiday-themed floats parading down Park Avenue. The website also warns of another possible visit by Santa Claus during the parade.

Maybe the Holiday Pops in Central Park didn't quite pan out the way anyone hoped, but opportunities for merriment still abound. If you're short on holiday spirit and are ready to feel festive, perhaps one of these local events will get the sugar plums and candy canes dancing in your head.

Retailers cater to holiday shoppers this season

CAROLINE SCHNEIDER
the sandspur

With the economy fluctuating between bad and worse, many retailers are slashing prices in the hopes of boosting sales. This is great news for the savvy consumer. If you play your cards right, you can buy for everyone on your list and still have enough left over to treat yourself to something fun. With that in mind, let's review the smart tips necessary to ensure holiday shopping success.

Shop Online. It sounds passé, but shopping online saves both time and money. Many online stores are luring shoppers in with their promises of free shipping and free gifts. Last week, for example, I went online to order lip balm and found it for \$1 a jar, slashed down 73% from the normal \$4 price tag. I ordered several jars, and now I have stocking stuffers for family members. This company also threw in free tinted lip balm and shave cream. As a bonus, I now have my mom and dad's stockings covered too.

Use Coupons. Embrace your inner bargain-hunter, and you'll save a fortune. Many popular chains offer e-mail coupon incentives. By printing these and shopping mid-week (when most of the coupons are valid), it's easy to find CDs, movies and books at buy one, get one half off bargains. Some restaurants have deals running where if you spend a certain monetary amount, you will get a gift card with a lesser amount free. You can use this as a gift to someone else.

save it for yourself.

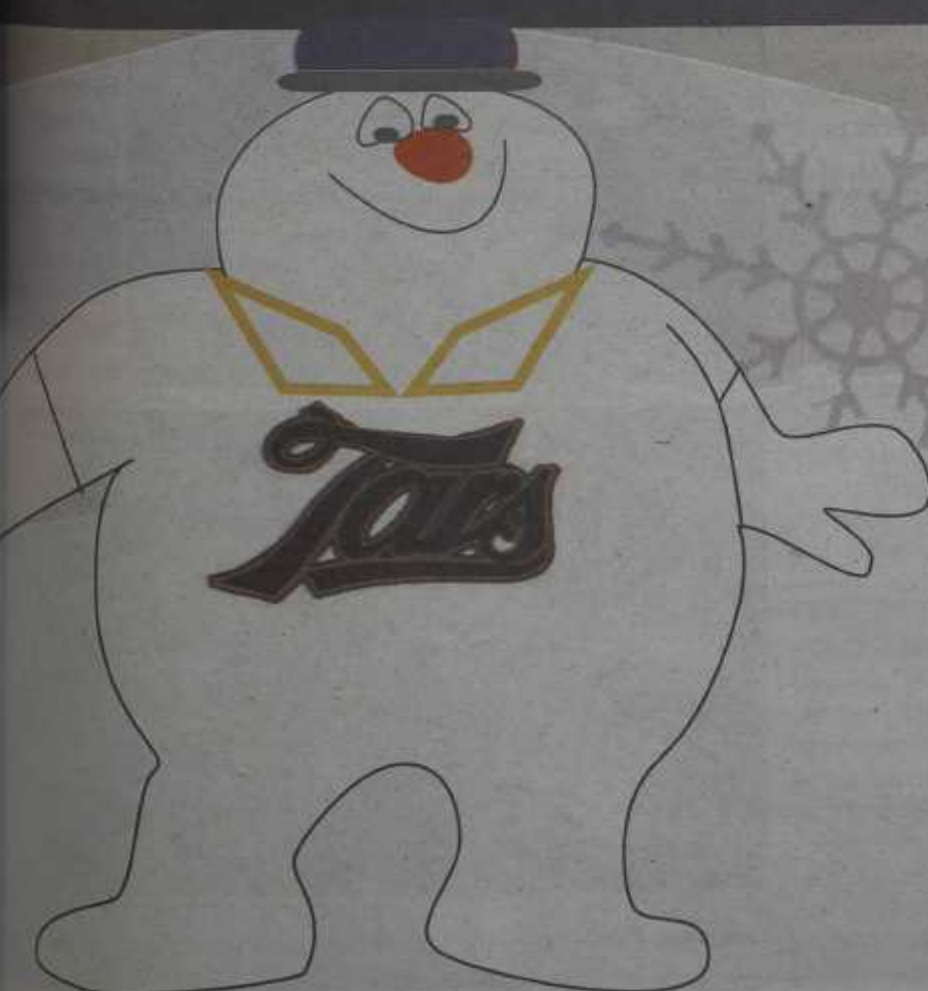
Think Outside the Box. If perusing the usual holiday haunts doesn't inspire you or light your gift-buying fire, why not explore a new place? For the lover of all things antiquated, why not hit the thrift mall? If you enjoy haggling for the best possible deal, why not bargain with an antiques dealer? As they receive fewer customers, it's easier to persuade them to budge on prices. I've found some of the best places for retro gifts with great prices are on First Street in downtown Sanford.

