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Rollins College

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# The Sandspur

The Oldest College Newspaper in Florida, Est. 1894

Rollins College

Friday | March 20, 2009

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Volume 115 | Issue 20

check out more stories at [www.thesandspur.org](http://www.thesandspur.org)

## American Stereotypes



Time "American Idol" contestants are redefining typical stereotypes on the show. Find out which ones.

PAGE 5

## Mexican border at Rollins



March 23, Rollins will see a symbolic U.S.-Mexico border fence, a controversial part of American history.

PAGE 7

## this day in history

March 20, 1999: Bertrand Piccard and Brian Jones became the first to fly a hot-air balloon nonstop around the world.

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



## What is an Ally?

A Safe Zone Ally is someone who provides a safe place for understanding and celebration of Rollins' gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and queer communities.

Allies celebrate and create welcoming environments for the GLBTQ community members throughout campus.

<http://fars.rollins.edu/multiculturalaffairs/safezone/>

## Rollins' Safe Zone Ally program sparks discussion and gives training on GLBTQ issues among students, faculty and staff.

JUWON AJAYI  
the sandspur

The year 2009 seems to be the time for change, and with a new president in office, that change may be a positive one for the Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, Transgender and Queer community.

It appears that the United States is moving in a more positive direction when it comes to the acceptance of the GLBTQ community. In 2009 alone, MTV cast the first transgendered housemate on *The Real World*; Maryland's state attorney general, a former Republican congressman and an African-American civil rights activist, testified in favor of same-sex marriage; and the film "Milk," the story of California's first openly gay elected official, won two Oscars. In Florida, hundreds of protestors marched to the Capitol on March 16 to lobby for repeal on the state's ban on adoption by same-sex couples.

At Rollins, some students, faculty and staff decided to do their part in increasing awareness and making the school a more supportive and embracing environment by participating in a four-hour training program.

Modeled after a program started by AT&T employees, the Safe Zone Ally program was created in 2007 by a group of faculty and staff trainers as well as the Office of Multicultural Affairs. The program's goal is to raise awareness about the issues GLBTQ individuals have to deal with on college campuses. Similar programs exist on numerous campuses across the country.

Some of the goals of

the four-hour training were the development of a deeper awareness of stereotypes associated with the GLBTQ community, an increased comfort level in addressing issues such as homophobia, and the proliferation of services on campus that support the GLBTQ students, faculty and staff.

The training, which took place on February 28, had a solid turnout with students like Meghan Thomas (Class of 2011), who got involved with Safe Zone because she thinks the Rollins community could be more tolerant. Thomas said: "I'm interested in promoting diversity, and I think there needs to be more accepting of differences at Rollins."

Students who participated discussed topics ranging from the Kinsey scale to the different ways to support GLBTQ students on campus.

Familiar terms like homophobia and "coming out" were discussed, as well as more unfamiliar terms like "Inter Sex" and "Gender Expression."

At the end of the training, students went home with more than a certificate indicating they had successfully completed the program.

In Tina Udhvani's (Class of 2012) case, the training made her less reluctant to address the GLBTQ community. She said: "I think the training helped us meet those goals because I did get educated on the facts and I feel like I'd feel more comfortable helping someone out if they ever encountered problems with regards to their sexual orientation. The more people are educated, the more accepting people can be."

For Thomas, the training means a positive change for the school. She stated: "My experience at Rollins has shown me that, outside of a specific population, there is not a lot of openness or willingness to understand cultures different than one's own. There tends to be a lot of division, and

Rollins could really be a more inclusive campus by educating the students about different cultures and ideas, and helping them to understand those ideas in order to encourage acceptance. The SAFE ZONE training is a good program to help promote understanding and to teach students the tools needed for greater acceptance and unity."

For more information on the Safe Zone program, check out <http://fars.rollins.edu/multiculturalaffairs/safezone/>

Safe t  
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Safezone

## WHERE TO GO

NEWS.....page 1  
OPINIONS.....page 2-3  
A&E.....page 4-5  
LIFE & TIMES.....page 6-7  
CALENDAR.....page 8

## quotable

"...IT has put a technological Band-Aid over my computer problems rather than fix them entirely."

opinions PAGE 2



## thesandspur.org POLL

What do you think of the new Rollins website?

It's aesthetically pleasing and easy to navigate 33%  
It looks good, but I can't find anything 34%  
It has no redeeming value 33%



## The Sandspur

The Oldest College  
Newspaper in Florida  
Founded in 1894

March 20, 2009

Volume 115 Issue 20

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 Tuesday of every week at 6pm 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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# IT department leaves much to be desired

**JENNIFER STULL**  
*the sandspur*

I suppose technology and I have never quite seen eye to eye. All I really ask out of my computer is to let me type papers, Google everything imaginable, and Facebook lurk until my heart is content. However, it seems as though these requests for my Lenovo ThinkPad laptop are a bit more than it can take. Somehow my computer seems to contract virus after virus and run out of space daily, and it seems for every new word document I want to create, I have to delete two to fit it. How am I as a working college student supposed to function with these restraints?

The answer to this question is supposed to be Information Technology (or "IT" as most students know it as). The purpose of IT is to be there for students to fix their computers in times of need. However, in my experience, IT has put a technological Band-Aid over my computer problems rather than fix them entirely. At the end of this past

October, my laptop contracted a horrible virus where nothing on my computer would open. I brought my computer to IT in hopes of my precious laptop making a full recovery. When it was returned to me, it worked well, momentarily. However, a week or so after getting it back, it started having the same problems. I then again brought the computer back and they said they were "scanning" the hard drive. I was told that my computer had some kind of spyware on it, and that it was now removed. However, yet again my computer was still acting up and I have basically been back and forth with IT since then.

