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this day in history



COURTESY MCT CAMPUS

Feb. 5, 2008: The Super Tuesday tornado outbreak in the Southern United States and Ohio Valley, resulting in more than \$1 billion in damages. A total of 87 tornadoes occurred and 57 people perished throughout the outbreak.

QUOTABLE

"...any company with enough cash can essentially drown out any election with politically charged ads."

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Obama Supports FL High-Speed Rail

"There is no reason why other countries can build high-speed rail lines and we can't."

— President Barak Obama, at the University of Tampa on Jan. 28, 2010



PETER TRAVIS
the sandspur

Only a day after President Obama delivered the annual State of the Union Address to the nation, he flew to Tampa to speak to a crowd of over 3,000 at the University of Tampa. The speech last Thursday was billed as the announcement of \$1.25 billion worth of grants to fund Florida's new high-speed rail system. This investment has been depicted as a way to create jobs and explore green technology at the same time. The Obama administration is confident that the project will create tens of thousands of jobs for a severely struggling

Florida job market. Obama's stimulus plan had designated a total of \$8 billion to high-speed rail construction, and Florida, a state riddled with traffic congestion, was one of the top candidates for funding. The President's visit comes after the Florida State Senate and House passed legislation to fund the project on Dec. 8. That legislation accompanied funding for the commuter rail system in the Orlando area that is now SunRail. The high-speed rail project will begin with an Orlando-Tampa route with the possibility of adding an Orlando-Miami route in the future. The SunRail will take the tracks of the Amtrak trains and run from Deland to just south of Kissimmee.

Obama's speech in Tampa preceded a town hall style meeting featuring a question-and-answer period with an audience full of college students. Although his speech was expected to be mostly about the high-speed rail project and funding, that topic was only a very small portion of the President's hour-long speech. In fact, most media outlets are viewing Obama's visit to Tampa as nothing more than a strategic campaign rally, looking to keep Florida voters for the presidential election in 2012.

The speech certainly covered the spectrum of topics typical of most Obama campaign speeches. The first portion served as a justification for the economic stimulus plan he enacted after entering office. Obama said that if the banks had not been bailed out, "the financial system literally could

have melted down and that would have taken our entire economy and millions more families and businesses with it." After asserting the plan's success, he made sure to point out the daunting tasks that are still facing Americans in terms of the economy. "I think all of you understand the devastation remains. One in 10 Americans still can't find work," said Obama who sees creating jobs as the top priority of this new year. Included in his discussion of jobs, a few brief remarks about the high-speed rail system were then made by the President. Introducing the project, he said, "There is no reason why other countries can build high-speed rail lines and we can't."

Playing to the young crowd, Obama went on to emphasize his hopes for reform in student loan payment, proposing graduates should only have to give 10% of their income to pay off student loans. Echoing the sentiment he strongly expressed the previous night in his State of the Union Address, the President urged Republicans to get "off the sidelines."

"I want a partnership," Obama said, emphasizing the lack of progress that Republican stubbornness is causing right now on issues such as healthcare. Obama ended his speech with words that sounded like they came directly from a campaign rally, saying "We don't back down. We don't quit. We are Americans. And today, here with all of you, I have never been more hopeful about our future than I am right now."

COURTESY MCT CAMPUS

TOYOTA RECALL: What You Should Know

JENN STULL
the sandspur

• "The first recall, 'Floor Mat Entrapment,' regards the potential for an unsecured or incompatible driver's floor mat to interfere with the accelerator pedal and cause it to get stuck in the wide-open position." (Toyota.com/recall)

• The second recall, "Pedal," is being conducted because there is a possibility that certain accelerator pedal mechanisms may stick in a partially depressed position or return slowly to the idle position.

• If a car has the first recall (floor mat entrapment), Toyota says owners should take out the floor mat for the time being and once he or she is notified by Toyota, bring in the vehicle to be adjusted.

• If a car is called in due to the second recall (pedal), owners should stop driving that vehicle immediately and once notified, bring the car into the dealership to be fixed.

• If you are the owner of a recalled Toyota, or have any questions contact the Toyota Customer Experience Center at 1-800-331-4331.

RECALLED VEHICLES:

2005-2010 AVALON



2007-2010 CAMRY



2009-2010 COROLLA



2008-2010 HIGHLANDER



2009-2010 RAV4



2005-2010 SEQUOIA



2007-2010 TUNDRA



2009-2010 VENZA



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The Sandspur

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Founded in 1894

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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. Interested individuals can become either Staff Reporters or Freelance Writers.

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 400-700 words in length and must be submitted no later than noon on the Monday prior to the corresponding issue's publication. Submissions will be e-mailed to TClinger@thesandspur.org and aobernaier@rollins.edu.

Where is the Sandspur?

The Sandspur office is located on the 2nd floor of the Mills building, two floors above the post office.

How can I get involved with the Sandspur?

Sandspur meetings are held on Wednesday of every week at 6pm in the Sandspur office on the 2nd 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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Apple's iPad: Kindle's New Competition

BRENDAN MONROE
the sandspur

Last Wednesday the world waited with collective bated breath as a most powerful man descended the podium to many applauding supporters. His words had been anticipated and speculated about for weeks, even months. Media analysts kept their laptops close by, ready to broadcast their thoughts on the man's speech to the world even before he was done talking. Oh yeah, and then later that night there was that whole State of the Union thing.

The man I speak of is of course none other than Steve Jobs, the CEO and leading mind behind Apple and its revolutionary products. Whether it is the Mac, iPod, MacBook or iPhone, Jobs always has something new and exciting to share with his increasingly large number of followers. These announcements or, "one-man shows" as they are often called, occur around once a year, much like the Head of State's aforementioned State of the Union address. The two highly anticipated events do share one other thing in common – the reception to each is largely divided along party lines. In Apple's case, those party lines are drawn distinctly between the rabid Apple aficionados who have their credit cards out before Jobs steps off the stage and those more economically disposed individuals who actually like to think first about cost-effectiveness. A popular third party this time around are members of the Apple club who, while they ultimately buy every Apple product, have nevertheless

been disappointed with each since the original iPod. The latter two groups are the ones most likely to be disappointed by the revealing of Apple's newest wonder-device, the iPad. Aside from the ubiquitous jokes pertaining to female hygiene, at this point the most common complaint seems to be that the iPad is virtually nothing more than an iPod touch with a bigger screen and a much bigger price tag.

The specific price varies in true Apple fashion to the size and capability of the models. The most basic of these, a 16-gigabyte model, can run you as low as \$499. By comparison, the popular Amazon.com Kindle electronic reading device goes for \$489 with a comparable screen size. When this is taken into account, the iPad seems like quite a bargain. Indeed, reading is one of the primary incentives of the device, with Apple set to launch an iTunes bookstore specifically to satisfy anticipated iPad demand. However, unlike the Kindle, the iPad is not limited to just books. Newspapers, online magazines, and web pages can also be accessed on the iPad, and that's just when you want to read. If you do not or are simply an average American, then like the iPod touch you can have wide access to a variety of other apps, some tailored specifically to the iPad, and view spectacular digitally enhanced video content either online or in your existing iTunes library. An extra \$100 will get you the 32-gig version and an extra \$200 will get you the 64-gig granddaddy, each priced at \$599 and \$699 respectively.

COURTESY MCT CAMPUS

7.5" (19 cm)

9.6 in. (24.4 cm)

Holt SGA Displays Visibitlity

GREG EVANS
the sandspur

After my column "Are Holt Students Too Busy for Student Government" appeared in the Oct. 2, 2009 edition of The Sandspur, I immediately began to receive feedback from SGA officers, members and numerous Holt students. Now that several months have elapsed, I would like to reexamine the role of the Holt SGA and its visibility to the Holt students it governs.

As the Spring 2010 semester got underway, the Holt SGA established a commanding presence through numerous communication channels. A flurry of e-mails barraged the Holt school, and students quickly came to realize that the increasingly familiar "00000. HOLTSGA" tag at the end of an e-mail's subject line meant the communication originated from the Student Government

Association.

Students who access Blackboard for class assignments and information also found the Holt SGA both more visible and more accessible. Through its own course-like Blackboard listing, Holt SGA now makes its meeting minutes, general information, and senator contacts available in a familiar, easy to use format. A lively discussion board also provides an avenue for members and students to discuss upcoming events.

Certainly, the Holt SGA has taken great measures to keep itself at the forefront of student life, but all of this visibility did not come easily.

"The Holt Student Government Association is aware of the challenges that we face due to our students' busy schedules and lives," said Jen Atwell, the association's publicity editor.

Through email—a primary

communication method for many busy Holt students—Atwell pointed out that the association continues to explore new and innovative ways for students to get involved.

"Video chatting in HHSGA meetings is encouraged," she said, "so students who live far from campus can still participate in meetings." In addition, students serving in senator positions take the association directly to fellow students.

Atwell recognizes that the challenges the Holt SGA faces will not subside, and she remains optimistic that the association will continue to flourish. "The HHSGA has begun to plan for our future in every way, shape and form," she declared. To embrace the changing dynamics in the modern economy, for example, the association is in the process of creating a program that will allow students with an interest in student government to fill vacant positions as they

become available rather than waiting until the beginning of the next term.

The Holt SGA also continues to relentlessly promote itself. In her e-mail to The Sandspur, Atwell mentioned the association's involvement in upcoming golf tournaments, twice-yearly Winter Park Festival and even an upcoming car wash fundraiser.

This high visibility, combined with the HHSGA's streamlined accessibility, undoubtedly give the association a much-needed boost. It will perhaps, help HHSGA members and students meet their directive, according to Atwell, "As the Rollins College encourages us to 'Find your purpose. Find your place.' HHSGA members — Executive Board members, Senators, and Holt students — are charged to leave their individual lives on their time at Rollins and live the lives of Rollins students."

Tebow Talks About Abortion

BRENDAN MONROE
the sandspur

One firestorm that erupted last week in the run-up to the Feb. 7 Super Bowl match-up between the New Orleans Saints and Indianapolis Colts managed to, at least briefly, overshadow all talk of the game. One commercial set to air during the Super Bowl has garnered controversy for taking a view on the always-touchy subject of abortion.