Combine Gifts. Why not create "a date in a box" for that movie buff in your life? By buying two tickets and enclosing that restaurant gift card you got for free, you'll have an inventive, relatively inexpensive gift for two people. You can give this to parents, grandparents, or a sibling with a spouse or significant other. If you really want to sweeten the deal, throw in a card that states you'll give the recipient three hours of free babysitting.

Pool Your Resources. Can't afford to buy for everyone on your list? Go in together with another friend or family member to make that almighty dollar stretch. By offering to merge your money and shopping prowess, you'll be set to find nice gifts at half the price, as long as you don't mind sharing the "from" section on the gift tag. And just think how much money you'll save if you combine your resources and haggle and use coupons!

You'll be that person in line checking out that everyone is checking out.

Happy Holidays and happy shopping!



Horton hears a whole lot of Mandarin in Hong Kong

KATIE JONES
the sandspur

Senior Nicholas Horton is a physics major and chemistry minor from Orlando, Florida who is studying abroad this semester. Nicholas is partaking in a Rollins-affiliated program through the Hong Kong Baptist University. Because this is an affiliate program, his Rollins financial aid followed him when he went abroad, and he did not have to take a leave of absence to attend this separate university, as he would have if it were an independent program. The Hong Kong Baptist University offers courses, many in English, within 40 majors in the areas of Science, Social Work, Arts, Business Administration and Social Sciences. Nicholas has shared the highlights of his experience in China with us.

TS: Is this the first time you have been to a different country? Is this the first time you've stayed in another country for an extended period of time?

NH: No, and yes.

TS: What classes are you currently taking? Have you gone on any interesting fieldtrips with the class or had special hands-on activities?

NH: I am taking two geography courses, a Cantonese course and a physics course. I joined the hiking society and watched the sun rise on Lantau Island. It was amazing!

TS: Are your classes taught in English or another language?

NH: My classes are taught in English, but the videos we watch in my geography class are in Cantonese and Mandarin! Luckily, the professor gives the international students a "cheat sheet."

TS: What has been the biggest culture shock for you?

NH: There are people everywhere in the heart of the city. Personal space is very limited while walking the streets, and the subways are always crowded.

Everything at stores and restaurants is "priced as marked" - there are no additional taxes, and tips are not required. This may sound minor, but it makes me feel so stingy when I leave restaurants without paying a tip.

Also, according to the label, the "Minute Maid" orange juice I purchased last week contains "fish products." I thought that was very strange.

TS: What is your favorite food that you've tried while abroad?

NH: Dim Sum. Hong Kong is famous for these delicious dumplings. Most of them contain pork, shrimp or vegetables.

TS: What is the strangest/worst food you've tried while in China?

NH: The strangest food I've tried is moon cake, which is probably the unhealthiest thing ever. It's like pecan pie filling which is cooked in peanut oil, and each cake contains two whole egg yolks. I was foolish enough to eat a cake all by myself, and I was sick for an entire day afterwards.

TS: What is your current living situation while studying at the Hong Kong Baptist University?

NH: I'm living in the student residence halls. My room is on the 12th floor and it overlooks the Hong Kong skyline; it's beautiful! My roommate is a Hong Kong resident, one of my suitemates is from Germany and my other suitemate is from Hong Kong as well.

TS: Have you traveled to any other countries

while studying abroad?

NH: I haven't had the chance yet, but I want to go to Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, and/or mainland China at some point.

TS: How has the weather been in Hong Kong?

NH: The weather is a lot like Florida, but I'd say it's slightly more comfortable in Hong Kong. Our A/C units in the residence halls charge by the hour, so A/C is rationed in the room, and at night we sleep with the A/C off and the windows open.

TS: Are other Rollins students studying abroad at the Hong Kong Baptist University? If not, what other colleges are the students from?

NH: Yes, there is one Rollins student, but there are also 197 international students (excluding those from mainland China) this semester. Many of the students (70 total) are from Germany and France, but there are also people from all corners of the world. There are only 15 students from the United States!

TS: What do you miss most about Rollins?

NH: I miss the small class sizes. I didn't know how beneficial small classes were until I had my first geography course in an auditorium with 100 other students.

TS: Is there anything else you would like to share about your experience in Hong Kong?

NH: Everybody should try to study abroad for at least one semester. For scientists who may be worried about fulfilling their science requirements on time, Hong Kong Baptist University offers many science courses that fulfill these requirements. People should seriously consider going to Hong Kong for a semester; it was one of the best decisions I've ever made!

Electronic emissions adversely affect the environment

ERIK KEEVAN
the sandspur

We all have video games, whether they are at your house or in your dorm room. What we do not always do, however, is turn them off. If you are one of those people that leave their Xbox or PlayStation on all hours of the day and night, even when you are not using them, you should probably think again.

A recent study by the Natural Resources Defense Council has shown that video games waste over \$1 billion per year and release as much greenhouse gases as all the cars in San Jose. According to the study, the PlayStation 3 uses 150 watts of energy and the Xbox 360 uses 119 watts. And what of the Nintendo Wii, you ask? Well, the Wii is the most ecological of all the systems out there, using less than 20 watts at peak efficiency.