Also, when I returned from winter break, I was unable to connect to the Rollins internet. I brought my computer to IT, thinking they would know exactly what to do. However, I quickly learned that they were quite stumped by my inability to obtain an internet connection and soon had about three people looking over the

problem. After about forty five minutes of trying to start and shut down my computer and internet, another student who was getting her computer fixed looked at an IT worker and said, "Aren't you just supposed to flip that switch in the back?" The IT worker looked at her perplexed, shrugged, and tried the switch. I had internet within seconds.

*The purpose of IT is to be there for students to fix their computers in times of need. However, in my experience, IT has put a technological Band-Aid over my computer problems rather than fix them entirely.*

I have not attempted to get my hard drive upgraded, but student

Katie Jones (class of 2012) explains her IT experience regarding a "simple" hard drive upgrade in the following way:

"When we were first given the computers from the school, they told us that we would be getting a 60 gig upgrade for our hard drives and that those upgrades would be coming in at the end of November. IT told me that they have the hard drives in stock and all we would have to do is go in and get them switched out or, in other words, all we would have to do was come in and have them add it to our computer anytime after November. When I went to IT

in early January, they informed me that I would have to leave my computer for almost a week because they had to order the hard drive. That is such an inconvenience for a college student with school work to do almost every night and they not tell us that upon giving us the computers. My hard drive is literally full and now it's hard for me to find time to give up my computer for a week. It's ridiculous. I just wish IT had informed me of that before I bought the computer. If I had known IT was going to be this difficult, I wouldn't have purchased the computer from the school."

While I understand that no one can master the vast world of technology, it seems as though there should be a higher level of understanding on how to fix these machines than there is. Simply scanning a computer for a virus is not going to take care of the problem, and taking a student's computer away for a week is completely impossible with how much students rely upon them. I am not saying that I have a solution to the technological problems on campus, but I think they should seriously be looked into as technology becomes more integrated into our lives every day.

# Now's not the time for employee free choice

**TRAVIS CLINGER**  
*the sandspur*

Once again, our popular president has decided to choose partisan politics over what is good for the country. He is supporting the Employee Free Choice Bill. This bill will greatly strengthen existing unions and will make it easier to form new unions. According to The Economist, this bill "would be the most significant pro-union reform since the National Labour Relations Act, passed in 1935 as part of the New Deal, which protected the rights of most private-sector workers to form unions and to go on strike." Indeed, the bill would drastically change the nature of Unions.

Some may remember that a few weeks ago General Motors Corp., Ford Motor Co., and Chrysler were telling Washington that they could not afford to survive. It is interesting to understand why they cannot survive at this point in time. To understand this question, one needs to look at how much the workers make. The average auto worker in a union makes \$73 an hour. Interestingly enough, if that individual were to go to an automobile plant run by Toyota in America, he would make \$48 an hour. That is a significant difference. It is not surprising that Toyota is making profits, while the Big Three are going bankrupt. At the Toyota plant, there are no unions.

So since unions ruined the Big Three auto companies, we should give them more power and make it easier for new unions to be created? That just does not sound like a good idea. Unions are part of the reason we are in the recession, but you will not hear the Democrats blaming the unions. Indeed, the AFL-CIO met a couple of weeks ago at the Fontainebleau Hotel, where rooms start at \$400 a night. If a company had conducted such a retreat, Obama would have condemned that business. However, when the union had that retreat, Obama spoke via video conference and sent Vice President Joe Biden to speak. There clearly exists a double standard.

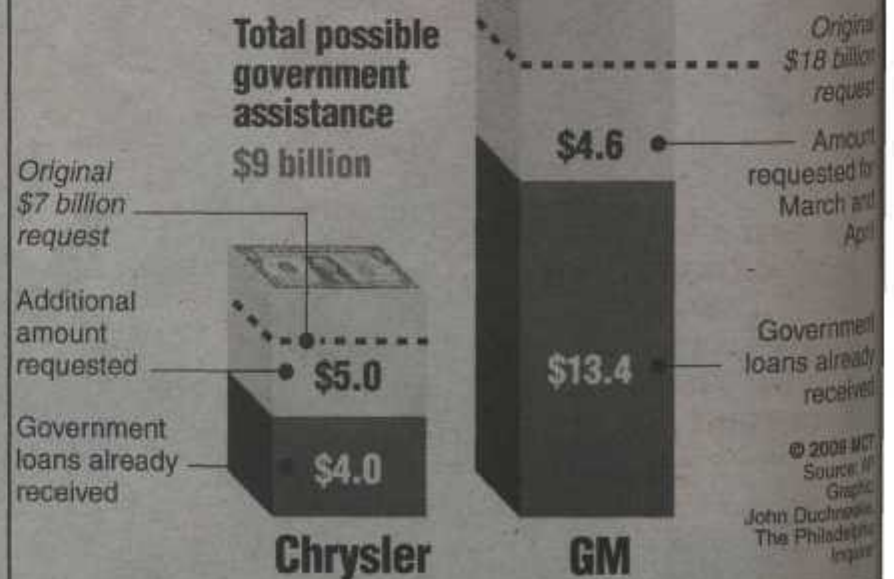
Consequently, it is not surprising that Obama supports the Employee Free Choice Bill. Obama clearly believes that there should be no accountability for the unions, yet in some cases companies should be nationalized. If this bill passes, it is almost certain that new unions will be formed and that those unions will subsequently bankrupt companies, as they did the Big Three.

This is yet another one of Obama's great plans during the recession. The American people

## Auto industry asks for more

General Motors and Chrysler filed restructuring plans with the government that included requests for up to \$21.6 billion in additional public financing. The government had already allocated \$17.4 billion in loans to the two automakers.