The spot features University of Florida quarterback Tim Tebow and his mother Pam. The fact is, nobody outside of Focus on the Family, the Colorado-based religious organization, and CBS, which requires viewing of all potential Super Bowl ads for approval, have seen the ad.

What the ad is rumored to contain is the story of a doctor's recommendation in 1987 to a pregnant Pam Tebow while she was in the Philippines doing mission work to get an abortion after her pregnancy suffered complications. Obviously, Pam Tebow did not succumb to the doctor's supposed advice and instead gave birth to Tebow, who as we all know, went on to win the Heisman.

The commercial supposedly focuses on Tebow's field accomplishments in order to create an argument for why women should rule

abortion out as an option.

Focus on the Family released a statement last week which stated that the commercial is merely a "celebration of family" and a "celebration of life" and is not trying to push any political agenda. Yeah, sure – which explains exactly why Focus on the Family is the one sponsoring it.

What F.o.t.F. should have said is, well yes, of course we are trying to overturn Roe v. Wade, and this ad is an easily communicable way of getting our message across to the over 100 million viewers who watch the Super Bowl.

On the opposite end of the spectrum you have women's groups and individuals, like radical leftist Gloria Allred, who have come out vehemently against the ad. On her part, Allred denies the factuality of the story in the first place.

"One fact is that the act of abortion is totally illegal in the majority Catholic country of the Philippines – under all circumstances including rape and incest, and even without a provision in the circumstance that the mother's life is in danger.

The law has been in effect since 1930." Allred goes on to state that because of this, a Philippino doctor would have essentially been breaking the law in offering this advice and carrying it out, as an abortion in the country carries

with it a six-year prison sentence and leads to the physician's license being revoked.

The risk, Allred argues, is then too great for a doctor in the Philippines to advise a woman to get an abortion and it is fairly reasonable to say that no doctor in the country would take this risk. This does call into question some elements of the

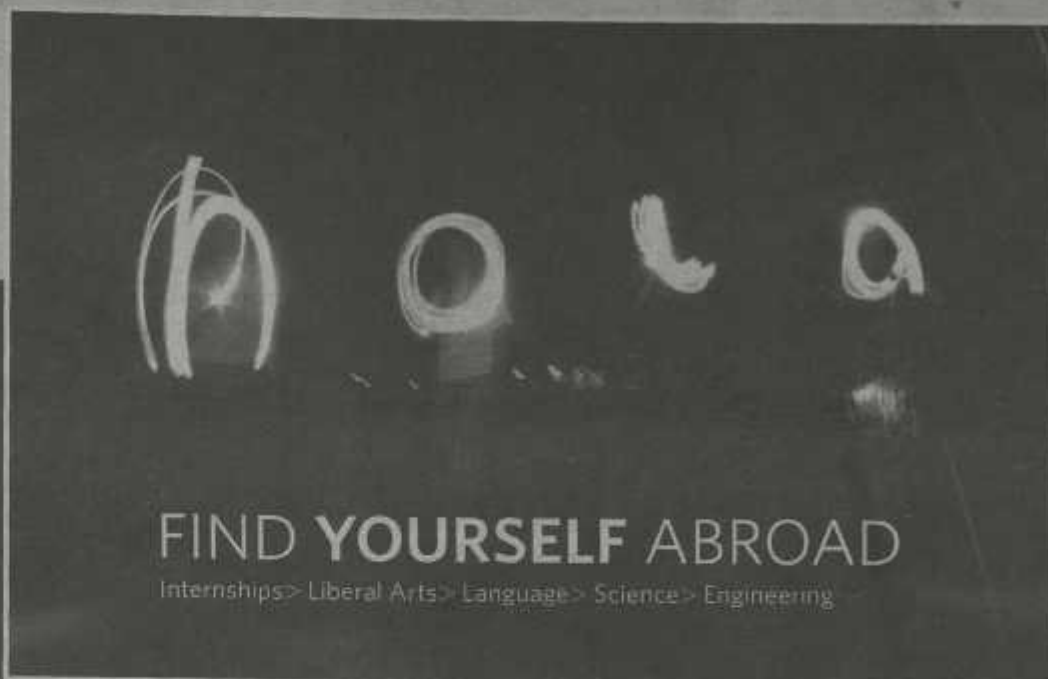
story but until Pam Tebow is interviewed and asked to iron out these details, I will give her the benefit of the doubt.

There are those who argue that the Super Bowl should be free of politics. I am sympathetic to this. But if you have a problem with a 30-second commercial spot then change the channel. That goes for po-

litical rhetoric offensive to both Republicans and Democrats. I doubt this one commercial is really going to convince anyone against his or her position on the issue already. It is not in fact the subject matter that is offensive, but the idea that Tebow's athletic accomplishments somehow make him a more valuable human being.

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A Threatened Democracy?

ION STAMM
the sandspur

People are allowed to make mistakes. Indeed, this is an unavoidable fact about being human. In the U.S., the Supreme Court stands as the last line of defense for reason and justice, and is comprised of nine non-partisan individuals whose sole job is to interpret the Constitution.

At least this is what the Supreme Court is supposed to be. I admit, the Justices are not perfect, as demonstrated in a multitude of poor decisions such as Dred Scott v. Sandford (1857) or Bush v. Gore (2000). However, in its most recent decision, the Supreme Court has exposed its true colors as part of a perpetual game of political tug-of-war, exposing the façade of absolute neutrality as a long-lost ideal.

On Jan. 21, in Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010), the Court, in a heated 5-4 decision, ruled that corporations are to be granted the same rights of political speech under the First Amendment as individual citizens. Prior to this decision, election laws stipulated that corporations would be barred from using money

from their general treasuries to engage in any form of political advertising for or against a particular candidate. The rules also provided timelines stating that all political broadcasts funded by a corporation must cease 30 days before an election.

The five conservative justices of the Supreme Court recently ruled that decades of election laws such as these were unconstitutional.

"These prohibitions are classic examples of censorship," Justice Anthony Kennedy aptly summarized in his opinion.

Citing the freedom to engage in political speech as a pillar of our democracy, the majority ruled that a corporation must be extended the same rights as an individual. Now any corporation may use unlimited funds from its treasury to finance and distribute political advertisements without any timelines, meaning Americans will be seeing the fiercest and most pejorative ads up to the day of an election.

This decision has struck a loud chord among a significant portion of the American people, many of whom believe this to be a sad day for democracy.

"The Court's ruling threatens to undermine the integrity

of elected institutions across the nation. The path it has taken to reach its outcome will, I fear, do damage to this institution," Justice John Paul Stevens wrote in his opinion, speaking on behalf of the dissent.

Senator Patrick Leahy (D-VT), chair of the Senate Judiciary Committee, also had strong words about the "atrocious" committed on Jan. 21.

"The loud megaphones that can be bought by corporate money will drown out the unamplified voices of individual Americans," Leahy said in a passionate plea to Congress.

Even President Obama himself, during the 2010 State of the Union address, delivered a harsh jab to the Justices sitting right in front of him, stating that their decision "will open the floodgates of special interest and foreign corporate influence."

In response, one could see Justice Samuel Alito muttering under his breath "Not true."

Personally, I find this decision to be an affront to our democratic process. However, I do not think it is as dramatic as some people make it out to be. No, I do not think politicians are going to start looking like NASCAR drivers,

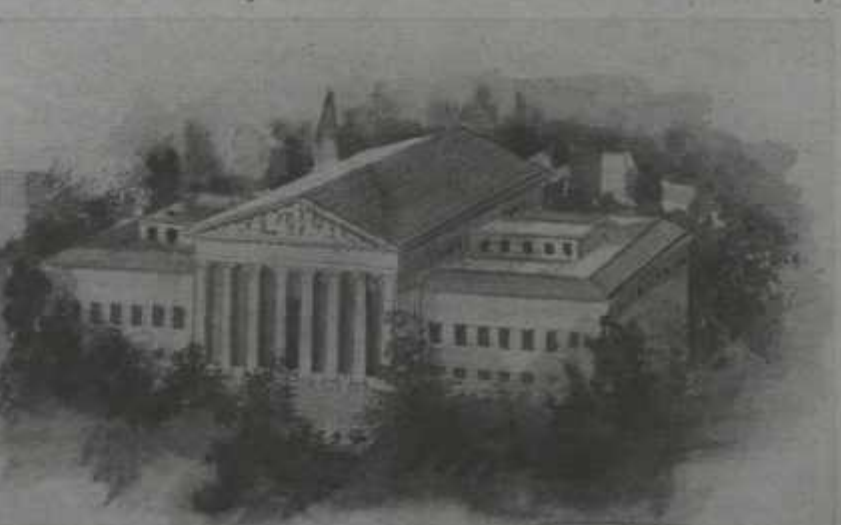
painted with corporate logos. And no, I do not foresee a Chinese or Saudi takeover of America as a result of the decision.

That said, there are still some disconcerting implications of Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission. First, the prices for advertisement space during an election will skyrocket, meaning that at least one industry will flourish from this decision. Second, there will be more and more pejorative ads the closer America gets to an election day. Third, and what I fear most, is the effect this will have on smaller, local elections.

Imagine, right here in Orlando, that Disney wants to

build a monorail from its parks to the Orlando International Airport. What stands in its way is a protected natural area. With a few million dollars, Disney could easily finance the ads and generate the support necessary for any candidate sympathetic to its cause. Essentially, rather than on the national level where recurring ads put a heavy drain on corporate treasuries, on the municipal (cheaper) level, any company with enough cash can essentially drown out any election with politically charged ads, virtually buying any sympathetic candidate for public office.

And this, I fear, is the future of American democracy.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

Battle of the Burqas: Truth Behind the Veil

PRO

BRENDAN MONROE
the sandspur

A French parliamentary committee last month recommended the banning of full veils, which have become a staple in fundamentalist Islam. The move comes six months after French President Nicolas Sarkozy declared that the burqa and other Islamic coverings such as the niqab, were "not welcome" in France.

France notably has the European Union's largest Muslim population, between 5 and 6 million, though only 2,000 women in the country wear the controversial Islamic head coverings. This proportionately small number is often cited by opponents of a ban who argue that it will only further isolate a religious group which is already seen as overly reluctant to assimilate in Europe, preferring to mass and form small communities of their own within cities like Paris or Lyon.