Now, this study is not suggesting that video games are bad or that people should stop playing them. All they are suggesting is that you shut the system off when you are done playing with it. Leaving your Xbox on after you leave the room, even if you have it on pause and the TV is shut off, will use more energy than leaving the lights on in your house. And that's just when you are playing a normal video game like Halo. If you are playing a video game that uses more power, such as Rock Band, the output would be even higher. And both of

those are pale in comparison to the various uses of DVD and Blu-ray players.

These players on both PlayStation and Xbox operate at peak energy use for the system. A PlayStation 3 Blu-ray player uses five times the energy of a standalone Blu-ray player. And that power consumption does not lower when the movie is over. If you are watching and leave the system on, the consumption will stay the same, as will the power through its thin.

So imagine: you play games for four hours a day, you leave the game system on the entire time you are awake. If you are awake for 16 hours minus the time that you are playing the game, you have wasted 12 hours of your life. That is three times the energy that you used to actually play the game. That is a considerable waste of energy.

The NRDC is not suggesting that you stop using video games, but that the games use energy. They just ask you to be conscious of the energy that is used by the environment, whether you believe in global warming or not. Plus it is not just about saving the environment; the energy costs money, and simply turning your game systems off can save you up to \$100, according to the study. So when you are in your room, make sure your video games are off and that the lights are off. It doesn't need to be a tree to help save the environment.

Students return home after a semester abroad

STEPHANIE ELLENBURG
the sandspur

With the end of fall semester and Christmas break coming soon, many students will be returning to campus after their semesters abroad. Students are headed back from Spain, Australia, Greece and a Semester at Sea, among many other exotic places.

Rollins' senior Kelly Sabin was lucky enough to experience a Semester at Sea.

"Semester at Sea has been AMAZING so far, I love it so much! Having only been to Canada and Mexico before, seeing the world and having the experience to travel to all these countries has been amazing."

Sabin's adventure at sea began this summer, when she visited El Salvador, Brazil, Walvis Bay in Namibia, then Cape Town in South Africa. Her next stop was Chennai, a brief homestay in India, Penang and the Cameron Highlands in Malaysia, Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) in Vietnam, Phenom Pheh and Angkor Wat in Cambodia, Hong Kong, Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai

in China, Kobe and Tokyo/Yokohama in Japan and finally Thanksgiving in Hawaii.

She is currently sailing on her way to Puntarenas in Costa Rica. Says Sabin, "I really can't believe how much of the world I'm seeing, but it has also made me realize that there is so much more in the world I HAVEN'T seen! Being able to go to all of these places, though, is so awesome. I love that I've seen some of the 'wonders' of the world like Angkor Wat, and the Great Wall of China."

If you have an interest in spending a Semester at Sea or any other abroad program, you can check with the International Office in Carnegie Hall. If you'd rather stay somewhere in Europe or near the Mediterranean, perhaps Greece would suit you better. Rollins senior Kylene Dey has been studying in Athens for the semester through a program called CYA (College Year in Athens).

She says, "The city of Athens is amazing. There is so much history, but at the same time it's become very modern since hosting the 2004 Olympics. I've done a lot of traveling to the

Greek islands of Santorini and Crete, all over the mainland of Greece on school sponsored field trips, went to Rome for the weekend, and spent my fall break in Egypt and Turkey."

"My favorite place was definitely Istanbul, Turkey. It has a real mixture of old and new, western and eastern; and as a predominantly Muslim country it was more liberal than I had anticipated. Where in Cairo women were covered in full length burkas or head scarves; you rarely saw that in Istanbul. Rome was also amazing, as would be expected. There were so many other American college students in Rome, which we don't really get here in Athens."

Nearly everyone who has ventured abroad has come back with hugely positive reviews of their semester. Their experiences have also allowed them to be steeped in the history of another country. Says Dey, "I strongly recommend that all college students spend a semester abroad, wherever it may be. It will change you in ways you could never imagine. Plus, it makes coming home that much sweeter!"



STEPHANIE ELLENBURG / the sandspur
POSING PRETTY: Kelly Sabin spent time with the children in Africa while enjoying a Semester at Sea.

CFI Auto Show appeals to all comers

GREG GOLDEN
the sandspur

The Central Florida International Auto Show took place at the Orange County Convention Center from Wednesday, November 26 through Sunday, November 30. The companies that comprise the majority of the motor vehicle industry were represented, from Ford, Chevy, and Toyota, all the way to the higher-end Ferrari, Maserati, and Rolls Royce. Even local car-owners proudly displayed their gems, from a Ford Model A fire engine to an amphibious car with a boat-like body from the 60's. Ford even displayed their Airstream, a Hydrogen concept car that looked like a mix between a 1950's trailer and a space capsule. Each of the car companies' representatives on the show floor had something to say about what they wanted people to learn from the show, what models would be the best value for college students and how their companies are responding to current environmental concerns.

Hyundai reported that they are striving to be the best in standard features, including fuel economy and safety, of which they are among today's leaders. They are excited about how customers feel that their cars look much richer than they cost, especially the Elantra, which was the company's choice to recommend for students. Looking to the future, Hyundai hopes to become the industry leader in Corporate Average Fuel Economy (CAFE) by 2015. They are developing hydrogen fuel cell technology for use in a future Tuscan model, which is being tested on a 4,300 mile trip to gauge its durability and performance in extreme temperatures. They also plan to have an electric Sonata on the market by the 2011 model year. Hyundai says this is all part of their "blue movement," which is their version of going green, just with a color they are associated with, and, because the earth is covered with more wa-

ter than land, as they said. Even the company's bags at the event were made of recycled materials, reflecting their dedication to the environment.