All amounts are in billions



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

need to tell Obama to stop. The time has come for the American people to call their Congressman and call the White House and tell them to stop this nonsense. The last thing that we should be doing in a recession (apart from enormous spending which Obama has already done)

is make it easier for unions to form and attack companies. Unions had a useful purpose in history, but they are no longer needed. They have naturally declined from 35 percent of the labor force being members to only 8 percent today. Let us revive them.



# Those one with nature not fit to survive

VERNON MEIGS  
*the sandspur*

Show me a person who is to be "one with Mother Nature and all of her creatures" and I will show you an ignorant hypocrite. What do those hippies and self-proclaimed neopagans consider themselves to be when they say that they are in "connection with nature"? They will tell you that absolutely all things are nature's children, all are green and beautiful and that they are in "commune" with the animals. They will also tell you that to kill or destroy anything is against Mother Nature's creation and that we own nothing on this earth; some even go as far as to say that "the Earth does not belong to us, we belong to the Earth." Apparently, humans are worth nothing to them unless they become sensitive tree-huggers. What if I told them that they are ignoring aspects of Mother Nature that they would not like at all?

Allow me to inject the venom of the serpent here and tell you that Mother Nature is by no means as loving and caring as the popular media has portrayed her to be. The hippies and Wiccans that try to scream otherwise are just being cowardly in omitting the evil and

brutal aspects of the laws of nature. How can they account for the predatory instincts of animals and the brutal slaughtering of their prey for their own sustenance? What about volcanic, seismic or meteorological activity of the planet that can destroy lives wholesale?

Here is what it means to be "one with nature": one must acknowledge every aspect of what the Earth does and what its creatures do, whether adorable or horrifying, as a part of what nature and universal laws have justified. When something bad happens, you do not pray to your Mother Goddess to make things right for the whole world again. You deal with the situation in a manner that is best suited for you as a human being. You cannot determine how the whole world is by looking from where you stand. As many may have guessed already, neither hippies nor neopagans will acknowledge this as Nature's will; from this I can tell you that they are cowardly hypocrites.

At this point, I am certain that nature's very own creatures know best of the concept of survival of the fittest better than I do. They have to live with it all their lives and they deal with it the way they best can or die in the attempt. The kind of human least likely to cope with such a lifestyle is the sheltered kind

who thinks that from their bedrooms, they can connect with the very spirits of nature, etc. To be one with nature is to partake in it, which they certainly cannot do.

If you want my frank opinion, I think that a skeptic is the most connected person with nature, as he can perceive it as it is, without mysticism or wishful thinking. A true, thinking intellectual would have a great understanding of the laws of the universe and therefore the natural laws of everything that inhabits Earth. The scientist is the genuine shaman.

For those believing that putting faith in a higher power means believing in a universally benevolent promise, consider this: I personally do believe in a higher power. In fact, there are quite a few across the universe. The sun is a higher power, and I believe in what it does. It can give light and nourish life, but can scorch and cause disease as well. I personally believe a very frightening high power of the universe to be a black hole. We cannot survive if it crosses our path. This is nature in all its glory. Think twice the next time you say you are "one with nature." Our dear Mother may not have the patience to put up with you.

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# Human frontier under consideration

ALAN NORDSTROM  
*the sandspur*

Once you have learned basic knowledge and skills in primary and secondary schooling, and you then choose to attend college, you ought to expect more than just more of the same.

Of course, you should expect to grow more expert in an academic discipline of your choosing, whether literature or physics or philosophy or some other established "field of learning."

And, yes, you should expect to widen your "general education" by sampling at a higher level the wares of other scholarly studies.

But, most essentially, you should be guided, encouraged, and exhorted to think discerningly about the future, about the question of where our human race is headed, about the frontiers of human inquiry and endeavor—more so now than ever before.

Since our race has very recently grown so powerful and dangerous that we now threaten the viability of our planetary ecosystem, we must perforce wise up. We are now too smart not to be wise.

The prudence or foresight of wisdom must now guide humankind to preserve and enhance what

sustains life on Earth at the highest levels of thriving and flourishing, which implies that we must learn to quell those reckless human tendencies now urging us toward chaos—the lusts and rages of heedless egoism and self-serving, personified most recently in Bernie Madoff, who

has just driven himself and a herd of hapless lemmings off a cliff.

That same madness, expressed in numerous other guises, infects much of humanity and must be cured. Thus the search for sanity stands foremost among the frontiers we confront as a race: learning how

to be healthy, well and whole (all words from one root—as well as holy)—the essence of wisdom.

For these reasons, Rollins is now considering a general education program oriented to explore the "human frontiers," the leading edges of learning and research where breakthroughs into new perspectives and para-

digms can lead to new behaviors and institutions helping us to grow, worldwide, in wellness and wisdom.

For more information about the Rollins Plan/Human Frontiers program, please contact its coordinator, Professor Alan Nordstrom (anordstrom@rollins.edu).



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# Daniel Way comes our way

SHELBY PHILLIPS  
the sandspur

Diehard fans of Daniel Way showed up in waves on Wednesday, March 11, at A Comic Shop to gather autographs and ask their most burning questions of the comics scribe. The Marvel Comics author has penned such books as "The Ghost Rider," "Wolverine Origins," "Dark Wolverine," and most recently, "Deadpool." Released this month, "Deadpool, Vol. 1" was written by Daniel Way and illustrated by Paco Medina. Before things really got hopping, I was able to ask Daniel a few questions about what fans could expect to see in "Wolverine" and "Deadpool" and what his weapon of choice was while hunting zombies down with the "Zombie Emergency Defense."

Q: What can Wolverine fans look forward to seeing in the future for the character?

DW: Weapon 11... what would have happened if the Weapon X project had gone differently.

Q: What was the point of the original project?

The Omega Red story arch, with a big fight between the characters, big revelations to be shown. The book is ready to accelerate!

Q: Is there anything special in upcoming "Deadpool" issues fans should be keeping an eye out for?