Advocates of the ban, the sizable majority of the French population, are of the opposite opinion – that a ban should be brought into effect while the number of adherents to the fundamentalist Muslim tradition are still relatively small. The proposal comes amidst a time of immense uncertainty and trepidation as Europe is faced with a growing Muslim population and influence. Whether right or not, the brutal butchering of anti-Islamic filmmaker, and the renowned painter's great-grandson Theo van Gogh



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

by a crazed Muslim fanatic, and the burning and murder of dozens of innocents following the infamous Dutch cartoons depicting the prophet Muhammad have revealed Islam as a religion in which criticism or even caricature can lead to death.

The recent Swiss ban on the construction of Minarets was not the first such restriction, only the most recent. The French implementation in 2004 of a ban on headscarves in schools was truly the first major step towards resisting extremism, while the proposed burqa ban is merely an additional step that needs to be taken in order to defend secularism and, yes, promote freedom.

You may laugh at the illusionary irony there but indeed, the freedom the ban is promoting is the freedom of women not to have to submit to the rule of fundamentalist law, and the ability to cast off the unnecessary and misogynistic devices they have been forced to don since childhood. Whether they accept it now or not is beside the point; they must embrace what, to them, is a revolutionary concept, that women are equal. France, as it always has, is leading the way.

CON

VERNON MEIGS
the sandspur

Word on the street is that France is considering banning the burqa, the all-covering garment worn by Muslim women as per the Islamic practice of purdah, which prevents them from being seen by men. French President Nicolas Sarkozy has stated that the burqa is "not welcome in France," as the garment is seen not as part of a religious practice but as a representation of subservience and degrading to women. Naturally, the issue is divided between those who are against the burqa because they believe that it oppresses women and those who defend it because it is a woman's choice whether or not to wear it. As I am very much against the oppression of women, I view the practice of wearing the burqa as insane. Do I support the ban of the burqa in France or any other nation? No.

Before I am lumped in with the "burqa choice" advocates, let me make it clear that I believe that, given the choice of wearing a burqa and being free of it, choosing the burqa is rather demented. Therefore, I cannot say I support those promoting the "choice" to wear that particular article of clothing. I cannot stop anyone from wearing one, nor would I want to, but that fact does not prevent me from disapproving of it or trying to argue that women should toss them aside once and for all. Essentially, I believe in active persuasion against the burqa, but not the banning of it.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

You may think, "But wouldn't banning the burqa get rid of it for good?" Are drug criminalization laws working? Are censorship laws doing anything positive? Banning something never really gets rid of it. If anything, a ban produces a mutant, cancerous form of the original.

The burqa and the custom of purdah, in my eyes and in those of countless others, make the statement that being a woman is shameful, so women must be hidden from the public and from the eyes of men. This practice only serves to remove responsibility from men to behave in a civilized fashion, and gives them some arbitrarily constructed excuse to be the "superior" gender. Furthermore, those who claim Islam and purdah give "dignity" to women are clearly brainwashed, or they desire to maintain that illusion. In the eyes of Muslims (and unfortunately enough, among various other religions and their denominations), a woman's "dignity" or "virtue" consists of the suppression of her sexual freedom and self-expression. Of course, some say that the

burqa is a Muslim woman's self-expression. This argument is as effective as saying that one's ideal political preference is to be placed on a plantation with whips and chains.

That said, banning the burqa will not be as effective in ending the practice as it would be to continue to allow women to walk freely away from it: Muslim women who wear burqas still have their faith ingrained in their heads, firmly believe that donning the all-covering garment is a sign of their faith, and are quite convinced that they are virtuous women for observing purdah. What will happen if the burqa is banned? The Islamic community would scream discrimination, kiss up to political correctness, and rant about how their religion is being persecuted. The sad thing is that some people will sympathize with them, and that will only bring a wave of people converting to Islam in rebellion. Imagine that: a world in which oppressed women start a rebellious youth movement. It happened with drugs and alcohol. Are we sensing a pattern yet?

On principle, I stand against the burqa, but I hope to persuade others of this view, rather than legally enforce it. Those who think that any government does a good job fixing things are deluded. Overall, I do not think that the French government should ban the burqa just because it does not like it. A ban will not convince Muslim women to abandon purdah. In fact, active persuaders in a free society could bring an end to the practice by firmly convincing people that its observance is an anti-female statement.

Is JuicyCampus Back on the Web?

ANONYMOUS
the sandspur

First there was JuicyCampus.com. With its close in Feb. 2009 for financial reasons, a new virtual bathroom wall arose: CollegeACB.com. College ACB, or Anonymous Confession Board, is set up similarly to JuicyCampus and allows anyone with Internet access to search for his or her college and create or post on threads anonymously.

In its latest press release, College ACB stated that it is "a website that helps build community and engenders the open exchange of information."

This is far from the truth. At least for the Rollins boards

on the site. There is no sense of community or of a useful exchange of information. Posts range from accusations of promiscuity to ratings on the attractiveness of the latest pledge classes, and even to disputes on the biggest drug users. Nearly every thread consists of name-calling and false claims.

College ACB also said in a press release that it differs from what JuicyCampus was because JuicyCampus "fostered superficial interactions, often derogatory and needlessly crude...By contrast, the ACB consistently hosts a higher level of discourse—while still making room for the occasional gossip post."

The occasional gossip post? A higher level of discourse? A browse through College ACB will quickly reveal a complete lack of high-level discourse,

A thread titled "mckean girls" asks for a listing of the most attractive girls in the McKean residence hall. Names are posted by various subscribers, and accusations of cheating on significant others and name callings like "butterface" (i.e., everything is attractive about a girl except her face) are made throughout the thread.

The participation of Rollins students on College ACB does nothing but hurt the campus community. One's college years are the time to start acting a little more mature, not regressing to middle school-level name-calling. If you are one of the many contributors to the Rollins boards on College ACB, stop hiding behind your computer screen and face reality: there are far better things to do with your time.

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- Village Voice

"An acclaimed singer songwriter"
- Vogue



Boys' Bid Day

TJ FISHER
the sandspur

Friday, Jan. 29 was the official Boys' Bid Day, and was a night to remember. The boys who had been offered a bid from a fraternity gathered in the Mills Building. Simultaneously, the sororities (with the exception of Sigma Gamma Rho) arrived in the courtyard between the Mills Building and the Campus Center with their pledges. Each sorority — Chi Omega, Alpha Omicron Pi, Non Compis Mentis, Kappa Delta, and Kappa Kappa Gamma — had customized shirts for the occasion, with themes such as Jersey Shore and "It's Raining Men."

While the boys got their bids, the girls stood outside singing and chanting showing camaraderie and community. The event was loud, and the festivities were cheerful.

As each boy inside the Mills Building received his bid, he would run across the packed courtyard and into the campus

center to join his new brothers in the Darden Lounge. Inside they received their Bid Day Shirts, and waited for the last of the bids to be handed out. The whole process took about 40 minutes, and by the end, nearly every sorority girl on campus had lost her voice. Towards the end, the girls began chanting, "Bring on the boys," and finally when the last boy received his bid and had run across the courtyard, the sororities sectioned off to create pathways for the boys to run down to their frat house.

The celebration was a festive event, and brought all of Rollins Greek life together. Even non-Greeks showed up to watch the cheering and festivities, making the event a campus wide unifier. It was great to have the opportunity to congratulate all of the young men on their admission to the fraternities, an event that can be a college-changing experience. Every boy that received a bid that night is sure to remember this night for a long time.



COURTESY OF JULIE KLEMPF

BID DAY: Chi Omega's new pledge class at Corrin Hall after receiving their bids.

Women's Formal Recruitment

ALEXIS NEU
the sandspur

Female underclassmen wearing their prettiest dresses, some giggling from excitement, some trembling from anticipation, scurry in small huddled groups across campus as melodic chanting fills the air. As an upperclassman, you have seen this all before. As a non-participating first-year, you look on in bewilderment. Sorority life has once again taken the campus by storm: it is Women's Formal Recruitment.

As you may know, following unique tradition, Rollins College hosts both Men's and Women's Formal Recruitment process during the early weeks of the spring semester, unlike most large campuses which hold their Formal Recruitment processes the week preceding the first week of the fall semester. There are many conflicting opinions surrounding Rollins' timing of Formal Recruitment. AOH Senior and Spring 2010 Recruitment Rho Gamma Susan Sullivan '10 believes that holding Formal Recruitment before or during the fall semester would prove more beneficial for first-year women.

"Not only would Fall Recruitment provide these women with a friend base first semester, it would also provide them with a group of friends that are older to help them adjust to college," Sullivan said.

Sullivan also argues that sorority involvement would help improve first-years' grades first semester because of the academic support systems these organizations have in place, and could even help increase the college's retention rate.

Cloe Mimun '12, a Kappa Delta, harbors mixed feelings about the timing of Rollins' Formal Recruitment: "Having Women's Formal Recruitment during the spring semester gives the women interested in Greek Life the chance to form their own opinions about each sorority before entering recruitment. However, if Formal Recruitment was hosted during the fall semester, pledges would have more time to learn about their newly-joined organization and develop deeper relationships with their new sisters throughout the entire academic year."

Formal Recruitment, or

"rush" as many students have come to call it, consists of four days of inviting interested women (termed potential new members or PNM's) to experience a rare and exciting look into the houses and traditions of the various sororities across campus, something that is normally forbidden to those outside of these exclusive societies. The week-long process is capped off by a celebratory "Bid Day," where PNM's who have been successfully matched with a sorority begin their pledging period to the society with which they have been paired.

Courtney Duerig '10 and Kelly Cowan '11, Co-Recruitment Chairs for Rollins' Panhellenic Council, have worked hard to make this semester's Women's Formal Recruitment a success. This year 125 women registered for recruitment, and in the end about 64 women joined one of the five sororities that participate in Women's Formal Recruitment (Sigma Gamma Rho holds their own very secretive recruitment process). According to Duerig, these numbers are pretty consistent with last year's numbers, although they are slightly lower than the year before that.

Women's Formal Recruitment underwent some changes this year. One of the rules consisted of blocking current sorority members' Facebook profiles from the peering eyes of the potential new members. Although in the past Panhellenic has been strict about the pub-

lic viewing content of sorority members' Facebooks so as to make sure no PNM's decisions were swayed, this year Panhellenic required that all sorority members blocked their entire Facebook profile from view during the week of recruitment. Violators of this new rule were subject to a fine of \$200.