Scion stressed that their focus is on what is appropriate for today's market, with a level of consumer-customization and all-around quality. They said that each of their models carries a high value, but the xD would be their recommendation because it looks the best to them. In the past two years, their cars have been rated to be Super Ultra Low Emission Vehicles, which much of their competition has yet to achieve. Scion has no hybrid models in the works, for their aim is to be the most globally-conscious for its time, instead of selling cars that are not as cost-effective in today's market. They said that with current hybrid cars taking 3 to 4 years of ownership for the lower fuel consumption to pay off, the price of their cars and their excellent fuel economy make their vehicles a better value. Their parent company, Toyota (who would not answer questions), is devoting their resources to explore alternative fuel-powered vehicles, and when they become viable in the consumer market, their production should trickle down into Scion.

Mazda said that they are focused on their brand imaging, that people understand that each of their models has the "soul of a sports car" and are fun to drive. They consider their most economical car to be the Mazda 3, because with its resale value, consumers will end up with a better bottom-line. Mazda is working on a hydrogen-rotary engine capable of being powered by hydrogen fuel-cells and gasoline; however, it is not yet ready for mass-production. Their other foray into alternative fuels is with their Tribute hybrid utility vehicle.

Ford wants consumers to know that this year's lineup is the most fuel-efficient in their history, and that the Fusion and Focus are their top picks for col-

lege students. They are exploring the use of advanced technology to use the least amount of energy in their vehicles as possible, even utilizing the exhaust to help heat the car and generating electricity from additional places.

Chevy hopes people will consider the new technologies they are implementing, not necessarily for this model year, but in the years to come. They consider the Cobalt to be the most economic of their current models, and are looking forward to the production of the Volt, an electric car slated for a 2010 release that will get 40 miles on a full charge. Owners may fill it with gas to power its generator if longer trips are necessary, but Chevy's focus is to cover the distance that the average commuter travels in a day. Chevy is planning to implement hydrogen-powered cars in their 2011 lineup, and they will also produce a wider variety of E85 ethanol vehicles.

Dodge wants to be seen as having high quality at a fair price, and would recommend its Caliber, which offers great functionality and good gas mileage. They plan to reduce gas usage with their 5.7-Liter Hemi engine, which offers better EPA ratings than their 4.7-Liter V8 engine while offering comparable power and towing. They reported that their partner, Chrysler, is more involved with alternative energy, as their ENVI program is developing a range of electric cars for their usual models as well as for another branch of their corporation, Jeep.

The show provided sights of a wide range of vehicles, from the affordable to what is undoubtable to the general public. Not only are car companies focused on selling affordable and quality cars today, but they are also looking to the future, when vehicles running on alternative fuels are expected to be the norm. From the information provided by top manufacturers, the automotive industry appears more progressive than people give them credit for.

Circa storms Winter Park

G. KEITH EVANS
the sandspur

instructions to "worry about service and classic serving techniques first, everything else second." As far as I could tell, the staff was already very skilled; I have no idea what prompted this exchange.

After finishing off the salad, I was curious about what desserts would be available. As a server took my dishes away, though, I was instead offered a "warm appetizer." Since appetizers are traditionally served before the meal, this offer left me a little confused. Although the "confit duck spring rolls with fig leaf" (\$12) sounded very appealing, I chose instead to wait for a more typical dessert. When my S'more arrived, I was glad I did: this chocolate pie with graham cracker crust and melted marshmallow topping was nothing less than decadent, and the fresh fruit garnishment flanking the pie provided a perfect sense of culinary balance.

Completing my meal and paying my tab (\$22.69 for my selections—not bad, but still slightly on the pricey side), my server offered me a tour of the facilities (I'm not sure if this offer is generally extended to patrons or if she suspected I was working on this article). During this tour, I learned that the hyper-formal front dining room

where I had been seated was only a small facade for the rest of the establishment. A large conference/meeting/group dining facility was tucked

away in the back, and a pub (not yet open) was under development across the hall. Then we went upstairs.

The upstairs portion of Circa is something one certainly wouldn't expect to find hidden above the dining facilities visible from the street. With swanky jazz music, a full bar and room for dozens of people, the upstairs lounge is less like a Park Avenue business and more reminiscent of a South Beach night club. With colored uplights casting a purplish-blue hue on the walls, blue LEDs under the floors, and plush sofas, chairs and private enclaves scattered around, the atmosphere of the lounge was on the opposite end of the spectrum from the downstairs facility.

Circa turned out when the building which houses it was constructed, circa 1928, is certainly a vivacious new entry to the Winter Park scene, and the lounge—open until 2:00am on weekends—adds a much needed nightlife choice to the north end of the Avenue. With delicious foods, decadent desserts and an interesting (though yet forthcoming) pub, Circa may appeal to a broad enough crowd to hold its own in the competitive Park Avenue marketplace.