DW: The Bulls-eye story arch and Deadpool becomes a pirate!

Q: Do you have any favorite

issues or scenes you have written lately?

DW: The fun part is creating it. The "Diehard" movie parody in issue three or four, and the Philly Fanatic.

Q: I heard you were out hunting zombies with Z.E.D. what did you use to hunt them down with?

DW: A 9 MM Glock clone. You gotta aim for the head!

It was not long before the shop was full of people, as everyone stood in a semi circle and listened to Daniel Way talk about how he invents lines for several of his books, and some of the oddities of the comic book industry that he has witnessed over the years. When asked what one fan thought after meeting his favorite

writer, he replied, "Really cool that he's here - a real down to earth guy!" Several fans shared the same excitement, especially the fan that brought in a homemade action figure of Deadpool himself. Daniel was more than happy to inscribe his name upon the clear display box the young man had placed his homemade Deadpool action figure in. The signing lasted from 2:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. when the afterparty was kicked into gear with the help of a little friendly alcohol for those 21 and up.

When asked why the guys from the comic shop invited Daniel Way down for a signing, the answer was simple: "We want graphic novels to be respected. We want to bring the fans together, get them off the message boards and into the comic shop!" I couldn't agree more. The afterparty lasted until midnight with

everyone having a blast talking comics and having an amazing time. A Comic Shop will be hosting another event on April 1 for Marvel's Paul Pelletier. Make sure you check out their website for more at [www.acomicshop.com](http://www.acomicshop.com)



COURTESY OF MCTCARTHY

# Take action, rock out and sin



ERIK KEEVAN / the sandspur  
**MEG & DIA:** Dia sings vocals for the band that she and her sister, Meg, started in 2004.

**CHECK OUT THE BEST OF THE ROCKING PIX AT [WWW.THESANDSPUR.ORG](http://WWW.THESANDSPUR.ORG)**



ERIK KEEVAN / the sandspur

**EVERY AVENUE:** Joshua Randall, possibly not the most amazing guitar player ever, still managed to melt both the faces and hearts of die-hard fans and innocent bystanders alike.

heard pop-punk sound. As the least-known band on the tour, they held no reserve, playing the music that they had worked so hard to create. Even though the band has only released a seven-song EP, they still had fans singing along to every song. Their showmanship was never lacking, even going as far as to bring Shaant Hacikyan from Cute is What We Aim For on stage to accompany them on the last song. According to Hacikyan, "These guys are my new favorite band."

Secondly, Every Avenue stormed the stage, bringing their guitar-powered rock into full swing. The band's set included many songs from their album "Shh, Just Go With It," sending the House of Blues into chaos. Probably the band that had the second-biggest reaction of the night, these brilliant boys gave their all on stage, jumping off of equipment and flailing on stage.

For the third event, the House of Blues was plunged into darkness and became a night club. Breathe Carolina played their techno/rock while the lights flickered and twirled to the sound of the music. The mixture of screaming and singing for vocals gave a nice contrast for the words. Through many technical difficulties, however, it was impossible to hear the words that were sung. Nevertheless, the band strove on, undeterred, and did their set for the audience.

The last opening act was Meg & Dia, a group started by two sisters. Dia sings vocals, while Meg plays rhythm guitar and assists her sister with vocals. The two sisters played their music with great enthusiasm, running all over the stage. Their catchy pop songs

hailed mainly from their two albums "Our Home is Gone" and "Something Real." Even though very few people knew the band to start with, they quickly took the hearts of the audience, and everyone began singing along. The band showed excellent showmanship and made the set really live. Meg even tripped on stage, and the group began cracking jokes about the frightful event. Of all the bands that played, I suggest looking this one up.

Finally, the long-awaited headliner took the stage. Cute is What We Aim For burst on stage, met by a wall of cheers from the audience. They mixed the songs, varying from the old album, "The Same Old Blood Rush with a New Touch," and their new album, "Rotation." They explained their choice by saying that though they wanted to progress as a band, they still wanted to remember where they started. The crowd reacted enthusiastically, pressing against the stage. The entire house began jumping to the music, and soon the floor was swelling like a rolling wave.

All in all, the entire night was a

great success. Besides technical difficulties, the night went smoothly. The catchy sounds that filled House of Blues that night shook Downtown to its core. When you look up the bands mentioned in this article, remember to give takeactiontour.org the bands by contributing causes that your fellow fans care about.



ERIK KEEVAN / the sandspur  
**CUTE IS WHAT WE AIM FOR:** Shaant Hacikyan sings for Cute is What We Aim For while local Florida band mate Dave Meilillo plays bass.



# Singing their way to stardom

**JULIE KATZ**  
the sandspur

Three performers on "American Idol" are redefining the typical "be on the show. Pulling popularity and changing rules. Adam Lambert, Alexis Grace and Allison Iraheta are very strong forces to be reckoned with on this ninth season of American Idol."

It's hard to say if it really is talent that drives 26-year-old Adam Lambert's Freddy Mercury-esque voice or his absurdly tight control. Either way, the emo-haired singer is knocking the judges' socks off. Even Simon Cowell said of Adam's performance, "That's a totally different league than everyone else." Adam Lambert, a California native, calling himself "the performer's performer." Adam grew up on the performing in musicals, like "Wicked." Despite his background, it's evident

that Adam Lambert was born to rock. It seems to be destiny that calls him to those glass breaking howls. All over the news web he is being compared to the likes of Freddy Mercury, Prince and Gerard Way of My Chemical Romance. Already an American heartthrob, Adam's face is popping up on Facebook Bumper Stickers with the same frequency as Edward Cullen.