Another change that took place was the time that the bids were received by the PNM's on Bid Day. Last year sorority bids, or invitations to pledge, were given out to potential new members on the Saturday following recruitment at around noon. This year, bids were not received by PNM's until 6 p.m. on Saturday.

According to Duerig, "We did change the time the bids were given out because the chapters ran out of things to do with their new girls last year when they got their girls around noon."

Although the PNM retention rate during recruitment week was not as good as Duerig would have hoped, she believed that the potential of open recruitment had a large influence over the amount of girls who decided to drop.

"Freshmen believe that [open recruitment] is a common thing and that it is easier to join in the fall," said Duerig. "We hope to change this opinion for next year so girls don't have that incentive to drop out of the process. When more girls stay in the process it increases quota, or the number of girls that each sorority can take."



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

A PLEA FOR HELP: Graffiti on a wall in Port-au-Prince, Haiti, in the middle of damage caused by the earthquake.

Helping Haiti

TJ FISHER
the sandspur

Rollins is coming together yet again to fulfill our commitment to global citizenship by hosting a music festival this Saturday, Feb. 6 at 4 p.m. at Mary Jean Plaza. The Office of Community Engagement and Adrian Cohn (Class of 2010) have been working for two weeks to bring campus together to help raise money for Haiti. They have teamed up with ROC, JUMP, Rollins Relief, Professor Kistler's Foundations of the Caribbean class, Holt SGA, Spectrum, CSA, and other organizations to plan a great event.

The festival will include a volleyball tournament hosted by Kistler's class with teams formed by students at \$5 per person. A market will be selling plants, art, and other trinkets with all proceeds to benefit Haiti. Local businesses will also contribute items for a prize

drawing and silent auction, in addition to donation centers at the event.

A great addition to the festival will be the chance to work with Change This World, a company that has been sending thousands of relief kits to Haiti. Students will get the chance to help build these relief kits that will be sent straight to Haiti. The goal is to make 5,000 relief kits, each of which can feed six people.

"This is going to be a great event to spend time with friends and family, have fun, listen to some music, and help our brothers and sisters in Haiti," said Gabe Anderson, who works in the Office of Community Engagement. Any questions or concerns, including inquiries about volunteering, can be directed to Adrian Cohn, acohn@rollins.edu, Adrienne Benso, abenso@rollins.edu, or Gabe Anderson, ganderson@rollins.edu.

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Current Poet Laureate Pays a Visit

DODIE O'KEEFE
the sandspur

On Thursday, Jan. 28, the esteemed poet Kay Ryan graced the campus with her presence. For those who are not familiar with Kay Ryan, she was born in California and grew up in the San Joaquin Valley and the Mojave Desert. She attended the University of California in Los Angeles and from there, received a master's degree. Her poetry collections include: *Dragon Acts to Dragon Ends* (1983), *Strangely Marked Metal* (1985), *Flamingo Watching* (1994), *Elephant Rocks* (1996), *Say Uncle* (2000), *The Niagara River* (2005), and her new

book entitled *The Best of It: New and Selected Poems* (2010).

Kay Ryan has received several awards for her work. These include: the Ruth Lilly Poetry Foundation Prize, a Guggenheim Fellowship, an Ingram Merrill Foundation Award, a fellowship from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Union League Poetry Prize, the Maurice English Poetry Award, and three Pushcart Prizes. In addition, Kay's work has been selected for *The Best American Poetry* four times, and was also included in *The Best of the Best American Poetry 1988-1997*.

Entertainment Weekly named Kay to the "It List," and her works have appeared in *The New Yorker*, *The Yale Review*, and many other renowned magazines.

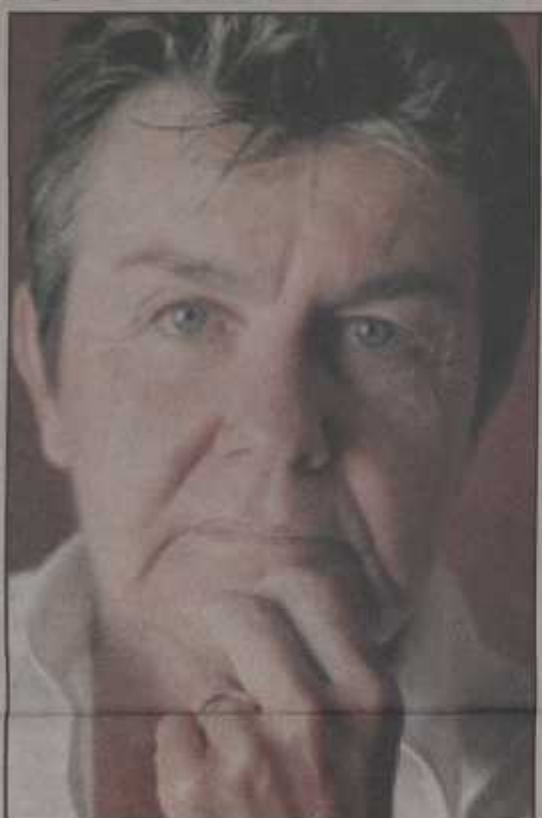
One of Kay's most recent and possibly most important awards was her appointment in 2008 to the Library of Congress's sixteenth Poet Laureate Consultant in Poetry.

To begin her visit, Kay Ryan opened with her poem "Is it Modest?" which she explained, reminds her of Florida for it entails desirable climate characteristics. Next, Kay shared her poem, "Spring" which encompassed Kay's description of how she is uncertain as to why change occurs, as with the changing of the seasons. Kay continued to read her poetry, but when she reached one entitled "When Fishing Fails," she described her interest in murder mysteries.

Kay would take epigraphs from other stories and then base her poems off of them. This was the case with "When Fishing Fails." Kay took an epigraph from one of her favorite mysteries, *Death has no Sportsmen*, and wrote a poem. It was evident during Kay's reading and dialogue that she is very funny; there were laughs from the audience for the entirety of her visit.

During the question and answer portion of the night, Kay received both insightful and comedic questions that she tried her best to answer. The first question asked Kay who she would choose if she could be anyone else. She responded that she would like to be Ben Catcher, a cartoonist. She then explained that when she was young, she read a lot of comic books and was often involved in trading them. A more difficult question asked Kay how much rejection she received before acceptance. Kay explained that her work was almost exclusively rejected for about 20 years. She provided an analogy relating her work to monopoly, in that mediocre magazines accepted it at first, but she had to ascend the latter of hierarchy slowly. Lastly, Kay was asked if she found herself to be coming or going.

In response to the somewhat ambiguous question, Kay replied that she was "going." You may assess her answer in your own way. For those of you who were unable to attend Kay Ryan's visit, do not fret, for Andre G. Dubus will be on campus February 4, and Barry Lopez will finish off the Winter with the Writers season on February 11.



Courtesy of Rollins.edu



Courtesy of Rollins.edu

MEET AND GREET: Kay Ryan mingles with students, faculty, and guests after a reading on campus.

Andre Dubus III on Writing and Imagination

Andre Dubus III is the author of four books, *Bluesmen*, *The Cagekeeper and Other Stories*, *House of Sand and Fog*, and *Garden of Last Days*. *House of Sand and Fog* catapulted Dubus onto the literary scene after his books were chosen as Oprah's Book Club selections. Released as a movie in 2003, debut director Vadim Perelman's screenplay garnered sixteen film award nominations, including three Academy Award nominations. Dubus's most recent novel, *Garden of Last Days*, revolves around the happenstance encounter of April, a night club stripper and single mother working hard at a demeaning job to make a better life for her child, and Bassam al-Jazani, a Saudi jihadist with plenty of cash and zealous judgments to throw around. Sex, honor, parenthood and masculinity burst from the page over a sultry, Florida weekend before one of the most tragic and life-altering events of recent history, the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. Andre and I spent 45 minutes chatting about writing and the writing process. What follows is an excerpt of our conversation.

GLEND A GANUNG
the sandspur

GG: I'm currently reading *Garden of Last Days* and you've done a very good job of staying unbiased in your representation of Bassam. So I commend you.

AD: Well, you know, [laughs] not really. I'm awfully judgmental when I'm highly incensed. I have this belief that writers live two separate lives. We all have different lives and wear different hats whether we're writers or not, but I do think that it makes the kind of writing that I try to do, which is character driven fiction where I'm trying to imagine the lives of others as honestly and empathetically as I can, that in order to do that I really do have to reserve judgment, which is easier to do in some cases than in others. It really was very difficult for me to reserve judgment for the character of Bassam al-Jazani, the young Saudi hijacker. But he insisted on being in the

book, I could just really feel him tugging my sleeve, and I finally had to relent. But I really had to work at it. I really had to work at not judging him. So I'm glad you're not seeing judging. Because I do think that if the writer's judging, the characters, just as in life - if someone's giving us the once over, and giving us a judgment, prejudging us, you know, pigeon-holing us - we kind of walk away from them, don't we. We don't want to be around these people. I think characters are the same way. They kind of walk away from the writer if the writer is summarily just thinking "well, I've got you figured out," and we're all far more complex aren't we?

GG: You seem to have mastered the multiple first person narrative from what I've read. I was just curious why you selected that narrative point of view, to do it multiple first-person.

AD: It was a process of elimination, and trial and error, as you well know as a writer. With

House of Sand and Fog, I knew I wanted, I knew I had a multiple, at least a two point of view story going on, then it became three points of view and three voices, and I tried various ways of doing it. I remember I actually tried third-person present-past with Kathy Nicolo, and she only came alive with first person past. That's when I started hearing her voice for myself. And then, I really wanted, if I could, a different sound for the Colonel so you would know immediately when you went to his point of view that it was different or distinct. And I was playing around with third-person past, third-person present, first-person past, and only when I did first-person present - which by the way I was resisting because I'd done it my collection of the stories and I may want to do that again - only when I went to first-person present did the Colonel come alive and I started to hear his rhythms. And isn't that weird because you've read the story. He's the only character of the

three who tells his tale in the present tense, and he's the only character of three who doesn't survive to tell it later. [...] Another thing that I was hoping to happen was, as you know the first-person present tense is very intimate, and immediate and it draws you in whether you want to be or not. And he's a bit of a stand-offish, proud military man from a culture that's not our own, and that's another thought that came to me while working on it that this might invite people in more readily.