After much quiet preparation, months of design work, and an abundance of hushed anticipation, the new piano bar at 358 North Park Avenue is finally open to the public. Eager to try this new local gem, I took the short stroll to the restaurant for an early afternoon lunch. Anticipating a hot new restaurant in traditional Park Avenue style, I was not to be disappointed.

At first glance, the main dining room seems a little hyper-formal, even for the classy avenue. White, tied-back covers adorn the chairs, a glossy black piano rests quietly in the corner, and the staff, clad in semi-formal attire, is eager to assist. With this level of formality, I was a little anxious as I approached the establishment; with the overly formal appearance and no other patrons in the establishment, I worried that the restaurant was closed for some special affair. The door staff assured me, however, that they were open for business and that other customers would soon appear.

Taking my seat, I was immediately impressed by both the attention to detail in the establishment's décor and the attentiveness of the staff. The latter may have been because I was the sole customer at the time, but the attention (which fell just short of doting) was a welcome change from the impersonal service at some other local venues.

The menu was also refreshing, if not a little on the pricey side. The regular staples—such as sandwiches, soups and salads—were interspersed among tantalizing offerings such as "pan-roasted Long Island duck breast" (\$29) and "grilled wagyu 'Australian kobe' beef" (\$34). Despite these and other intriguing 3-course meals, I found myself debating between the "classic Caesar salad with grilled chicken" (\$12) and the "laughing bird shrimp (or chicken) chimichurri tomato and crème sauce over fettuccini" (\$11). Being a Caesar salad fan, the former won out.

The salad itself was very good, with a classic Caesar taste (just as the menu had described), generous portions of chicken and very fresh lettuce. The quality of the food was very comfortable, and the food was excellent. Not surprisingly, my waitress, Lauren, was highly attentive to my needs during and immediately after the meal. I was surprised, however, to overhear the manager addressing another employee with

PHOTOS COURTESY OF MCTCAMPUS.COM

FORDS, AND FERRARIS, AND MAZADS, ON MY1: Just some of the cars that could be seen at the Orange County auto show.



Vespers turns 75 Hugh hot down under

CAROLINE SCHNEIDER
the sandspur

For the Rollins community, the holidays do not really begin until you have attended the Christmas Vespers service held in the Knowles Chapel. Held during the first weekend of December every year, the Vespers service is a warm and inviting outreach to the entire Central Florida community. During the Prelude, selected Christmas carols are performed by the Rollins Orchestra as everyone is seated. The service begins with the choir processing in bearing lit candles as they sing "Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silent." This is one of the most powerful moments of the service.

The timeless Christmas carols are performed by the Rollins College Choir, Rollins Chamber Singers, Rollins Singers and the Rollins Orchestra. Most of the pieces are conducted by students and highlight the blossoming talent housed within the music department. Student soloists vary from night to night, but all of the performers are excellent. In between carols, students and other members of the Rollins community read selections from the Old and New Testament. Soft candlelight adds to the backdrop of this serene, reverent event.

With the beautifully decorated Knowles Chapel as a backdrop, Dean Patrick Powers presides over the Vespers service and acts as a guide through the songs, readings and prayers. He invites everyone to participate in the recitation of The Lord's Prayer. His kind

speaking voice adds to the welcoming spirit of the Christmas story he reads. He welcomes all who attend to come again to the Chapel, as he leads worship services every Sunday for students, alumni and any who wish to attend Knowles Chapel's services.

For an eagle eye view of the service, you may request to sit in the balcony, but be forewarned that the organ can be a little bit loud at times. There really isn't a bad seat in the place. Many people try to bring cameras, but no recording devices are permitted, as they pose a distraction for the performers. Food and drinks are also not permitted, but plenty of refreshments can be enjoyed either on or off campus before and after the Vespers service.

If you are interested in attending Vespers this year, the tickets for this event are free; however, a \$5 per person donation is suggested. The Vespers service this year promises to be the best yet, and everyone is welcome to come. For ticket information, please contact the chapel office or leave a voice mail (ext. 2115). If you'd like, you can send an e-mail with your name, the number of tickets you would like, and your box number to jgranberry@rollins.edu. They will be sent to you in campus mail. You may have tickets for any night you prefer. The 75th Anniversary Vespers celebration runs from Friday, Dec. 5, through Sunday, Dec. 7 (the night for the college community). Remember, there is no charge but tickets are required. Attending Vespers is a very meaningful experience and promises to invoke the joys of the season.

CAROLINE SCHNEIDER
the sandspur

I must first admit that any film containing Hugh Jackman is a film that I'm predisposed to like. However, knowing my assignment and knowing that I had to remain objective put a mute on my enthusiasm for the proclaimed "Sexiest Man Alive." I knew I couldn't rate "Australia" solely on the beauty of Mr. Jackman, even if I wanted to. So I set out to experience Baz Luhrmann's sweeping film set in the untamed beauty of the Australian Outback.