As for Alexis Grace, no Idol performer so far has seduced the stage quite like she does. The 21-year-old mother of one hailing from Memphis, Tennessee can sing it all. Her performances so far have included songs by Aretha Franklin, Carrie Underwood and Michael Jackson. Her dirty-dive jazz-club voice is in one word, volatile. By the end of just one song, she goes from sultry soul to power-country to edgy-rocker and back again, with an even softer touch. Though the

judges thoughts are mixed when it comes to Alexis Grace - Paula and Kara of course loving it, Randy being stuck somewhere in the middle, and Simon Cowell in her presence saying she's not as good as she thinks she is - the explosion of the "Idol" audience and more-than-likely millions of homes across the country cannot make it any more obvious that this girl has that "it" factor. Whatever "it" is, as the saying goes, "it" knows



COURTESY OF AMERICANIDOL.COM  
**SING THE DAY AWAY:** "American Idol" contestants sing on stage.

how to bring the house down and blow it away.

When you hear Allison Iraheta shake the rafters with her unmistakable rocker voice that channels the fire of Joan Jett and Pat Benatar, you hear decades of training and other elements that can only be defined as talent. You definitely do not think she is only 16. Iraheta started singing at the age of five and with only 11 years under her belt, her voice is already seasoned. The age of the California native is something the judges like to joke about, but it is no laughing matter. Iraheta has been watching "Idol" for nearly half of her life. Needless to say, she has been watching the successes and the failures, chomping at the bit for her chance at stardom. Whether she wins or loses this competition, this writer does not think she is going to have a problem with that. Most critics would argue she is still too young and needs more training. But if that voice

becomes any more masterful than it already is, she might cause an earthquake. Her raspy speaking voice, charming smile and relaxed personality after her performances are reminiscent of Kelly Clarkson, who won the judges over, in part, because of those exact qualities. As Randy Jackson said of Allison, she is one to watch out for.

When you go to the contestant page on americanidol.com, Adam Lambert, Alexis Grace and Allison Iraheta are the first three faces displayed. Of course, that probably is because they are alphabetized...but, there is really no such thing as coincidence. This season of "Idol" has all the standard puzzle-pieces for the generic archetypes—the cute boy with the guitar, the boy with the piano, the girl with the gospel voice and the underdog. Adam, Alexis and Allison are proving that the new side of "Idol"—unbridled raw rocker talent—is the better side to be on.

## Watchmen smashes into theaters

**ELBY PHILLIPS**  
the sandspur

From the flying ship "Archie" to Rorschach's ever-changing mask, all the unique effects of the acclaimed graphic novel come alive in Zack Snyder's adaptation of Alan Moore and Dave Gibbons' "Watchmen." The movie follows the original comic, with Rorschach investigating the murder of Edward Blake, better known as the superhero The Comedian. Rorschach influences other retired superheroes to spring into action, and the murder leads them to a devastating plot: nuclear annihilation. Throughout the film, the score, and 60s and 70s music selections of composer Tyler Bates perfectly match the scenes, from Nat King Cole's "Unforgettable" to Jimi Hendrix's "All Along the Watchtower."

Many film critics complain of the graphic violence and sex, stating that neither of these helps to make "Watchmen" very believable. Understandably, this movie is the adaptation of a graphic novel once said to be unfilmable. The questions it asks include: How would our world react to people dressing up as costumed superheroes? How

would our government react? And just how sane are the people behind the masks?

Another innovation of Watchmen is that people are not used to seeing superheroes acting human. Particularly, the relationship between Lorie and Dan may at first be nothing more than a sexual one, and they most defiantly act on their desires, but this is an extreme and very common human trait: to seek comfort from another human being when the entire world appears to be falling apart. If you think back to 9/11, nine months later there were many newborn babies. Why? Because the world came falling down, and like Lorie and Dan, people sought comfort from one another. The use of superheroes to emphasize human nature is an exclamation point on Moore's commentary of society.

Critics complain of a high amount of violence, but while it may be stomach-churning at times, the violence is not just

thrown in for severe shock value. It is a world that Rorschach, Nite Owl, Silk Spectre, the Comedian and Veidt all live in; this is the world that warrants their presence.

The one main complaint—that similarly plagues many films adapted from other works—is that the movie is not the book. While always valid, for a film can never perfectly encapsulate the nuances of its source medium, "Watchmen" grasps the theme of the book and holds. The characters are vibrant and full of life, and the emotions evoked even had some members of the audience in tears. "Watchmen" the movie satisfies both newcomers to the story and original readers of the graphic novel alike. Zack Snyder and his talented crew did an excellent job of bringing one of the most important comic book masterpieces to life on the silver screen.



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**SAVING THE DAY:** Above: Rorschach tosses the comedian's button on the ground. Left: Dr. Manhattan controls matter after a freak accident.

## Trading magic for music

**VERNON MEIGS**  
the sandspur

Emerald Rose is a Celtic folk rock band that hails from Georgia. The quartet's lyrical themes range from ancient pagan religions to fantasy, Celtic themes, mythology and even humor. Two members from Emerald Rose, Larry Morris and Arthur Hinds, were part of this year's Megacon and were dealing their CDs...which you can either buy, or win one through a Magic: the Gathering duel!

I was fortunate enough to encounter them during my Saturday visit to Megacon 2009. It was also a good thing I brought my own Magic cards! It turns out that this is something they often do: to play Magic with fans who, if they win, can win a free CD of theirs. I was eager for a good duel and obtaining new music and accepted the challenge. I duelled Larry Morris, whose role in the band is vocalist (all members were vocalists), pennywhistle player, Uilleann pipes player and percussionist. I had the privilege of observing his chest of Magic decks that would put my collection to shame.

So, I was to duel him to win a CD. Somehow, I felt a bit bad towards the end, for his deck gave him a slow start, the unfortunate fate to befall any card game player, while my deck gave me an unusually great start. I won the duel, and also one of their CDs. Even today, I swore to seek him out the next time Emerald Rose showed up in the local area to give him a fair and square duel. True to his word, he showed me the array

of Emerald Rose albums, and I picked out 2003's independent album "Celtic Crescent," and decided to also purchase another one, their latest work, "Archives of Ages to Come."