GG: Drawing on a culture that's not our own, both books, *House of Sand and Fog* and *Garden of Last Days*, really address in very contemporary form of a clash of cultures. Was that the intent?

AD: No. No, I wasn't aware of that, but that's part of the thing that I love about writing, and maybe this is the central thing I love about writing is: I'll quote Grace Paley who I quote all the time and I'm sure I'll quote her when I get to Rollins next week; she's got this great line. She says "We write what we don't know we know." And I love that. For me the writing process is not one of exposition, but one of discovery where one line really leads to the next, to the next, to the next. And it's really a free-fall into the imagination and into the psyche, by the way

all of which, all of which. We all possess what we also like what the writer Bausch says, he says, "I think that you are the one you're writing, that you're saying that 'We're not to the dreams and mind - so dream it through.' And I because whenever I to say something in writing, I've killed it. way, I don't know. wants his child to be big and strong to be a player, and the child a dancer instead of to run into trouble of the years and I see it again and again finishing a new book it's teaching me that the writing is the writer, that the more than the book, and it really of surrendering to finding. That's what that it's just a you spit out what and that's it. The writing is rewritten long-winded way. I try not to dwell at all when I do it that way that I'm working the inside out that in. The book will be something about

Girl Talk in Women's Studies

TJ FISHER
the sandspur

Monday, Jan. 26, marked the start of a three part Women's Panel that included Dr. Johnson Distinguished Professor of Rollins. The three day event centered around three speakers: Dr. Molly Talcott, Anne Lacasamana '93, and R. Gilmore '00. Dr. Talcott presented Tuesday afternoon at 5:00 p.m. in a fairly large classroom

filled to the brim with eager faculty and staff ready to learn about Talcott's studies until there was only standing room. Her presentation was named "El Aire es Nuestro": Gender, Culture, and Resistance Among Indigenous Youth in Southern Mexico. For two years, Talcott lived in southern Mexico studying the struggles of running a community radio in rural Mexico, specifically The Network of Indigenous Community Radios of Southwest Mexico.

The presentation focused on the life of the youths who ran the radio stations, and it introduced

some of the background of the situation in Mexico. The state is extremely repressed, as well as turning into what Talcott called a militarized polyarchy, which had led to media privatization and consolidation.

The reasons for Talcott's studies are rooted in many places, including the emergence of a gender equity and human rights culture in the youth, as well as the coming of age of a new generation, and examining what the newest generation is capable of. Above all, Talcott took an interest in the youths, and made a bond with those who ran the

community stations.

Throughout the seminar, Talcott also talked about the shift towards women's rights in Southern Mexico, as well as the growing popularity of educational, local community stations. With messages that encourage human rights and safe sex, the radio stations were working to assist their community. A big message supported by the station was sexual rights, talking about safe sex, love, and relationships. Talcott said at the commencement of her presentation that it was all about having an alternative use for public airwaves, and in a way that is much more productive for those in the community.

In the question and answer session that followed, Talcott said that she was surprised by the prevalence of human rights in the network, as well as the oppressive

nature of the government against the media in Mexico. For instance, the military patrol the station as a threat to the community show. In such situations, the community often comes out to the station and stands up against the military, to show support for their local radio. As for expansion of such community stations, many are popping up all over rural Mexico, creating a positive environment for people to live in, and even making a community where people do not have to migrate in order to live a civil life.

In closing, Talcott explained that these stations were almost constantly in testing mode, something here in the United States we would call pirating the airwaves. Also, these stations demonstrate a generational shift where women are accepted, and cultural restoration and preservation is highlighted.



CHRISTIAN KEBBEL/ the sandspur

CRITIQUE: Featured (from left to right) is Holt student Frankie Mastrangelo, speaker Anne Lacasamana, and Director of Rollins College Office of Multicultural Affairs, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin.

Rollins Keeps the Dream Alive

MEGHAN THOMAS
the sandspur

Historically, The MLK celebration at Rollins only consisted of a dinner held by BSU. Two years ago, the Rollins community rallied around the idea of a weeklong celebration that included faculty, staff, students, and Central Florida community members. This year, Jan. 14-18, the Martin Luther King, Jr. Celebration at Rollins and was the largest yet. The five-day event was filled with social justice and civil rights related activities that were organized by many groups and offices on campus, including the Offices of Student Involvement Leadership, Community Engagement, and Multicultural Affairs with student organizations such as Black Student Union, NCORE Student Delegation, and ACE. On Thursday, there was a drum circle in front of the campus center during common hour, led by Jason Isla and his company, *Giving World Percussion*. Many students dropped by for a chance to bang on a drum for a few minutes. That night, there was a performance by the Center for Contemporary Dance called "Colours of Courage" in Annie Russell Theatre. On Friday, Jan. 15, BSU hosted a documentary and dialogue. The documentary was a heart wrenching film called *Two Towns of Jasper*, about a black man named James Byrd who was tied to a truck and dragged three miles to his death in Jasper, Texas in 1998. After the film, there was a discussion that ended with everyone present gathering in a circle, holding hands, and pledging hope and change for the future. Saturday was the day of service. In the morning, Rollins students and staff joined Central Florida community members with Hands on Orlando to help beautify Pine Hills Elementary

School. In the evening, Rollins hosted a documentary, dialogue, and dance party for teens with the Boys and Girls Club of Orlando. The youngsters were so excited to be at Rollins and to interact with students, especially breaking it down on the dance floor with members of the Rollins community. Sunday, Jan. 17 was the Spoken Word and Drum Circle night. Rollins students, staff, and Central Florida community members gathered to hear poetry and music by local artists as well as Rollins students. After the Spoken Word, there was an interactive drum circle led by Jason Isla, which many students and community members took part in.

Finally, the week culminated with the MLK Vigil on Monday, Jan. 18. This event had almost 300 students, faculty, staff, and community members in attendance. The Greek community at Rollins contributed largely to the event; they devoted time and energy into making the whole week a success. They collaborated to form a Fraternity and Sorority choir that performed beautifully. All the MCs for the evening were members of Rollins Greek life. Regarding Greek involvement, Mahjabeen Rafiuddin, director of the Office of Multicultural Affairs, stated, "As a community, they rallied for diversity and they love Dr. King's legacy and life and want to see it manifested at Rollins." There were several distinguished speakers, including Tony Jenkins, President Duncan, and Adis Vila. There were also several musical performances and a praise dance performed by students Cherrisse Hagood, (Class of 2012), and Yvie Saint-Louis, (Class of 2013). The entire week ended with a candlelight vigil on Mills Lawn led by Dean Powers. It was a beautiful and touching ceremony filled with words of wisdom and love.

GG: The next question is where we see the face of contemporary literature going: how it's evolving. Where do you see that going? I ask because you've had a novel made into a movie, and we see more and more entertainment today, television and movies, based on actual events. Is literature becoming just fictionalized events of true life, sort of like reality TV?

AD: No. No. I don't think so, and I have another concern, it's two-fold. First, let me say that I travel a lot, I read a lot of works in progress, I've judged contests and I've read a lot, and I think first of all, the hopeful note is: people are churning out some wonderful work. I know there's this fear of a big decline in readership, but you know, this past year publishers had a banner year. Even with this bad economy, they sold a record number of books, serious books, fiction and creative non-fiction. What I see that troubles me is there has been a steadily declining problem with attention in both readers and writers. I taught a workshop a few years ago, and the novel in the class was beautifully written. The first six or seven pages was a very languid, lush description of a river valley, and then on page seven we go into the home of the protagonist and a husband slaps

a wife. Seven or eight of my ten graduate students insisted that the novel begin with the slap on page seven because it would get the reader more interested and, frankly, they found the first six pages kind of boring. [Laughs] And that, to me, that rubs me the wrong way. I mean the novel especially. I really love the novel as a form. I love how much it can hold and what it can do. God, they should read some Tolstoy, Dostoyevsky, Steinbeck, they're going to take fifty pages before they get to the 'slap,' and that's good for the reader, and it's an important part of what the novel does. Wagner's got this great line which I'm going to butcher, but he said that what the writer does is that he "freezes time, so that in 100 years, when the reader reads it, it moves again." Isn't that beautiful? So my concern, what I'm seeing, is that the slow, careful fall into language that is literature, and the fast, clipped, supersonic-DST speed of these hi-tech gadgets that we're 'friggin' addicted to, are competing. I think it's affected the pacing of writing, and maybe that's where I agree a little bit with your point. What I keep hearing myself say is that the job of literature is not to give the reader information, that's the job of the news. Our job, as writers, is to give the reader an experience.

the American dream, dominant experience, or the objectification of the dream, etc., but it's not purpose by me, if that makes sense. I'm having a little bit of trouble with Garden of Lost Things, struggling with it on a personal level because we lost a family friend on Flight 1549. Ah. Well, that's probably why I appreciate it. I know, but that's the kind of thing you kind of have to have certain things, and there's something about not being ready to let go at certain times and putting it down. I'm ready, I think I'm ready about writing. I hear myself telling students, Writing is about the truth of the world, and yourself, and you're looking for something that's true, that's still a wound, and you're able to go to the matter, then it's a cowardice to put it away about something that are thousands of miles away. Put it away twenty years and when you're able to go back to the truth of the matter, about reading, too.

Mr. Marmalade "Spanks" the Fred Stone

PETER TRAVIS
the sandspur

Over the years, The Fred Stone Theatre has earned the slogan "Spank Your Mind" due to its commitment to plays containing x-rated elements, unconventional forms and edgy topics. The most recent production on The Fred Stone, Noah Haidle's "Mr. Marmalade," lived up to the naughty slogan in every way. Last Thursday, "Mr. Marmalade" opened to a packed house, and I think it is fair to say that before the show was over, everyone's mind had officially been spanked.