The film opens with scenes of cheeky humor—while not quite slapstick, they nevertheless amuse. This beginning is a bit deceptive, for the story soon turns more serious. Lady Sarah Ashley (Nicole Kidman) arrives in Australia from England completely set in her threefold purpose. She wants to reclaim her philandering husband, sell their cattle ranch, and return to England as soon as possible. On her arrival at Faraway Downs after a transport by the ruggedly handsome Drover (Jackman), Sarah discovers that her husband isn't cheating; he's dead. He was killed just hours before by an old Aboriginal witchdoctor named King George. And King Carney, the man who was interested in buying the Ashley's cattle ranch, isn't who he initially appears to be. Rather than making a fair offer, Carney uses every mean trick in his bag to ruin the Ashley cattle business and further establish his own beef monopoly. Suddenly, Drover morphs from Lady Ashley's aggressor into her greatest ally.

Baz Luhrmann describes "Australia" as employing "a mixture of visual language." "It's not super-theatrical," he explains, "but it's not naturalism." That's an accurate description of this sweeping epic which aligns itself with films such as "Out of Africa." "Australia" is a clear departure from Luhrmann's flashy, artsy past work in "Moulin Rouge!" and "Romeo + Juliet." In this film, clear attention is paid to the development of characters and the historical, racial tensions that plagued Australia during this period of history.

That being said, in order to enjoy this film, the audience needs to care about the filmmaker's development of character, setting and theme more than they care about constant action and visual stimulation. The gentle handling of difficult material does draw you in and forces you to consider and care. Luhrmann doesn't quite have the rich history of "Out of Africa" on his side here, but he does highlight an important piece of world history. His treatment of the racism issue is studiously good-hearted.

"Australia" is a glowing tribute to the land of its name. The chemistry between Kidman and Jackman crackles whenever they come within view of each other. The pairing draws you in and makes you care about them. They are sensual without crossing into campy, an important balance that is not achieved frequently. If you're looking for a thoughtful, aesthetically pleasing film, look no further than "Australia." Don't let the nearly three-hour running time scare you off. It's a film not to be missed.

Tolla's supports Rollins community

AMY IARROBINI
the sandspur

Italian dinner is all about food and family; be prepared both as you head to Tolla's Italian Restaurant on Pennsylvania Avenue. The restaurant is a student favorite such as spaghetti, chicken Tolla and chicken shrimp aioli, in addition to a wide selection of beer and wine (all at 20% off with the WPA Park Platinum card). Word spread quickly about the eatery, with even more Rollins students dining at Tolla's before.

Students should also expect a warm welcome from owner Gary Tolla upon arrival.

"When students dine at Tolla's they should expect good service, good food and me coming by to say hello," advised Tolla.

Gary Tolla opened the restaurant four years ago and has been supporting Rollins College and the community ever since. In a month, Tolla donates his time and resources to feed the hungry.

"I support community charity events because I like to be involved and take part in what students are doing. To respect my place and I respect them," said Tolla.

Tolla has hosted several charity dinners to raise money for the Children's Miracle Network, donating 20% of sales, which added up to hundreds of dollars, to charity.

Tolla said, "The Children's Miracle Network is a good cause and a little goes a long way. It feels good to help out and have the opportunity to participate. After all, that's what makes the world go 'round: helping others."

And the best part about it is, you can help the cause by helping yourself to more food.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF GARY TOLLA



Pushing Daisies goes under

ERIK KEEVAN
the sandspur

Break out your brightly colored suits and attend the funeral for "Pushing Daisies," the recently cancelled ABC show. In the last two years, this quirky show has created an almost cult-like following. The pie-maker and his friends have entered into the hearts of anyone who has seen the show. Now, unfortunately, ABC has decided to cut funding for this show, along with two other shows: "Eli Stone" and "Dirty, Sexy Money."

"Pushing Daisies" is a classic detective show with a strange twist; Ned, the pie-maker, can bring people back from the dead. Only for a minute, however, then he must kill them with a second touch. If he keeps them alive longer than that minute, then someone else nearby will die—a lesson he learned the hard way when he brought his mother back to life. The story picked up when he brought his young love back to life and decided that he could not kill her again and kept her alive. For the rest of the show, they need

to keep their love alive without touching each other at all, whether to hold hands or just to kiss. Add in a greedy detective in search of his daughter, Ned's love-struck employee at the Pie Hole and a subplot revolving around two zany aunts and you have pure gold.

The kiss of death for "Pushing Daisies" was the writers' strike last year. The show, being an infant in a crowded television scene, was only able to air nine episodes, merely half of what should have aired. Additionally, those nine episodes were spread over a long period of time, leaving month-long gaps in between episodes. Since viewers, who are infamous for their short at-

tention spans, had to wait for such a long time in between episodes, they lost interest. After near record numbers at the start of the show, the ratings started to lower little by little, until the

on the storyline and gave up on the show. When ABC saw the lower numbers, they decided to cancel the show, leaving diehard fans of the show heartbroken.