"Celtic Crescent" was a very soothing and enjoyable record to listen through. This, as Mr. Morris described it, was one of their more serious records, and I am a buff for the more passionate, serious sort of music. "Loch Lomond," "Wild Mountain Thyme," "Hills of America," and "Call Me Home" are all fine examples from the album of acoustic folk music played in the Celtic spirit. There are also more upbeat tracks as well, such as "Fire in the Head." The disk is comprised of mostly fresh studio records and inclusions from their past albums and live performances.

"Archives of Ages to Come" is a good example of how their music borders on rock territory while still remaining faithful to their Celtic tunes and style. All are excellent compositions that touch on the Celtic world of mythology and fantasy. Emerald Rose even displays their humorous side on this record, especially on the final track "We Come From Monkeys," an entertaining song that tells listeners they are not very significant in this universe.

I am grateful to have encountered these experienced musicians and to have interacted and played a Magic game with them. The experience has inspired me to attend one of their concerts the next time they are in the immediate area. I would definitely love a rematch with Mr. Larry Morris as well!



# Students mingle with candidates at Mayoral Meet and Greet

SHANNON  
LYNCH  
the sandspur

As Rollins students enjoyed spring break, a decision was being made that will have a direct impact on this campus. This decision was not being made by administrators or faculty members, rather, the registered voters of Winter Park. Tuesday was Election Day for mayor of Winter Park where challenger Ken Bradley beat out incumbent Mayor David Strong.

The week before Election Day, Rollins sponsored a Mayoral Meet and Greet and Town Hall Discussion with both candidates. Starting at 6 p.m. March 2, people began congregating on the patio outside the Galloway Room of the Mills Building for refreshments. A handful of politically-active students, some Winter Park residents, and, of course, the men of the hour were present, mingling and chatting. Around 6:30 p.m. those outside began filtering back into the Galloway Room, taking their seats for the start of the Town Hall Discussion. Professor of Political Science Richard Foglesong mediated the discussion between Strong and Bradley since, as he put it, he had the advantage of interest while maintaining neutrality, not being a Winter Park citizen.

Although the candidates' ideas on many subjects differed, they both expressed how important Rollins College is to the city of Winter Park and acknowledged Park Avenue as "the heart of our city," as Bradley called it. Strong spoke on continuing to make Park Avenue a safe, exciting and interesting place even mentioning that the "most exciting [development] is the hotel... under contract with Rollins." Another topic of interest discussed was the need to improve Fairbanks



**HAPPY AND SUCCESSFUL:** Students Yoni Binstock and Brittany Fornof pose for a picture with mayoral candidates David Strong and Ken Bradley as well as with Professor Foglesong, Micki Meyer and Meredith Hein.

Avenue, the gateway to Winter Park from the Orlando area, which Strong notes would also give a "proper gateway to Rollins College." One such improvement is the plan to put central sewer down Fairbanks.

Another gateway mentioned was the SunRail station. SunRail will have a commuter-rail station right here in Winter Park as voted for by the residents. Strong noted that five years after the station goes up the citizens will then have another chance to vote and remove it if they so choose. Bradley stressed the importance of this station for residents and professors.

The candidates were also asked to speak on the "town and gown relations" between Winter Park and Rollins. Bradley spoke first, saying, "Aren't there always issues as far as this? Of course." He followed up by talking about how the college community supports the city overall and made the statement, "Rollins is a jewel." Strong, too, mentioned that "there are issues," but was certain that Winter Park and Rollins would continue to work together, pointing out efforts such as the Winter Park Institute and the bricking

that was done on Holt Avenue. Other issues addressed at the Town Hall Discussion concerned a dog-friendly park known as Fleet Peoples Park, alcohol sales restrictions on the west side, higher utility rates and, of course, taxes. Afterwards, Foglesong said, "Both candidates did a good job, seriously. Better than three weeks ago [at an earlier debate]," something he attributed to more experience in this type of setting for both men.

According to Central Florida News 13, "Winter Park had, by far, the highest voter turnout of any of the five cities in the county which held municipal elections Tuesday," with ballots cast by 33 percent of the city's registered voters. In the close race, hospital administrator Bradley received 53 percent of the vote, defeating Strong, a real-estate investor, with 3,397 votes to Strong's 3,015.

At the beginning of the Town Hall Discussion at Rollins, when asked why he wanted to be mayor, Bradley responded, "The best way to predict the future is to create it." The voters have spoken and they believe that Bradley will be able to create the future of Winter Park, at least for the next three years.



**Engaged:** From LEFT: Yoni Binstock discusses politics in the Winter Park Community with Ken Bradley, and Brittany Fornof delivers the introductory speech for the Town-Hall Discussion.

JUSTIN BRAUN / the sandspur

## 2009 - 2010 SGA candidates

### Artie Grizzle

Sophomore Artie Grizzle has served as a peer mentor, the vice president of Rollins Model UN, and as a member of the SGA Executive Board. As President of SGA, Artie hopes to reform the SGA budgeting system, hold weekly "campus-hall meetings" in order to hear the grievances and concerns of students, and promote a centralized information system for students to receive their information about campus events.



"Also, as a Peer Mentor and VP of Model UN, I have gained invaluable leadership experience that will help me should I get elected." -Artie Grizzle

### Allison Wallrapp

Junior Allison Wallrapp has served in SGA as a senator and as president pro tempore of Senate. She also serves as a Rollins Diplomat and a TJ's tutor. As President of SGA, Allison hopes to increase transparency in SGA actions, encourage campus attendance of meetings, develop a safe ride system to shuffle students to various areas Winter Park and Orlando, and put a student on the board of trustees.