Mr. Marmalade tells the story of a peculiar four-year-old girl named Lucy, played by Alex Richmond (Class of 2010), and her wild imagination. When Lucy's promiscuous mother goes on a date for the night, Lucy has to occupy herself and her mind for the night while being half-heartedly watched by her babysitter. Throughout the night, the audience is introduced to a handful of wacky characters including Larry, the five-year-old who made the youngest

suicide attempt in history, Mr. Marmalade, Lucy's imaginary friend, and a talking cactus and sunflower. In Lucy's mind, Mr. Marmalade is a businessman who is always working and never has enough time to play with her. He also has a number of bad habits such as cocaine abuse, porno infatuation, and a nasty temper. Eventually, Mr. Marmalade upsets Lucy with his drug abuse and Larry, Lucy's new-found friend, comes to her rescue. Eventually, Mr. Marmalade kills himself, which allows Lucy to let go of him and play dodgeball with Larry, an odd but ultimately happy ending.

The individual performances were superb and created a heightened playing style in which the audience was able to believe the wacky goings-on of Lucy's imagination. Richmond shined as the leading lady (or girl). Her playful nature and quick temperament allowed her to bring the four-year-old to life on stage. Brian Hatch (Class of 2011) played the sheepish, ultimately heroic, Larry. His careful physical characterization of the suicidal child was superb, reminding the audience of many silly things they used to do when they were younger. Ryan Lambert (Class of 2012) played

the slimy Mr. Marmalade, a role that showcased his ability to call upon a wide range of emotional extremes. Casey Ottinger (Class of 2010) performed the role of Bradley, Mr. Marmalade's personal assistant. Ottinger created a very sincere and proper character that played well against the wackiness in the rest of the play. In one of the funniest scenes, Dustin Schwab (Class of 2010) and Amanda Leakey (Class of 2010) brought to life two imaginary plants, a sunflower and a cactus, starting a spontaneous food fight onstage.

The show was directed by Rob Yoho (Class of 2010). Yoho successfully managed to orchestrate staging, set and sound elements, telling a clear story of lost innocence, youthful loneliness, and the importance of friendship. Even though the set pieces were quite simple, a futon and four blocks, Yoho created a plethora of interesting stage pictures that set up hilarious scenes. The Fred Stone Theatre is completely run and directed by students, setting it apart from the Annie Russell Theatre's main stage productions. Mr. Marmalade went above and beyond the expectations of the Fred Stone and was truly a show of main-stage quality.



HANNAH WHITE AND MORGAN WILLIAMS/ *the sandspur*
"SPANKS": The cast of Mr. Marmalade give a stunning performance of the seemingly controversial tale of a young girl and her imaginary friends.

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Seven Kingdoms Reigns

VERNON MEIGS
the sandspur

Last semester, The Sandspur was able to include an interview and a reflection on the listening party of the brand new album by Orlando epic metal band Seven Kingdoms and noted the advancements in the music after their lineup changes. The new album, the eponymous "Seven Kingdoms," has since been released on their Website, www.sevenkingdoms.net and also on the online underground music retailer, CD Baby.

Seven Kingdoms released their debut album, "Brothers of the Night," in 2007. The band, including former members singer Bryan Edwards, bassist Cory Stene, and keyboardist John Zambrotto, was able to attract a great degree of attention despite being an underground, up-and-coming band, and was noted for their well-balanced mix of melodic power metal and also death-metal elements, producing an epic overall sound that was up to par even with artists who were performing in the genre long before them.

After the aforementioned three had left, the new Seven Kingdoms lineup had become guitarists Camden Cruz and Kevin Byrd, drummer Keith Byrd, bassist Miles Neff, and singer Sabrina Valentine. The prominent difference from the past lineup, a female vocalist, has led to a degree of skepticism as to the band's direction by fans before the release of the new

material (Sabrina Valentine had originally signed on as co-singer with Bryan Edwards, however Edwards left due to the differences in that respect). However, when the songs from the new album were put out for all to hear, the skeptics stood corrected as Sabrina's voice worked not only well, but downright perfect for the new music.

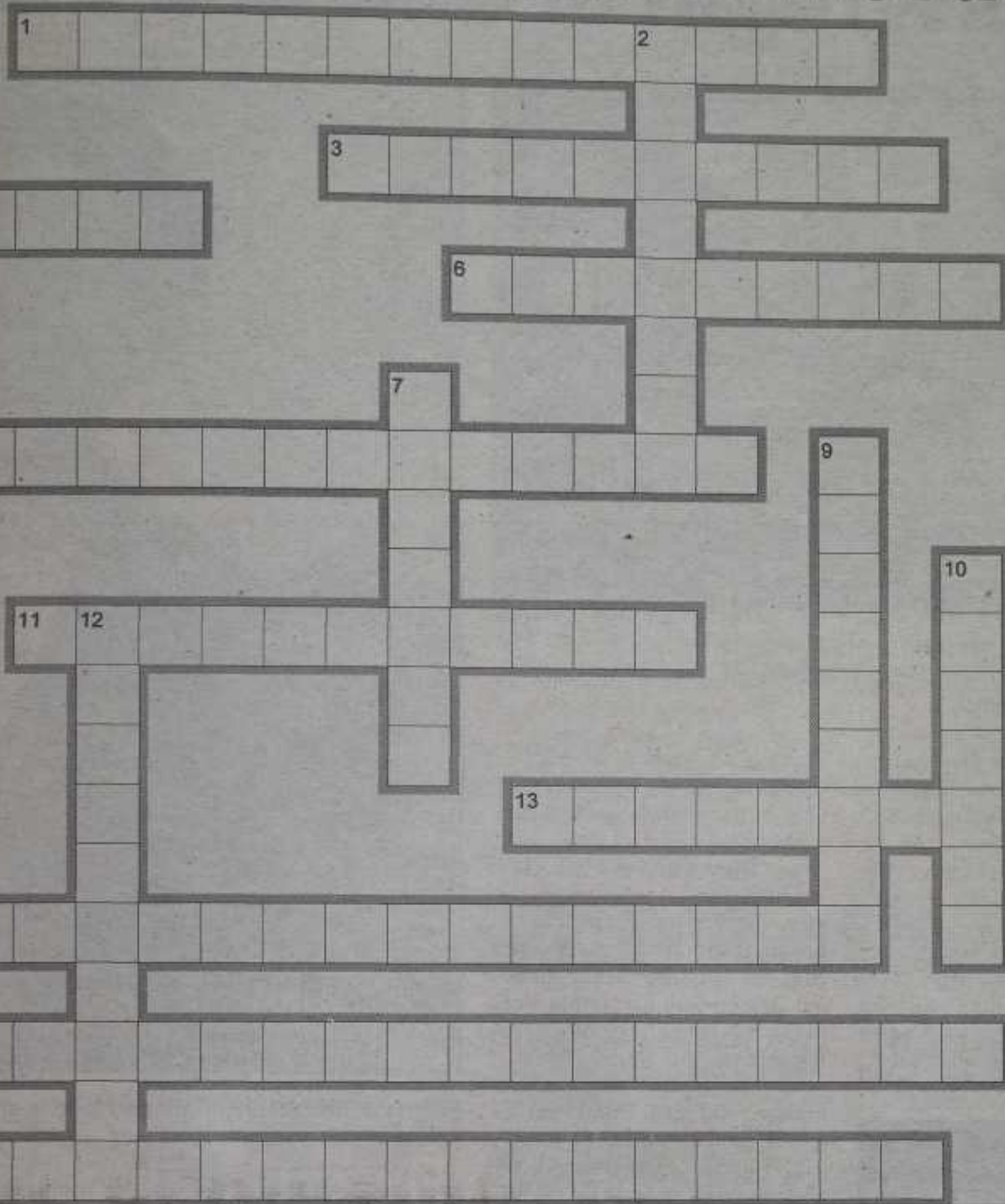
The noticeable influences in Valentine's style are elements of Celine Dion, Amy Lee from Evanescence, and Cristina Scabbia from Lacuna Coil. Some of the best examples of these elements are "Somewhere Far Away," "Vengeance by the Sons of a King," the piano-driven "A Murder Never Dead," the rocker "Wolf in Sheep's Clothes," and "Into the Darkness." Some moments involve full, powerful singing and others remind the listener perhaps of the "Titanic" soundtrack. All members share in gang-chorus backing vocals, best perhaps expressed on the title track "Seven Kingdoms" in the chorus. The death growl vocals have taken a backseat considerably on this album, which is another sharp contrast to the material on 2007's "Brothers of the Night," in which the lead vocalist shared in equally the clean and death vocal duties. On the new album, they are performed by the new bassist Miles Neff.

The band has described that Brothers of the Night as a less organized studio effort in that the members entered the studio just to do it and make songs without much of a game plan besides the album concept, which was based on the works of George R. R. Martin. This time they did have a plan, and as a result the songwriting was much more diverse, from rockers, power metal tunes, songs that fall in the extreme metal territory, and even a piano ballad. The overall sound, however, is that which is epitomized by the given genre of Seven Kingdoms: "American Epic Melodic Power Metal." If for the soaring epic melodies, the hardy driven metal riffs, or even for the female vocals that set the band in a truly unique niche in the genre, everyone should give this band a shot. You will definitely find something to like in Seven Kingdoms.



COURTESY OF SEVENKINGDOMS.NET
ORLANDO'S MUSICAL GENIUS: Their new album, available on their Website.

Movie Mania Crossword



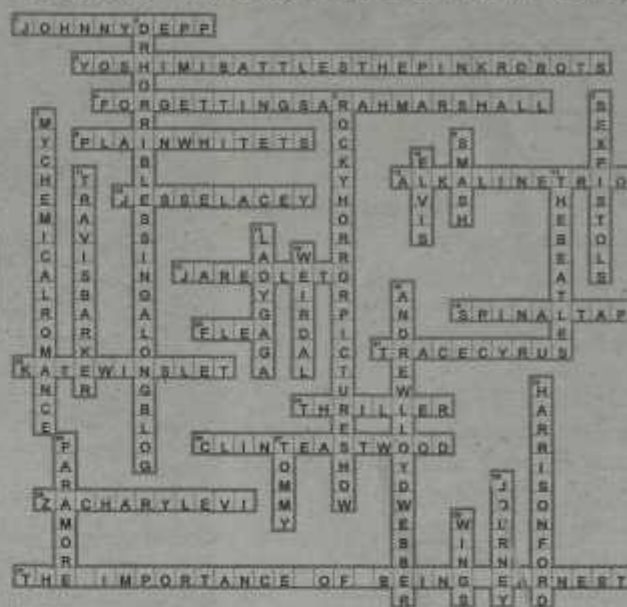
ACROSS

1. Kevin Spacey has a mid-life crisis.
3. Woody Harrelson loves his twinkies.
5. Heroin Bob in Salt Lake.
6. Tyler Durden.
8. Bart takes on racism.
11. It wasn't over. It still isn't over.
13. A superhero discovers the evil plot of a former coworker.
14. 1998 war movie.
15. Christine has problems with her obsessive voice teacher.
16. A love story set in Wyoming mountains.