The real question that remains is if Ned's magic finger will be able to bring the show back to life. The quirky romance/comedy/detective drama attracts the attention of many, and leaves it open to be picked up by a different network. Maybe ABC will see the error of its ways and put it back two seasons from now. Either way, fans are looking for the marvelous story to be continued in any way possible and will be waiting to hear any news about this show that was doomed through no fault of its own. If you have not seen "Pushing Daisies," I wholeheartedly suggest that you do, because it is like no show that you have ever seen. It is a masterpiece that deserves everyone's full attention.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

APPROPRIATE: Cancellation news makes Pushing Daisies' name all the more poignant.

last episode of the season, which had the lowest viewer rating yet. When the new season started, almost a year after it ended with the first season, very few people were interested in catching up

December 2008

Dining Services Hours of Operation

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Marketplace 7-10:30a 11:30a-2p 5-7:30p	Marketplace 7-10:30a 11:30a-2p 5-7:30p	Marketplace 7-10:30a 11:30a-2p 5-7:30p	Marketplace 7-10:30a 11:30a-2p 5-7:30p	Closes Early Marketplace 7-10:30a 11:30a-2p 5-7p	Reading Day Marketplace 7-10:30a 11:30a-2p 5-7p
The Grille 11a-5p 7:30p-1:45a C-Store 10a-10p	The Grille 11a-5p 7:30p-1:45a C-Store 10a-10p	The Grille 11a-5p 7:30p-1:45a C-Store 10a-10p	The Grille 11a-5p 7:30p-1:45a C-Store 10a-10p	The Grille 11a-5p 7p-1:45a C-Store 10a-7:30p	The Grille 7p-1:45a C-Store 11a-7:30p
Dianne's Cafe 8:30a-7p Connell Cafe 7:45a-8:30p Bookmark Cafe 10a-midnight	Dianne's Cafe 8:30a-7p Connell Cafe 7:45a-8:30p Bookmark Cafe 10a-midnight	Dianne's Cafe 8:30a-7p Connell Cafe 7:45a-8:30p Bookmark Cafe 10a-midnight	Dianne's Cafe 8:30a-7p Connell Cafe 7:45a-8:30p Bookmark Cafe 10a-midnight	Dianne's Cafe 8:30a-5p Connell Cafe 7:45a-2p Bookmark Cafe 9a-3p	Dianne's Cafe Closed Connell Cafe Closed Bookmark Cafe 11a-3p
Final Exams Marketplace 7-10:30a 11:30a-2p 5-7:30p	Exam / Plan also Fly Marketplace 7-10:30a 11:30a-2p 5-7:30p	Reading Day Marketplace 7-10:30a 11:30a-2p 5-7:30p	Final Exams Marketplace 7-10:30a 11:30a-2p 5-7:30p	Final Exams Marketplace 7-9a Last Bkfst 9a-2p Lunch	
The Grille 7:30p-1:45a C-Store 10a-10p	The Grille 10p-1:45a C-Store 10a-10p	The Grille 7:30p-1:45a C-Store 10a-10p	The Grille 7:30p-1:45a C-Store 10a-10p	Closed C-Store 10a-2p	All Dining Operations Closed
Dianne's Cafe 8:30a-7p Connell Cafe 7:45a-8:30p Bookmark Cafe 10a-midnight	Dianne's Cafe 8:30a-7p Connell Cafe 7:45a-8:30p Bookmark Cafe 10a-midnight	Dianne's Cafe 8:30a-7p Connell Cafe 7:45a-8:30p Bookmark Cafe 10a-midnight	Dianne's Cafe 8:30a-7p Connell Cafe 7:45a-8:30p Bookmark Cafe 10a-midnight	Dianne's Cafe 8:30a-3p Connell Cafe 7:45a-2p Bookmark Cafe Closed	
			Staff Mixer	All Dining Operations Closed	All Dining Operations Closed
The Grille 11:30a-1:30p	The Grille 11:30a-1:30p	The Grille 11:30a-1:30p	The Grille 11:30a-1:30p	All Dining Operations Closed	All Dining Operations Closed



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The Sandspur The Oldest College Newspaper in Florida Founded in 1894

December 5, 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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Nick Zazulia.....Entertainment
Fatema Kermali.....Opinions
Hope Kramek.....Sports
Evie Lyras.....Copy

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).

1000 Holt Avenue
Winter Park, FL 32789
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Editor@thesandspur.org

Winter Break Preparation

Important Dates:

- Residence Halls Close
(INCLUDING SUTTON APARTMENTS)
Saturday, Dec. 13, 2008 - noon
Students are required to leave 24 hrs after last room or by Dec 13 @ noon, whichever comes first.
- Residence Halls Open (Intercession Only)
Sunday, Jan. 4, 2009 - 9:00 a.m.
- Residence Halls Open (Spring)
Sunday, Jan. 11, 2009 - 9:00 a.m.

Holiday Happenings

All student rooms will be inspected over the holiday break by Residential Life and Facilities Management staffs. Illegal items/contributed left in plain view will be confiscated and disciplinary action will occur. All smoke detectors will be inspected and A/C filters will be changed. Please make sure that staff has clear access to A/C unit and smoke detectors. All valuables should be secured, as the College cannot be held responsible for lost/stolen items.

Before You Leave:

- Dispose of all food & trash in room.
- Refrigerator - perishables removed, inside cleaned, door open, unplugged. (Except Sutton kitchen fridges)
- Everything moved away from A/C unit.
- Electrical appliances unplugged from wall.
- Stereo, computer & valuables stored in safe/covered place or taken home.
- Lights turned off.
- Windows/doors closed & locked, blinds down but open.

Vacation Checkout Forms

Your RA/HM will be posting a checkout form on your door. You must complete all tasks, sign form as you are departing, and tape to the inside of your room door when you leave.