"My involvement on campus and other experiences have prepared and qualify me for the position of student government president." -Allison Wallrapp



### Adam Heath

Junior Adam Heath hopes to further the involvement of the student body in administrative decisions by implementing a position for a student representative to have a voice in administrative and board meetings. He also hopes to implement a student-run organization for the purchase and sale of used textbooks as well as give students a voice in the increased cost of parking passes and tickets.



"Growing up in central Florida by Rollins College has given me the ability to have an insider perspective of what exactly Rollins means to the student body and the community surrounding it." -Adam Heath

### Christina Grass

Sophomore Christina Grass has served as an SGA senator, member of the Academic Affairs Committee, and as a member of the Rollins Plan Review Committee. As vice president of SGA, Christina plans to implement a safe ride transit program for Rollins students, increase the transparency among administration, staff and student body, and promote the enhancement of Rollins traditions.



"During my involvement over the past two years, I have met and worked with countless members of the Rollins College faculty, staff, administration and student body. I am more than aware of the problems that plague this campus and the channels through which we can make progress." -Christina Grass

PHOTOS COURTESY OF FACEBOOK  
SYNOPSIS BY BRITTANY FORNOF



# Looking to the stars

KATIE JONES  
the sandspur

**ARIES:** Try not to let your flexibility get you into trouble this week. Make sure you stay open to the ideas of others in both your professional and personal worlds, for sometimes giving the reins over to someone else can produce the best results. Don't worry if something isn't going the way you planned; chances are, everything will work out well in the end.

**TAURUS:** You're in a very favorable place right now. Take advantage of that emotional stability; now is the time that you will be able to make the most grounded decision about an important life choice. Sit down with a close family member or friend and weigh the pros and cons of each outcome, and your level-headedness will lead you in the appropriate direction.

**GEMINI:** Be careful expressing your innermost thoughts this week. People will have a tendency to view your comments as aggressive, so select your words carefully to avoid a significant confrontation. However, if you are left with a choice but to explain your thoughts, think hard about how they will be received by others, and phrase everything with a lighter tone.

**CANCER:** You will feel the most stable this week if you build bridges with others. So, now is a great time to work on a project or plan an event collaboratively. You're going to find yourself very adept at melding your ideas with those of others around you, so try to find people with creative forces towards which you might not usually gravitate.

**LEO:** Your love life may take an unexpected turn this

week, Leo. If you're in a relationship, keep your eyes open for a person or event that could shake its foundation. If you're available and looking, be sure to fan a newly ignited flame you may encounter; don't let it go out without even noticing!

**VIRGO:** You're at peak productivity this week, Virgo. You'll find that if you embrace your drive to keep pushing forward, you'll be able to get much accomplished. Try to fulfill a personal goal you've long been avoiding, or make the effort to tackle a big project that you know must be completed soon.

**LIBRA:** This week will be a good time for you to find a close friend who will be a willing listener. Getting things that are worrying you off your chest now is very important for you to maintain your emotional happiness. Don't worry about overwhelming your confidant; they will understand your needs and be receptive to your offers.

**SCORPIO:** If you find yourself at odds with someone you care about this week, try not to give in too easily. Although it is important to compromise to avoid bitter conflict, you must also stand by your ideals. Try to walk the fine line between these two concepts to resolve the conflict in a way that keeps things calm, yet still leaves you morally fulfilled.

**SAGITTARIUS:** Now is the time to kick yourself into overdrive in order to clear your agenda. You've been working at a steadily slow pace recently, and unless you take care of your obligations now, they may begin to overwhelm you. Get them



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done and out of the way now!

**CAPRICORN:** You may feel like you have been a little lax with your spending lately. Try to economize this week to catch up for your recent lack of discretion. Be careful not to starve yourself of the necessities, but it is okay to pass up a social gathering with friends if it will involve pushing the limits of your tight budget; they will understand.

**AQUARIUS:** Your instincts about where to take yourself next will be spot-on this week, Aquarius. Try to simplify your life by not embracing the need you to feel to over think every decision you make. Go with your gut reaction when an opportunity presents itself, and you may find yourself pleasantly surprised by the results.

**PISCES:** You need to focus on getting back into the social scene this week. Your recent focus on your internal needs has left you neglecting the friends that care about you most! Show that you are still there for them and want to be involved in their lives by making it a point to plan an outing or get-together with them.

# Swiss in 30 minutes

G. KEITH EVANS  
the sandspur

On Saturday, March 7, Dr. Sue Easton's Organizational Communication class took an eye-opening field trip to Switzerland without ever leaving Central Florida. Rather than meeting in the typical classroom location that day, the class instead gathered in the lobby of the ABB plant in Lake Mary to see how classical and modern organizational communication approaches are applied in a live, working factory.

ABB, which stands for the company's European name, Asea Brown Boveri, is one of the world's leading power and automation technology companies. According to the company's American website, the ABB North American division employs 11,250 people and has annual revenues of \$3.8 billion. Globally, the company, which is headquartered in Zurich, Switzerland, employs 103,000 individuals and brings in more than \$22 billion annually.

The Lake Mary plant, which produces commercial power equipment for use by electric companies, initially seemed an unlikely place to observe aspects of organizational communication. From the start of the tour, though, the effects of communication in the company were obvious. Large LCD screens touted important safety measures from the lobby and from the factory floor, and additional safety communiqués were posted throughout the facility. Safety is a primary objective at ABB, and strict guidelines—many initiated by employees themselves—are in place to prevent workplace accidents. As part of the safety regulations, students were required to don safety glasses

before entering the factory. One student who wore shorts was provided a "paint suit" for full-body protection from dangerous machines and chemicals.