DOWN

2. Harrison Ford's first movie.
4. J.J. Abrams' out of this world movie.
5. Here's looking at you, Kid.
7. Disturbing sequel to classic play.
9. Will Ferrell movie.
10. Jack and Rose's wild ride.
12. Bruce Willis and Leonardo Di Vinci.
14. The ___ of all Fears.

Last Week's Answers



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Legoland: Building a Future in Central Florida

KENDALL BERCAW
the sandspur

mately \$100 million investment used to improve the preexisting site's infrastructure.

The name Merlin Entertainments Group might not seem familiar, but their other attractions certainly are. The company only currently employs 13,500 people but impacts 38 million visitors worldwide. When Legoland Florida opens it is expected to bring another thousand jobs to Central Florida. That is much needed news during our current recession! But how do we know that Legoland will be a hit when we already offer a plethora of world class attractions and entertainment offerings geared toward families? MEG has done its research.

Data the group collected over a number of years has shown that there is a high recognition of the Legoland Park brand in Central Florida along

with a 90 percent intention to visit by families in the target market. Legoland caters to families with children ages 2-12. Legoland Florida will be the 2nd Legoland Park to open in the United States. The first opened in California in 1999. That park has been voted the country's best children's theme park by Amusement Today for six years consecutively. It has also been recognized as the fastest growing theme park in the United States with increased visitor numbers yearly, up by 6 percent just last year. That may seem like a small number, but in today's economy, the industry saw attendance drop by 0.4 percent worldwide. MEG promises that Legoland Florida will have a distinct Florida flair. It will be the largest Legoland Park ever, offering more than 50 attractions and shows and key interactive elements.

In the press release, Governor Charlie Crist shared, "We are extremely happy that the future of Cypress Gardens is secure. Legoland is one of the most exciting names in family attractions and a welcome new addition to Florida."

Bob English, chairman of Polk County Commissioners, said, "We are looking forward to working closely with Merlin. Their record speaks for itself. All of us at both local and state level really welcome their exciting plans for the site, the jobs this project will create, and their commitment to the county long term."

MEG is Europe's number one visitor attraction operator and second worldwide to The Walt Disney Company. MEG is the fastest growing player in the industry. The company is privately owned, primarily by New York's Blackstone Group,

which paid \$195 million for most of Merlin in 2005. Just five years later, Merlin's reported revenues are topping \$1.3 billion. There are speculations that MEG is contemplating an initial public offering. Shares could potentially rise to \$3.3 billion. And it is no coincidence that Blackstone Group already has investments in Central Florida with Universal Studios Theme Parks, SeaWorld and Busch Gardens Theme Parks. Could that potentially mean a triple threat - Universal Studios, SeaWorld and Legoland under the MEG versus Walt Disney World? Only time will tell, but the competition will bring two great things to our community: increased, prolonged tourist traffic, meaning more funds driven into the local economy, and increased job opportunities with a viable stakeholder in the hospitality industry.

In a press release Jan. 21, Merlin Entertainments Group (MEG) announced a multi-million dollar investment in the world's largest family tourism destination-central Florida-with the opening of Legoland by the end of next year. MEG purchased the former Cypress Gardens theme park in Winter Haven, located approximately one hour south-west of Rollins. The property encompasses 145 acres that will be transformed into Legoland as well as a water park and historical botanical gardens. MEG aims for all-inclusive resort destinations with the Legoland concept. That means it is likely that accommodations will eventually be included in the approxi-

The Grammys: A Night of Glitz and Glamour

MELANIE
WEITZNER
the sandspur

The 52nd Annual Grammy Awards was broadcasted Sunday at 8 p.m. and it was quite the spectacle, as far as celebrities congratulating other celebrities goes.

Most of the performances were in true Grammys fashion: over the top. The show kicked off with an energetic and predictably avant-garde performance from Lady Gaga. Clad in a glittering green leotard with matching skyscraper heels and trademark sunglasses, Lady Gaga performed a part of her hit song "Poker Face" before being tossed into a fake fire by a backup dancer. She emerged from the ashes covered in soot and played on a conjoined piano with the legendary Sir Elton John. They performed a duet consisting of Lady Gaga's "Speechless" and Elton John's "Your Song," with Sir John belting out his song's iconic phrase with a new twist: "How wonderful life is with Gaga in the world!" Later, Jennifer Lopez introduced Green Day and the Broadway cast of the upcoming play "American Idiot," which



PAINT THE TOWN GREEN: Green Day performs a cover of "21st Century Breakdown" with the cast of the new, Green Day inspired, musical "American Idiot."

incorporates Green Day's songs in its performances. Together, they sang Green Day's hit song "21 Guns" from their most recent and now Grammy winning rock album, "21st Century Breakdown." It was interesting to see the once tough-edge band merge with Broadway style vocals. A more touching performance came from Andrea Bocelli and Mary J. Blige's duet of "Like a Bridge Over Troubled

Waters," in honor of the victims of the recent Haiti earthquake. One of the more out-there performances was by Pink, who sang "Glitter in the Air" while simultaneously, you guessed it, spinning around suspended in the air, nearly nude and covered in glitter in a true Cirque du Soleil fashion. Her act simply stole the show from all the other performances.

Some of the other performances did not stand out as much as the others. Beyonce's performance of "If I Were a Boy" and her rendition of Alanis Morissette's "You Oughta Know" were not as exciting as her past performances. Surrounded by men dressed in combat outfits,



UP IN THE AIR: top Pink stole the show as she performed over the heads of the speechless audience. bottom Taylor Swift cleaned up at the Grammys, winning four awards, including the prestigious Album of the Year award.



FUNNY MAN: Stephen Colbert made a splash as the comedian hosted the 2010 Grammy Awards.

she danced around the stage and simply sang; not too impressive for the Grammys. The Black Eyed Peas also failed to impress. Dressed in futuristic outfits with a background of what looked like dancers in leftover human-steroid Halloween costumes, the usually outrageous group did nothing too over the top other than sing and jump around.

Yet, the greatest fail did not come from any of the performers that took the Grammy stage. The greatest fail came from the Grammys itself. In an attempt to wow the crowd, the Grammys hosted a 3-D Michael Jackson tribute by having Celine Dion, Usher, Carrie Underwood, Smokey Robinson, and Jennifer Hudson sing the late King of Pop's "Earth Song" with a video

montage of nature images playing in the background. Just one problem: if you did not happen to stop by your local Target store and pick up a pair of special grammy 3-D glasses, the entire tribute performance was a real eye-sore, literally. If you have ever taken off your 3-D glasses during a movie or some crazy Universal Studios ride, you know the feeling of your eyes hurting from trying to adjust to a blurry screen. I give the Grammys credit for honoring the late Michael Jackson and trying to be innovative, but it just wasn't that practical to expect the millions of viewers to remember to go pick up a pair of 3-D glasses.

These minor blips aside, the Grammys once again impressed the audience.



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST: Katy Perry and Alice Cooper presented the Rock Album of the Year award, which went to Green Day for their most recent album "21st Century Breakdown."

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Athletes Make the Grade

JESS PRESSLEY
the sandspur

What do Page Cottrell, Ian Scott, and Kristina Mingos have in common? They are great students and tremendous athletes who balance their time efficiently. They also hold a combined 3.7 cumulative grade point average. How do they do it? Talking to Cottrell, Mingos, and Scott gave me a better understanding.

Page Cottrell (Class of 2011) is a volleyball star, and is majoring in Education. Cottrell spends 18 hours a week practicing volleyball while she is in season, and nine hours a week during the off-season.

When asked when she had time to study or have a social life, Cottrell said that "Studying and school work always comes first. My time management is

great because I'm an athlete. I always have somewhere to be, so there isn't a lot of time for procrastination. I spend a lot of my time sleeping! I don't watch a lot of TV and I don't have a lot of down time. But I still find time for a good social life."

Ian Scott (Class of 2011) is one of the quickest guards on the men's basketball team. Scott, an International Relations major, spends more than 10 hours a week on his studies, and 20 hours a week on basketball. I asked Scott if he ever felt physically exhausted from his gruesome schedule.

"Sometimes I feel a little exhausted. When I do have some free time I try and relax by the pool or watch a good movie so that I'm physically ready for the upcoming week," Scott replied.

Lastly, women's basketball standout Kristina Mingos (Class of 2012) does it all, from making steals to taking three-point shots, and she still manages



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KEEPING UP WITH ATHLETICS AND ACADEMICS: (From left to right) Ian Scott, Kristina Mingos, and Page Cottrell are all Rollins athletes who have maintained a combined 3.7 GPA while staying on track with their sports and social lives.

to maintain a 4.0 cumulative grade point average. Mingos, a Biology major, is planning on attending dentistry school. She shared with me how she maintains a perfect GPA and is a top

performer on the court.

"It's really important to have daily schedules and organization. I usually get up early and do some homework then go to classes. After class, I go home

and do more homework before practice. At practice, I work really hard and am always trying to get better. After basketball, I spend most of my night in the library studying," Mingos said.