If you have further questions, please contact the Residential Life Office:
(407) 646-2649 or reslife@rollins.edu

Room Changes

Deadline for requesting a room change is December 1. All belongings must be moved into that space and the room change completed by December 3, before exams are finished. Remember to check out with your RA/HM & return old room keys to the Residential Life office before you leave for break. Any remaining vacancies will be filled over the vacation period with new and returning students.

Not Returning to Campus?

Planning to study abroad, withdrawing or graduating early? ... please notify the Res Life Office and fill out the Intent to Vacate form. Then notify your RA/HM to schedule a check-out and return your room key before leaving for the holiday break. A room condition report must be completed and signed, and you must completely and properly check out with your RA/HM to avoid additional fines/charges.

Planning to Live with Someone Returning in Spring?

Notify the Residential Life Office before you leave or by December 1 to request a specific roommate for spring.

New Students for Spring

New students will be assigned to current vacancies. If you have a vacancy in your room, please make sure that your room is clean and ready for the assignment of a new student and your belongings moved to one side of the room. If you know any new students coming to Rollins and would like to request them as a roommate, please contact the Residential Life Office before departing for the holidays.

24-Hour Quiet Hours

Effective Friday Night, December 5 - Midnight, all residential facilities will observe 24-hour quiet hours. Good luck on finals!

From the Office of Multicultural Affairs:

Please join us for a brief prayer vigil and memorial to those who lost their lives in this past weekend's terror attack. We will pray for and remember the 185 victims of this tragic event. It is important that we come together, not only as Rollins College Community, but as citizens of the world in the wake of such tragic events. This service will be followed by a time for reflection and open discussion about these difficult events.

Friday December 5, at noon
In front of the Knowles Chapel



Sandspur-ians
of the
Semester
Grandma and Grandpa
Travis
for supplying us with
tasty snacks all
semester

DECEMBER

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30	1 JB's 21st Birthday! Rollins College 12:00 a.m. The Holiday All- NIGHTER at TJ'S 4:00 p.m.-2:00 a.m.	2	3	4	5 Classes End Christmas Vespers Keene Hall - Tieddie 6:00 - 7:30 p.m. Attitudes Alford Sports Center 7:30 - 10:30 p.m.	6 Christmas Eve Keene Hall - 6:00 - 7:30
7 Christmas Vespers Keene Hall - Tieddie 6:00 - 7:30 p.m.	8	9	10 Reading Day Holiday FunFest Alford Sport Center 4:30 - 7:30 p.m.	11	12	13
Final Exams						
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
WINTER BREAK						
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	Rollins College www.TheSandspur.org			

Freshmen dominate in the RCC Olympic

JENNIFER STULL
the sandspur

It seems as though every Fox Friday, rather than spending that time bonding with classmates in each specific RCC, there is an organized event put on by explorations in order to bring together the entire freshman class in the hopes of accomplishing a competitive bonding experience.

Over the course of the first semester, Freshman have taken part in events such as the alma mater competition and the karaoke competition. However, this past Fox Friday was an event that took more than singing and impressive choreography. It demanded more physical qualities out of students. This event was the RCC Olympics and only one RCC could go home with the gold.

The competition started out with a race. A group of boys from several RCCs would race until all the RCC boys had competed and then the same for the girls. After about seven boys and girls had won their individual races, the winners competed against each other in order to determine who was the fastest boy and fastest girl in the fresh-



CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS: Students run, hop and crawl, with every muscle strained, for the cup's last hurrah.

IMAGES COURTESY OF MARGAUX / facebook.com

man class, and those two RCCs would receive points.

The next event was the crab walk, where one student from each RCC would have to crab walk a certain distance to reach their teammates who would be participating in the "mummy" portion of the race. The "mummy" is when two students from each RCC are wrapped together with toilet paper and have a balloon put in between them and whoever gets to the finish line

first wins. Then, once the winner of that event was decided, points were awarded.

The next event was the peer mentor water balloon toss. Whichever set of peer mentors were able to last the longest tossing the water balloon without it breaking won points for their RCC. However, the balloons being used were not meant to be water balloons that break and therefore, determining a winner for this event took a bit lon-

ger than expected, but finally a winner was named.

Finally, the last event was another relay race which started out with one group of two from each RCC that had to act as a wheel barrow, with one student holding the other students legs as the other student walked on his or her hands. This action was again performed by another pair of students, and then, when the second pair reached their final group in their RCC, that group

ran in a five-legged race to the finish line to claim RCC glory.

So, who won, you ask? Brian Hatch says, "It would be mine. Power Citizenship." This RCC is one of the top three RCCs which seems to be doing rather well in the RCC cup points this semester. It seems, though, that all RCCs are participating in these exploration events, they are not all done on their own will. An anonymous student says, "I thought Fox Friday was supposed to be when you just chilled, your RCC and didn't do much. All these exploration events take more than an hour and one really wants to be home anyway. At this point, I don't know which RCC is going to win the cup because the points are so high and I don't see the point in this competition. It just seems like a waste of time."

So, while some may think these class bonding experiences and some do not, the freshman class still participates and for the chance to win the RCC cup. The end of the semester is coming up very fast and a winning RCC will be announced soon; who knows, it could be yours.