During the tour, students studied artifacts, the organizational communication term for furniture and other office fixtures. They observed the differences that exist between artifacts in executive quarters and the factory floor. Students learned about various workgroups within the factory, and heard about how the factory is only part of the North American operation. This is only about 10% of the global company, an organizational communications phenomenon described as "Systems," in which small subsystems comprise an organization as a whole. That organization is, itself, part of a larger "super system."

One of the more striking observations made while touring the factory was that ABB employees seemed genuinely happy with their positions, and were excited to be observed by Rollins students. Mark Smith, operations manager at the Lake Mary plant, explained that having fun is one of the roles on the plant floor. "I tell my employees that if they're not having fun to come see me." Students were afforded the opportunity to ask Mark questions, then the event wrapped up with a photo session in the plant parking lot.

Back in the classroom, where students met after the tour concluded, the class agreed that everyone enjoyed the tour and learned from the observation of communication theories in practice. James Amrhein, the ABB employee and Rollins student who arranged the tour, was then applauded for his efforts in coordinating and conducting the event.

# Students design Mexican-U.S. border replica in Casa Iberia

NIC RAMOS-FLORES  
the sandspur

Each year, millions of Mexican immigrants cross the border in search of prosperity and a better life in the United States. The flow of individuals, goods, and culture between these two countries is remarkable and demonstrates the close ties the two nations hold. Because many only see the Mexican influences in the U.S., people are surprised to see that American culture has also penetrated the Mexican way of life. With the massive influx of culture, the border dividing these two countries has developed very different symbolic representations for each side. In the United States, the increased presence of border control and the controversial legislation that proposes expansion of the fence between the two countries signifies many Americans' desire to keep "them" out. On the Mexican side, where millions of people gather daily to mourn the loss of a lost one that passed the border or simply admire the

the border symbolizes another hurdle in their life that prevents them from reaching prosperity.

The Latin American and Caribbean Studies and Hispanic Studies have teamed up in order to bring attention to the continuously evolving and controversial piece of art by erecting a symbolic U.S.-Mexico border fence. One of Rollins' Assistant Spanish Professors, Dr. Rosana Díaz-Zambrana, is having her class participate in the event. Díaz-Zambrana's aim was to "help create an understanding of the major challenges faced by the Hispanic immigrants in the U.S."

The two programs will have students from five Spanish and LAC classes create their rendition of the art that is displayed on the U.S.-Mexico border. "Students are in charge of gathering and putting together not only factual information about the wall's history, but also the design and construction of some of its iconographic representations such as graffiti, mural art, and other political symbols," Dr. Díaz-Zambrana explains.

LAC 250: Latino(a) America: Understanding the Latino(a)

Community Locally and Nationally is currently examining the history, politics, culture, and issues surrounding the national debate on the impact of the growing Hispanic population and immigration to the U.S.

Students in the classes are very excited about the art piece they are creating. Many of the students were surprised to learn that art was on the wall. "I didn't even know that people put pieces of art on the wall until I took this class," said Kristine Ramirez (class of 2012), a student in both the LAC and Spanish classes. "It is interesting to see how the people express themselves on this giant symbol." LAC class member Benjamin Elzweig (class of 2012) said: "Looking up the artwork was awesome because you could tell people put so much time and effort into their artwork."

Dr. Díaz-Zambrana also explained that the purpose was to "look at artistic expression as a way to denounce, generate, debate, and spark social



NIC RAMOS-FLORES / the sandspur

Students from the Latin American and Caribbean Studies Program and the Hispanic Studies Program teamed up to recreate the symbolic Mexican-U.S. border fence.

consciousness" on the issue.

Elzweig talked extensively about how their goals for the symbolic wall were accomplished. "While working on the project we started talking about the hardship that people from other countries must go through when crossing the border. Some of the things we learned in class made

you think about how blessed we all are here at Rollins."

Along with the interactive installation, which is open to the campus in the patio of Casa Iberia on March 23, there will be a guest speaker. Associate Professor of History Jim Norris will be discussing how the Mexico-U.S. border has been viewed historically.



# The Calendar

# MARCH/APRIL



## Sandspur-ian of the Week

The Naked Cowboy

...Do we need a reason?

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
15	16	17	18	19	20 Vagina Monologues 7-9:30pm  ACE ATO OMA Expressions 6-9pm Rollins Dance XXIII 8-10pm	21 Moscow String Quartet 11am-2  Rollins Dance XXIII 8-10pm
22 Moscow String Quartet 7-9pm	23	24	25	26	27 Last Day to Drop Classes without Penalty  Rollins Reunion 2009	28 Rollins Reunion 2009
Paint! Homecoming Week						
29 Rollins Reunion 2009	30	31 ACE Fox Day Jugs 7pm Dave's Down Under	1 ACE Orlando Magic Game Night 5:15pm, 5:30pm buses  Kelly's Birthday ... bitches	2 BFF at the Fred Stone Theatre 8-10pm	3 BFF at the Fred Stone Theatre 8-10pm	4 BFF at the Fred Stone Theatre 2-4pm and 8-10pm
5 Rollins Leadership Exchange 11am-4pm  BFF at the Fred Stone Theatre 8-10pm	6	7	8 Not ACE Wicked Wednesday; Don't Be Fooled!	9	10	11
12	13	14	Rollins College <a href="http://www.TheSandspur.org">www.TheSandspur.org</a>			

# RC CE '09

## Rollins College Career Expo 2009

Hosted by the College of Arts and Sciences,  
Crummer Graduate School of Business and  
Hamilton Holt School

Thursday, March 26, 2009 • 11:00am-2:00pm  
Alfond Sports Center

Meet with representatives from over 50 employer  
organizations to discuss internships, part and full-time  
positions, and summer employment.

For more information and a list of registered employers,  
please visit [www.rollins.edu/careerservices/expo](http://www.rollins.edu/careerservices/expo)

  
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