Favre Dances with Retirement Again

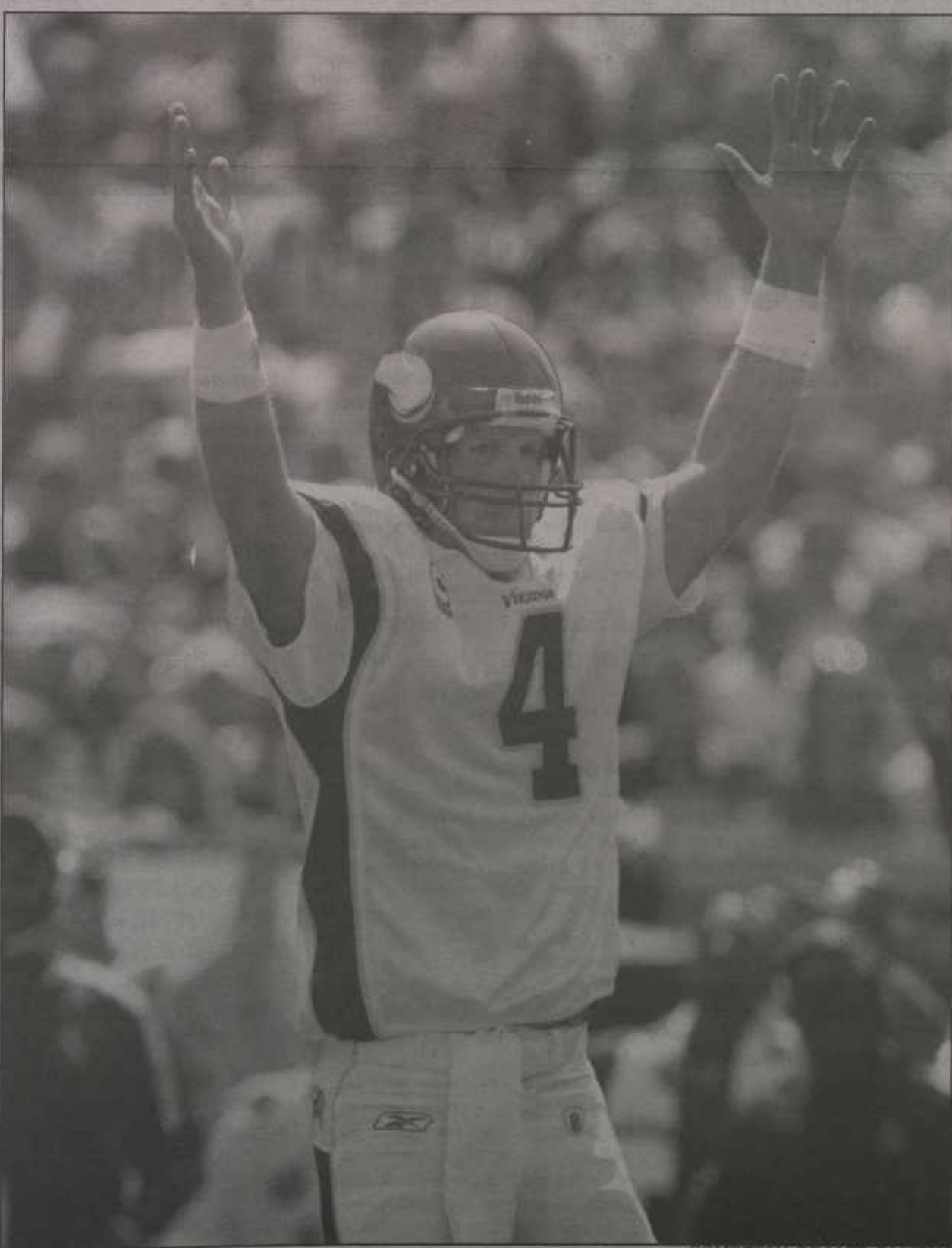
PETER TRAVIS
the sandspur

will discuss his options with his family and hopes to come to a decision sooner rather than later: "I am going to go home, a couple of days and just talk it over with the family."

Favre did say that his return was "highly unlikely," but that came immediately after a devastating loss to the New Orleans Saints in the NFC Championship game. Favre was hit hard countless times in what was an extremely physical NFC championship. He then went on to throw an interception with under a minute to play that essentially cost the Vikings the game and a trip to the Super Bowl.

Besides the Vikings' last game, Favre's season could not have gone better. The Vikings finished 12-4, aided by Favre's 4,202 passing yards and 33 touchdowns. He set career bests in categories such as fewest interceptions (7), completion percentage (68.4), and passer rating (107.2). "The year could not have gone any better, aside from us not going to Miami," Favre told the media.

Meanwhile, the Vikings have to start thinking about the future with or without Favre. If Favre retires, they have Tavaris Jackson and veteran Sage Rosenfels as replacement options. Jackson has led the Vikings to the playoffs before, and the organization is confident that he has learned a lot from watching Favre play this year. Also, there have been talks of the Vikings trying to make a deal with the Philadelphia Eagles for QB Donovan McNabb, a move that would seriously shake up the NFC. However, there is always the possibility that the good ol' indecisive Brett Favre gets an urge to return to the field once training camps are under way next season.



COURTESY OF MCT CAMPUS

NFL GLORY BOY: Favre plays, potentially, some of the last games of his NFL career. Whether Favre will be seen on the field next season is still in question. He is consulting with his family before making a decision and will hopefully have a decision for football fans soon.

Well, it is that time of year again. The time of the year when Sportscenter is not allowed to go on the air unless they mention the words "Favre" and "retirement" at least 20 times. With the Vikings out of the playoffs, Brett Favre is faced with the decision to play another year, retire, or just straight up lie about it. In the past, Favre has proven that he can pretty much do whatever the hell he wants when it comes to career choices. Two years ago, he retired from the Green Bay Packers. Then he unretired in order to play for the New York Jets. After a disappointing season with the Jets, he retired again, for good this time, he said. But, low and behold, Favre unretired once again to join the Minnesota Vikings, a division rival of his old Packers squad. He was even able to sucker his way out of training camp, joining the team in mid-August.

Now, after a storybook season that was filled with MVP talk and capped by a run to the NFC championship, Favre is once again contemplating retirement. Vikings' Head Coach Brad Childress announced last week that he has no intention of putting a deadline on Favre's decision. "I don't know. It's up to him, but it's not a deal where I need to put a gun at his head and say, 'I need to know in a week, two weeks, two months,'" said Childress last Tuesday.

Favre has not respected deadlines in the past in terms of retirement decisions, so for Childress to set one might seem illogical. Favre has said that he

FEB/MARCH



Sandspurian of The Week

Evie Lyras for being the best center spreader in this history of Sandspurians.

Friday	Saturday	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
5 Rally Rollins @ 7 p.m. WLAX vs. UCF @ 6:30 p.m.	6 Men's and Women's Swimming vs. St. Leo @ 1 p.m.	7	8	9	10 Men's Basketball vs. Barry @ 7:30 p.m.	11 Women's Tennis vs. St. Leo @ 3:30 p.m.
12 Paula Vogel's How I Learned to Drive @ 8 p.m. in the Annie Russell Theatre	13 Paula Vogel's How I Learned to Drive @ 8 p.m. in the Annie Russell Theatre	14 Paula Vogel's How I Learned to Drive @ 4 p.m. in the Annie Russell Theatre Valentine's Day!	15 George Washington's Birthday	16 Women's Tennis vs. Florida Tech @ 3:30 p.m. Baseball vs. Bentley @ 6 p.m.	17 Men's Baseball and Women's Softball vs. NSU @ 7:30 p.m. and 5:30 p.m.	18 Men's Tennis vs. Eastern Middle @ 2:30 p.m.
19 Baseball vs. St. Thomas @ 1 p.m.	20 Paula Vogel's How I Learned to Drive @ 8 p.m. in the Annie Russell Theatre	21	22 Men's Tennis vs. Brandeis University @ 2:30 p.m.	23	24 Peer mentor 2010 information session	25 Master Class Book Festival School @ 12:30 p.m.
26 Softball vs. Kentucky State @ 5 p.m.	27 Purim- Carnival @ 5 p.m.	28 Softball vs. Kentucky State @ 10 a.m. Men's Tennis vs. Lynn @ 10 a.m.	1 Peer Mentor Information Session @ 7 p.m. - 9 p.m.	2 Your Music at Midnight @ 11:30 p.m.	3 Baseball vs. St. Anselm @ 6 p.m.	4 Music at Midday @ 12:30 p.m. - 2 p.m.
5 Men's Tennis vs. West Florida @ 2:30 p.m.	6 SPRING BREAK!!	7 SPRING BREAK!!	Rollins College www.TheSandspur.org			

Super Bowl XLIV Heads to Miami, FL

HANA SAKER
the sandspur

Super Bowl XLIV will be played this Sunday, Feb. 7, 2010 at Sun Life Stadium in Miami Gardens, Florida. The Indianapolis Colts, led by quarterback Peyton Manning with Head Coach Jim Caldwell, will face off against the New Orleans Saints, headed by Drew Brees and coached by Sean Payton, at 6:30 p.m. This will be the Saints' first Super Bowl appearance in the history of the franchise, while it will be the Colts' fourth. The Saints have a 13-3 regular season record, in comparison to the Colts' 14-2 record.

The Colts and the Saints were the last two teams to remain undefeated, up until the Saints lost to the Dallas Cowboys in Week 15, and the Colts lost to the New York Jets the following week. This year, for the first time since the Dallas Cowboys played the Buffalo Bills in Super Bowl XXVII in 1993, the two highest ranked teams from each division will play each other. Both teams have shown

that they are the teams that will not give up, reigning victorious as a result of comebacks late in the game, which have been the result of the teams' quarterbacks taking over.

Hence, this matchup will essentially be a battle between two great quarterbacks, for both are passionate students of

"This will be the Saints' first Super Bowl appearance in the history of the franchise, while it will be the Colts' fourth."

the game. Manning is a potential future Hall of Famer and is often considered to be the best quarterback to play the game so far, while Brees is another one of the greats. They are both generals of their teams and undoubtedly two of the hardest working quarterbacks in professional football. In the end, it is going to come down to which quarterback can outsmart the opposing defense.

Another key factor will be whether or not Dwight Freeney, the defensive end for the Colts, will be able to play due to an ankle injury. His presence in the game is crucial: he puts pressure on the opposing team's quarterback. If he is out of the game, Brees, who is already a great passer in the pocket, will have an easier time finding wide

receivers.

From the entertainment perspective, this year's Super Bowl pregame and halftime show promise to be over the top. To commence the festivities, Carrie Underwood will sing the National Anthem, and Queen Latifah will sing "America the Beautiful." For the halftime show,

The Who will be performing a medley of their greatest hits. So tune in on

Super Bowl Sunday and make sure not to miss any of the action!

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